

# Western Forest Products Inc. Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders May 4, 2017

**Information Circular** 

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# LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

March 29, 2017

Fellow Shareholders:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to invite you to attend the Western Forest Products Inc. Annual Meeting of Shareholders (the "Meeting") at Suite 2800, 666 Burrard Street, Vancouver, British Columbia on May 4, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. Pacific Daylight Time. At the Meeting, we will review the business and affairs of the Corporation and ask you to elect directors and appoint auditors for the coming year.

Following the Meeting, you will have an opportunity to meet the directors and executives who will be pleased to answer your questions.

Along with the Notice of Meeting and Management Information Circular, we also enclose the Form of Proxy for registered shareholders.

I hope you can attend the Meeting and vote in person. However, if you are unable to attend in person, I encourage you to vote as soon as possible, either by mail, telephone, internet, proxy, or by instructing your financial advisor or institution.

By Order of the Board of Directors

Lee Doney Chairman, Board of Directors Western Forest Products Inc.

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Annual Meeting of Shareholders (the "Meeting") of Western Forest Products Inc. (the "Corporation") will be held at Suite 2800, 666 Burrard Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada on **May 4, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.**, Pacific Daylight Time, for the following purposes:

- 1) to receive the annual report to shareholders, including our consolidated financial statements, together with the auditors' report thereon, and Management's Discussion and Analysis for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016;
- 2) to set the minimum number of directors at seven (7);
- 3) to elect directors for the ensuing year;
- 4) to appoint auditors for the ensuing year and authorize the directors to fix the remuneration to be paid to the auditors;
- 5) to consider a resolution to amend the quorum requirement for shareholder meetings;
- 6) to consider a non-binding advisory resolution on our approach to executive compensation; and
- 7) to transact such other business as may properly come before the Meeting or any adjournment thereof.

The Management Information Circular accompanying this Notice provides additional information relating to the matters to be dealt with at the Meeting.

Dated at Vancouver, BC on March 29, 2017.

By Order of the Board of Directors

Lee Doney Chairman, Board of Directors Western Forest Products Inc.

Registered shareholders who are unable to attend the Meeting in person or who wish to vote in advance of the Meeting, are invited to vote by signing and returning the enclosed form of proxy in the envelope provided for that purpose. A proxy will not be valid unless it is deposited at the office of Computershare Investor Services Inc., 100 University Avenue, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Toronto, Ontario M5J 2Y1, Attention: Proxy Department, on or before 9:00 a.m. Pacific Daylight Time (12:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time) on May 2, 2017. Instructions for voting by telephone or via the Internet are located on the enclosed form of proxy.

Non-registered shareholders will be provided with voting instructions by the intermediaries who hold the shares on their behalf.

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# **VOTING INFORMATION**

#### **SOLICITATION OF PROXIES**

This Management Information Circular (the "Circular") is furnished in connection with the solicitation by management of Western Forest Products Inc. ("Western", the "Corporation", "us", "we", or "our") of proxies from owners of common shares ("Common Shares") of the Corporation for use at our Annual Meeting of Shareholders (the "Meeting") referred to in the accompanying Notice of Meeting (the "Notice") to be held at the time and place and for the purposes set forth in the Notice. The solicitation of proxies will be primarily by mail, but proxies may be solicited personally or by telephone by directors, officers or employees of the Corporation. The cost of solicitation will be borne by the Corporation. Unless otherwise specified, all information provided in this Circular is as at March 29, 2017 and all dollar amounts are in Canadian currency.

#### **APPOINTMENT OF PROXIES**

The persons named in the enclosed form of proxy are management representatives and are directors and/or officers of the Corporation.

Each shareholder has the right to appoint any person or company, who need not be a shareholder of the Corporation, other than the persons named in the enclosed form of proxy to represent such shareholder at the Meeting or any adjournment thereof. This right may be exercised by inserting such person's name in the blank space provided in the form of proxy.

The completed form of proxy must be deposited with our registrar and transfer agent, Computershare Investor Services Inc. 100 University Avenue, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Toronto, Ontario M5J 2Y1, Attention: Proxy Department, not later than 9:00 a.m. Pacific Daylight Time (12:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time) on May 2, 2017. Instructions for voting by telephone or via the Internet are located on the enclosed form of proxy.

#### **NON-REGISTERED HOLDERS**

Only registered holders of our Common Shares, or the persons they appoint as their proxies, are permitted to attend and vote at the Meeting. However, in many cases, Common Shares beneficially owned by a holder (a "Non-Registered Holder") are registered either:

- a) in the name of an intermediary (an "Intermediary") that the Non-Registered Holder deals with in respect of the Common Shares, such as, among others, banks, trust companies, securities dealers or brokers and trustees or administrators of self-administered RRSPs, RRIFs, RESPs and similar plans; or
- b) in the name of a depository, such as CDS Clearing and Depository Services Inc., (the "Depository") of which the Intermediary is a participant.

In accordance with the Canada Business Corporations Act ("CBCA") and Canadian securities law, we have distributed copies of the accompanying Notice, this Circular, and the 2016 Annual Report (collectively, the "Meeting Materials") to Intermediaries for onward distribution to Non-Registered Holders who have not waived their right to receive them.

Non-Registered Holders who have not waived the right to receive the Meeting Materials will receive either a voting instruction form or, less frequently, a form of proxy. The purpose of these forms is to permit Non-Registered Holders to direct the voting of the Common Shares they beneficially own.

Non-Registered Holders should follow the procedures set out below, depending on which type of form they receive.

#### **VOTING INSTRUCTION FORM**

In most cases, a Non-Registered Holder will receive, as part of the Meeting Materials, a voting instruction form. If the Non-Registered Holder does not wish to attend and vote at the Meeting in person (or have another person attend and vote on his or her behalf), the voting instruction form can be completed, signed and returned in accordance with the directions on the form. Voting instruction forms can be completed by telephone or through the Internet. If a Non-Registered Holder wishes to attend and vote at the Meeting in person (or have another person attend and vote on his or her behalf), the Non-Registered Holder must complete, sign and return the voting instruction form in accordance with the directions provided. A form of proxy giving the right to attend and vote will be forwarded to the Non-Registered Holder upon receipt of the voting instruction form.

#### FORM OF PROXY

Less frequently, a Non-Registered Holder will receive, as part of the Meeting Materials, a form of proxy that has already been signed by the Intermediary (typically by a facsimile, stamped signature), which is restricted as to the number of Common Shares beneficially owned by the Non-Registered Holder but which is otherwise incomplete. If the Non-Registered Holder does not wish to attend and vote at the Meeting in person (or have another person attend and vote on his or her behalf), the Non-Registered Holder can complete the form of proxy and deposit it in accordance with the instructions set out in the section titled "Appointment of Proxies", set out above. If a Non-Registered Holder wishes to attend and vote at the Meeting in person (or have another person attend and vote on his or her behalf), the Non-Registered Holder must strike out the names of the persons named in the proxy and insert the Non-Registered Holder's (or such other person's) name in the blank space provided. To be valid, the completed form of proxy must be deposited with our registrar and transfer agent, Computershare Investor Services Inc.,100 University Avenue, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Toronto, Ontario M5J 2Y1, Attention: Proxy Department, not later than 9:00 a.m. Pacific Daylight Time (12:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time) on May 2, 2017.

# Non-Registered Holders should follow the instructions on the forms they receive and contact their Intermediaries promptly if they need assistance.

#### **REVOCATION OF PROXIES**

A shareholder who has given a proxy has the power to revoke it as to any matter on which a vote has not already been cast pursuant to the authority conferred by the proxy and may do so: (1) by delivering another properly executed form of proxy bearing a later date and depositing it as described above; (2) by depositing an instrument in writing revoking the proxy executed by the shareholder or by the shareholder's attorney authorized in writing (a) at our registered office, c/o DLA Piper (Canada) LLP, Suite 2800, 666 Burrard Street, Vancouver, BC, V6C 2Z7, Attention: Ruby Chan, at any time up to and including the last business day preceding the day of the Meeting or any adjournment thereof at which the proxy is to be used, or (b) as to any matter in respect of which a vote shall not already have been cast pursuant to such proxy, with the Chairman of the Meeting on the day of the Meeting or any adjournment thereof; or (3) by any other manner permitted by law.

A Non-Registered Holder may revoke a voting instruction form or a waiver of the right to receive Meeting Materials and to vote that was given to an Intermediary at any time by written notice to the Intermediary, except that an Intermediary is not required to act on a revocation of a voting instruction form or of a waiver of the right to receive materials and to vote that is not received by the Intermediary at least seven days prior to the Meeting.

#### VOTING OF COMMON SHARES REPRESENTED BY MANAGEMENT PROXIES

The management representatives designated in the enclosed form of proxy will vote or withhold from voting the Common Shares in respect of which they are the appointed proxy on any ballot that may be called for in accordance with the instructions of the shareholder as indicated on the proxy and, if the shareholder specifies a choice with respect to any matter to be acted upon, the Common Shares will be voted accordingly.

In respect of each matter identified or referred to for which no instruction is given, the management representatives will vote the Common Shares represented thereby in accordance with management's recommendation contained in this Circular.

The enclosed form of proxy confers discretionary authority with respect to amendments to or variations of matters identified in the Notice and with respect to other matters which may properly come before the Meeting. At the date of this Circular, the management of the Corporation knows of no such amendments, variations or other matters expected to come before the Meeting.

#### **VOTING SHARES**

As at March 29, 2017, the Corporation had outstanding 395,447,663 fully paid and non-assessable Common Shares. Each registered holder of Common Shares of record at the close of business on the record date of March 29, 2017 (the "Record Date") established for the purposes of determining shareholders entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the Meeting, will be entitled to one vote for each Common Share held on all matters to come before the Meeting or any adjournment thereof either in person, or by proxy. For a description of the procedures to be followed by Non-Registered Holders to direct the voting of Common Shares beneficially owned, see the section above titled "Non-Registered Holders".

#### PRINCIPAL HOLDERS OF VOTING SHARES

To the knowledge of our directors and executive officers, no party beneficially owns, or controls or directs, directly or indirectly, 10% or more of the outstanding Common Shares, except as set out below.

| Name of Beneficial Holder         | Number of Shares | Percentage ownership |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Letko, Brosseau & Associates Inc. | 53,671,924(1)    | 13.6%                |

(1) As per Form 62-103F3 filed publically on March 9, 2017.

# **BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

#### 1) RECEIVING THE ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Annual Financial Statements of the Corporation and Management's Discussion and Analysis for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, which are included in the Corporation's 2016 Annual Report, will be placed before the shareholders at the Meeting. The Corporation's 2016 Annual Report is being mailed with this Circular to all registered holders of Common Shares, except to those who have elected not to receive it, and to Non-Registered Holders who have so requested. Additional copies of the 2016 Annual Report will be available at the Meeting. Alternatively, the 2016 Annual Report can be requested from the Corporation or accessed through the Corporation's website at www.westernforest.com or on SEDAR at www.sedar.com.

#### 2) SETTING THE NUMBER OF DIRECTORS

The shareholders of the Corporation will be asked to vote to set the number of directors on the Board of Directors of the Corporation (the "Board" or "Board of Directors") at seven (7), until such time as may be otherwise determined by the Corporation's shareholders by ordinary resolution.

The management representatives designated in the enclosed form of proxy intend, unless otherwise directed, to vote for the resolution setting the number of directors of the Corporation at seven (7).

#### 3) ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Seven nominees are proposed for election to the Board at this Meeting. See "About our Board of Directors", beginning at page 7, for biographical information about all our directors.

# The management representatives designated in the enclosed form of proxy intend, unless otherwise directed, to vote for the election of a Board composed of the seven nominees listed below to serve until the next Annual Meeting of Shareholders of the Corporation or until their successors are duly elected or appointed.

Management has received consents from the proposed nominees to serve as directors, but if, for any reason prior to the Meeting any of the proposed nominees is unable to serve as a director, the management representatives designated in the enclosed form of proxy, unless directed to withhold from voting in the election of directors, reserve the right to vote for other nominees at their discretion.

#### MAJORITY VOTING FOR DIRECTORS

The Board has adopted a policy providing that in an uncontested election of directors, any nominee who receives a greater number of votes "withheld" than votes "for" will tender a resignation to the Board, effective on acceptance by the Board, immediately following the relevant shareholder meeting. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will consider the offer of resignation and, absent exceptional circumstances, will be expected to recommend that the Board accept the resignation. The Board will make its decision and announce it in a press release within 90 days following the shareholder meeting, including the reasons for rejecting the resignation, if applicable. A director who tenders a resignation pursuant to this policy will not participate in any meeting of the Board or any committee of the Board at which the resignation is considered.

#### 4) APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

At the Board meeting held on February 16, 2017, the Audit Committee recommended the nomination of KPMG LLP for reappointment as our external auditors, subject to shareholder approval. KPMG LLP were first appointed as our auditors effective from our incorporation on April 27, 2004 and have served as our auditors since then. KPMG LLP were the auditors of our predecessor, Doman Industries Limited (including certain of its subsidiaries), from 1999 to 2004. The resolution to appoint KPMG LLP as auditors must be passed by a simple majority of the votes at the Meeting cast either in person or by proxy.

Unless the shareholder has specified in the enclosed form of proxy that the Common Shares represented by such proxy are to be withheld from voting in the appointment of auditors, on any ballot that may be called for on the appointment of auditors, the management representatives designated in the enclosed form of proxy intend to vote such Common Shares in favour of reappointing KPMG LLP, as auditors of the Corporation to hold office until the next Annual Meeting of Shareholders, and authorizing the directors to fix the remuneration to be paid to the auditors.

#### AUDIT FIRM FEES

Aggregate fees billed to the Corporation for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016 by KPMG LLP amounted to \$809,868. The Audit Committee has adopted a policy regarding the provision of non-audit services by the Corporation's external auditors. This policy requires Audit Committee pre-approval of permitted audit, audit-related and non-audit services.

The following table sets forth further information on the fees billed by KPMG LLP to the Corporation for the past two years:

|                        | Fees Paid |           |  |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|--|
|                        | 2016      | 2015      |  |
| Audit                  | \$534,100 | \$527,900 |  |
| Audit-related          | 24,000    | 29,500    |  |
| Taxation - compliance  | 107,687   | 35,538    |  |
| Taxation - advisory    | 144,081   | 67,515    |  |
| Total for all services | \$809,868 | \$660,453 |  |

The utilization of the Corporation's existing tax loss carryforwards has resulted in incremental tax advisory and compliance support fees. A majority of the incremental fees are non-recurring.

#### **Description of Services:**

*Audit* includes the audit of our annual financial statements and the review of our unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements.

Audit-related includes audits of our pension plans.

*Taxation - compliance* consists of tax compliance services and supporting regulatory review.

Taxation - advisory consists of tax planning, structuring and related advisory services.

KPMG LLP has advised the Audit Committee that it considers itself to be independent of the Corporation and the Audit Committee has confirmed that it considers KPMG LLP to be independent.

#### 5) QUORUM REQUIREMENT FOR MEETINGS OF SHAREHOLDERS

At a meeting of the Board held on February 16, 2017, the Board passed a resolution to change the Corporation's bylaws to define a quorum at meetings of shareholders to be two persons holding, or representing by proxy, at least 25% of the issued voting shares of the Corporation. Currently our bylaws provide that a quorum at meetings of shareholders consists of one or more voting persons holding, or representing by proxy, at least 5% of the issued voting shares of the Corporation. This change is recommended in the interests of improved corporate governance practice.

The management representatives designated in the enclosed form of proxy intend, unless otherwise directed, to vote for the amendment to the Corporation's bylaws to define a quorum for the transaction of business at a meeting of shareholders to be two persons who are, or who represent by proxy, shareholders who in the aggregate hold at least 25% of the issued shares entitled to be voted at the meeting.

#### 6) ADVISORY VOTE ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The Corporation continues to undergo a transition following the September 2014 departure of its former majority shareholder. Operational growth aside, this transition has included significant changes to key management personnel and the departure and replacement of three long-standing directors of the Corporation. The reconstituted Board and its standing committees have since engaged in re-evaluating and updating the Corporation's strategy and practices, as necessary, including as they relate to executive compensation philosophy.

At a meeting of the Board held on February 16, 2017, the Board passed a resolution to hold an advisory vote on our approach to executive compensation at every annual general meeting. The purpose of this 'Say on Pay' advisory vote is to provide shareholders with the opportunity to indicate their acceptance of the Board's overall approach to executive compensation.

Western is committed to providing shareholders with clear, comprehensive and transparent disclosure on executive compensation. Please refer to the "Executive Compensation" section starting on page 27 which sets out the philosophy, objectives and elements of the Corporation's executive compensation program, as well as the measurement and assessment processes used.

# The management representatives designated in the enclosed form of proxy intend, unless otherwise directed, to vote for, on an advisory basis only and not to diminish the role and responsibilities of the Board of Directors, the approach to executive compensation disclosed herein.

Since this is an advisory vote, the results will not be binding on the Board or Western. The Board remains fully responsible for its compensation decisions and it is not relieved of its responsibilities by either a positive or a negative advisory vote. However, the Board will consider the outcome of the vote as part of its ongoing review of the executive compensation program of the Corporation, together with the feedback received from shareholders in the course of regular communications.

#### 7) OTHER BUSINESS

Management does not intend to present any other business at the Meeting and is not aware of changes to the proposed matters or other matters that may be presented for action. If changes or other matters are properly brought before the Meeting, the management representatives designated in the enclosed form of proxy will vote on them using his or her best judgement.

## ABOUT OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### **DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHIES**

Following is a biography for each director nominee for election at the Meeting. Other director information can be found in this section following the director biographies, starting at page 11, and in the section titled "Statement of Corporate Governance Practices" starting on page 18.

#### JAMES ARTHURS

#### INDEPENDENT

North Vancouver, British Columbia Age: 58 Director since: July 2004

Mr. Arthurs is Executive Vice President, Electronics Group for Westport Fuel Systems Inc., a developer and supplier of natural gas engine technologies and Chairman of Cummins Westport Inc. Mr. Arthurs was President of Cummins Westport Inc. from 2012 to 2013 and Vice President, Cryogenic Systems for Westport Innovations Inc. from 2011 to 2012. Previously, he was a Managing Partner with i3 Transition Partners, a Vancouver-based management consulting firm. Prior to this, Mr. Arthurs was Senior Vice President, North American Operations, Integrated Paving Concepts Inc., a manufacturer of equipment, tooling and high technology coatings for the decorative asphalt industry from 2004 to 2009. He was Managing Director, Operations, for The Jim Pattison Group, one of Canada's largest privatelyheld companies, from 2002 through 2004. Mr. Arthurs holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science from the University of Calgary. He is a member of the Institute of Corporate Directors.

| Securities Held at December 31, 2016 and 2015 |                       |                        |                     |                      |                            |              |  |
|---|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|--------------|--|
| Year  | Common                | Options <sup>(2)</sup> | DSUs <sup>(3)</sup> | Value <sup>(4)</sup> | Meets                      | Total        |  |
|   | shares <sup>(1)</sup> |                        |                     |                      | requirement <sup>(5)</sup> | compensation |  |
| 2016  | 53,564                | -                      | -                   | \$103,103            | - / 1.4x                   | \$110,000    |  |
| 2015  | 52,436                | 5,000                  | -                   | \$118,505            | - / 1.3x                   | \$104,417    |  |

| 2016 Membership and Attendance <sup>(6)</sup> |        | 2016 AGM Voting Results |            | Public Directorships |            |
|---|--------|-------------------------|------------|----------------------|------------|
| Board   | 6 of 6 | 100%                    | For        | 244,641,228          | None       |
| Audit (Chair)                                 | 4 of 4 | 100%                    | Withheld   | 9,634,602            |            |
| EH&S  | 4 of 4 | 100%                    | % For      | 96.2%                |            |
| MRCC  | 4 of 4 | 100%                    | % Withheld | 3.8%                 | Interlocks |
| NCGC  | 3 of 3 | 100%                    |            |                      | None       |

- (1) Common share disclosure includes common shares of the Corporation beneficially owned, or controlled or directed, directly or indirectly, by the respective directors. This information has been furnished by each respective director in regards to his or her own shareholdings. As at the date hereof, all directors hold Common Shares.
- (2) Options have not been granted to non-executive directors since 2006.
- (3) Deferred Share Units, hereinafter referred to as "DSUs", are defined further on page 13.
- (4) Value of Shares and DSUs held is calculated on the greater of the current market value and the grant or acquisition date value of eligible securities. The market value as at December 31, 2016 and 2015 was \$1.89 and \$2.26 respectively per Share or DSU held, which was the closing price of Shares on those dates. The value of stock options is not included as they do not count towards meeting the minimum equity ownership requirements.
- (5) All non-executive directors are required to own a minimum value of Common Shares and DSUs equal to three times the value of their annual retainer by the later of 5 years from becoming a director, or February 17, 2021.
- (6) Committees of the Board of Directors have been abbreviated in their presentation in each of the director biographies. The full committee names are the Audit Committee ("Audit"), the Environmental, Health and Safety Committee ("EH&S"), the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee ("NCGC") and the Management Resources and Compensation Committee ("MRCC").

#### JANE BIRD

#### INDEPENDENT

Vancouver, British Columbia Age: 55

Ms. Bird is a Senior Business Advisor with Bennett Jones LLP, focusing on complex public and private infrastructure initiatives. Prior to this, Ms. Bird completed an engagement with Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Development in London, UK, where she was responsible for the renewal of Canada House on Trafalgar Square. Ms. Bird was formerly CEO of Columbia Power Corporation, a BC crown corporation that develops and operates hydroelectric generation facilities. Ms. Bird was also CEO of Canada Line Rapid Transit Inc. Prior to her career in infrastructure, Ms. Bird practiced law. Ms. Bird is a Director of BC Ferry Services Inc., Global Container Terminals Inc. and IBI Group Inc. Ms. Bird holds a law degree from the University of Dalhousie, and a Bachelor of Arts from Queen's University. She is a member of the Institute of Corporate Directors.

| Securities Held as at December 31, 2016 and 2015 |                  |         |             |               |                      |                      |  |  |
|--|------------------|---------|-------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------------|--|--|
| Year   | Common<br>shares | Options | DSUs        | Value         | Meets<br>requirement | Total compensation   |  |  |
| 2016<br>2015                                     | 5,300<br>-       | -       | 24,446<br>- | \$64,760<br>- | - / 0.9x<br>- / 0.0x | \$90,000<br>\$32,712 |  |  |

| 2016 Membership and Attendance |        | 2016 AGM Vo | ting Results | Public Directorships |                |
|--------------------------------|--------|-------------|--------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Board                          | 6 of 6 | 100%        | For          | 250,164,696          | IBI Group Inc. |
| NCGC                           | 3 of 3 | 100%        | Withheld     | 3,932,634            |                |
| MRCC <sup>(1)</sup>            | 2 of 2 | 100%        | % For        | 98.5%                | Interlocks     |
|                                |        |             | % Withheld   | 1.5%                 | None           |

(1) Ms. Bird was appointed as a Director of the Corporation August 4, 2015, and subsequently appointed to the position of Chair of the NCGC on November 3, 2015 and to the MRCC on May 6, 2016.

#### **DONALD DEMENS**

#### NON-INDEPENDENT

Director since: February 2013

Vancouver, British Columbia Age: 55

Mr. Demens is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation. Prior to this, Mr. Demens served in a number of roles for the Corporation including: President since July 2012; Chief Operating Officer since June 2011; Senior Vice President, Sales and Marketing since August 2009; and Senior Vice President, Western Red Cedar and Custom Cut since April 2009. Over the span of his 30-year career in the coastal forestry industry, Mr. Demens has successfully assumed progressively senior positions in Sales and Manufacturing including with International Forest Products (Interfor) in Canada and Japan. Mr. Demens is Chairman of the Coast Forest Products Association and is a Director of the Softwood Lumber Board. Mr. Demens holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of British Columbia.

Securities Held as at December 31, 2016 and 2015 Refer to Executive Compensation section, beginning on page 27.

| 2016 Membership and Attendance |        | 2016 AGM Vo | ting Results | Public Directorships |            |
|--------------------------------|--------|-------------|--------------|----------------------|------------|
| Board                          | 6 of 6 | 100%        | For          | 246,587,202          | None       |
|                                |        |             | Withheld     | 7,510,128            |            |
|                                |        |             | % For        | 97.0%                | Interlocks |
|                                |        |             | % Withheld   | 3.0%                 | None       |

Director since: August 2015

#### LEE DONEY

#### NON-INDEPENDENT

Victoria, British Columbia Age: 66 Director since: July 2004 Chairman since: February 2014

Mr. Doney is a consultant through his company, RLD Strategies Ltd, the Chairman of the Board of Columbia Power Corporation, Chair of the Board of Directors of the College of New Caledonia and independent consultant working in public policy and industrial relations. Mr. Doney was a Deputy Minister in the British Columbia Government for over 15 years and served in a number of other posts in the government. He was Deputy Minister of Skills and Development and Labour from June 2001 until April 2004. Mr. Doney's previous responsibilities include: Deputy Minister of Forests; Chief Executive Officer of Forest Renewal British Columbia; Interim Chairman, Industry Training and Apprenticeship Commission; Chair of the Board of WorkSafeBC; Chief Executive Officer of the BC Labour Force Development Board; Chairman of the Workers' Compensation Board of Governors; Executive Director to the Provincial Round Table on the Environment and the Economy; and Executive Director for the BC Treaty Commission. Mr. Doney holds a Master's degree in Economics from Queen's University.

| Securities Held as at December 31, 2016 and 2015 |                  |         |         |             |                      |                    |  |  |
|--|------------------|---------|---------|-------------|----------------------|--------------------|--|--|
| Year   | Common<br>shares | Options | DSUs    | Value       | Meets<br>requirement | Total compensation |  |  |
| 2016   | 6,128            | -       | 665,971 | \$1,298,574 | Yes / 10.4x          | \$266,000          |  |  |
| 2015   | 5,000            | 5,000   | 641,012 | \$1,459,987 | Yes / 11.7x          | \$279,823          |  |  |

| 2016 Membership and Attendance |        | 2016 AGM Vo | ting Results | Public Directorships |            |
|--------------------------------|--------|-------------|--------------|----------------------|------------|
| Board (Chair)                  | 6 of 6 | 100%        | For          | 187,779,427          | None       |
| EH&S                           | 4 of 4 | 100%        | Withheld     | 66,317,903           |            |
|                                |        |             | % For        | 73.9%                | Interlocks |
|                                |        |             | % Withheld   | 26.1%                | None       |

#### DANIEL NOCENTE

#### INDEPENDENT

Director since: May 2014

Vancouver, British Columbia Age: 61

Until September 2012, Mr. Nocente was Vice Chairman of Corporate and Investment Banking with National Bank Financial Inc. Previously, he was Vice Chairman and BC Geography Head with RBC Dominion Securities. Mr. Nocente currently sits on the Vancouver Coastal Health Board and is Chairman of the Audit Committee. He is also currently Chairman of Savary Gold Inc., a gold exploration company with assets in Burkina Faso, Africa. In addition, he has served as Director and Audit Committee member of Carmanah Technologies Corporation, Director and Audit Committee Chair with Canada Line Rapid Transit Inc., Chair of St. Paul's Hospital Foundation, Chairman of the Nature Trust of BC, Vice Chair and Director of Providence Healthcare, Director and Head of the Governance Committee with the Arts Club Theatre Company, and was a member of the YMCA Cabinet. Mr. Nocente holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of British Columbia, a Master's degree in Business Administration from George Washington University in Washington, DC and has completed the Leadership in Professional Services Firms course at the Harvard Business School.

| Securities Held as at December 31, 2016 and 2015 |                                |         |                         |              |                      |                    |  |  |
|--|--------------------------------|---------|-------------------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------------|--|--|
| Year   | Common<br>shares               | Options | DSUs                    | Value        | Meets<br>requirement | Total compensation |  |  |
| 2016   | 25,000                         | -       | 70,551                  | \$199,656    | - / 2.6x             | \$116,000          |  |  |
| 2015   | 15,400                         | -       | 13,064                  | \$64,329     | - / 0.6x             | \$103,288          |  |  |
|  |                                |         |                         |              |                      |                    |  |  |
| 2015 Mer   | 2015 Membership and Attendance |         | 2016 AGM Voting Results |              | Public Directo       | rships             |  |  |
| Board  | 6 of 6                         | 100%    | For                     | 2/15 118 012 | Savary Gold C        | `orp               |  |  |

|              | To member ship and Altenuance |      | ZUTU AGIVI VU | ing results | Fublic Director ships |
|--------------|-------------------------------|------|---------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Board        | 6 of 6                        | 100% | For           | 245,118,012 | Savary Gold Corp.     |
| Audit        | 4 of 4                        | 100% | Withheld      | 8,979,318   |                       |
| MRCC (Chair) | 4 of 4                        | 100% | % For         | 96.5%       | Interlocks            |
| NCGC         | 3 of 3                        | 100% | % Withheld    | 3.5%        | None                  |

#### **J. BARRIE SHINETON**

#### INDEPENDENT

Toronto, Ontario Age: 70 Director since: January 2015

Mr. Shineton currently serves as the Vice Chair of the Board of Directors at Norbord Inc. Mr. Shineton previously held the position of President and Chief Executive Officer of Norbord from 2004 through 2013, and was named #1 CEO of the Year by Financial Post Magazine. Prior to that, he has held various positions with Norbord, including Executive Vice President, Wood Products of Norbord Inc., President, Norbord Industries Inc., and Managing Director, Norbord Limited (UK). Mr. Shineton has more than 30 years of experience in the forest products industry, having held senior marketing, sales, and operations positions for companies in North America and Europe. Mr. Shineton holds a Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Manitoba.

| Securities | Securities Held as at December 31, 2016 and 2015 |         |      |       |                      |                    |  |  |  |
|------------|--|---------|------|-------|----------------------|--------------------|--|--|--|
| Year       | Common<br>shares                                 | Options | DSUs | Value | Meets<br>requirement | Total compensation |  |  |  |
| 2016       | -  | -       | -    | -     | - / 0.0x             | \$93,000           |  |  |  |
| 2015       | -  | -       | -    | -     | - / 0.0x             | \$86,417           |  |  |  |

| 2016 Membership and Attendance |        |      | 2016 AGM Vo | ting Results | Public Directorships |
|--------------------------------|--------|------|-------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Board                          | 6 of 6 | 100% | For         | 244,788,628  | Norbord Inc.         |
| EH&S (Chair)                   | 4 of 4 | 100% | Withheld    | 9,308,702    |                      |
| MRCC                           | 4 of 4 | 100% | % For       | 96.3%        | Interlocks           |
|                                |        |      | % Withheld  | 3.7%         | None                 |

#### **MICHAEL T. WAITES**

#### INDEPENDENT

Vancouver, British Columbia Age: 63

Director since: November 2014

Mr. Waites currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors for Repsol Oil & Gas Canada, Inc., and is Chair of its Audit Committee. Mr. Waites also currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors for HudBay, and is a member of both its Audit and Technical Committees. Previously, Mr. Waites served as President and CEO of Finning International Inc. from 2008 through to retirement in 2013. Prior to that, Mr. Waites was Executive Vice President and CFO of Finning. He has also held senior positions with Canadian Pacific Railway and Chevron Canada Resources. Mr. Waites holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Economics from the University of Calgary, a Master of Business Administration from Saint Mary's College of California, and a Master of Arts, Graduate Studies in Economics from the University of Calgary. He has also completed the Executive Program at the University of Michigan Business School.

| Securities Held as at December 31, 2016 and 2015 |        |         |        |           |             |              |  |
|--|--------|---------|--------|-----------|-------------|--------------|--|
| Year C   | ommon  | Options | DSUs   | Value     | Meets       | Total        |  |
| :  | shares | ·       |        |           | requirement | compensation |  |
| 2016   | 40,000 | -       | 97,482 | \$294,310 | Yes / 3.9x  | \$96,000     |  |
| 2015   | 40,000 | -       | 47,904 | \$198,663 | - / 2.2x    | \$94,417     |  |

| 2016 Members    | hip and At | tendance | 2016 AGM Vo | ting Results | Public Directorships         |
|-----------------|------------|----------|-------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| Board           | 6 of 6     | 100%     | For         | 245,118,128  | HudBay Minerals Inc.         |
| Audit (V.Chair) | 4 of 4     | 100%     | Withheld    | 8,979,202    | Repsol Oil & Gas Canada Inc. |
| EH&S            | 4 of 4     | 100%     | % For       | 96.5%        | -                            |
| NCGC            | 3 of 3     | 100%     | % Withheld  | 3.5%         | Interlocks                   |
|                 |            |          |             |              | None                         |

#### DIRECTOR SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

A Board of Directors with a broad set of skills is better able to oversee the range of issues that arise with a corporation of our size and complexity. Accordingly, each non-executive director is evaluated on the basis of the skills and experience that he or she contributes. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee maintains a skills matrix to assist with reviewing the skill set of current non-executive directors, as well as with identifying director candidates who best meet the needs of the Corporation. This analysis, presented below, is also used as a tool in evaluating continuing director education programs.

| Skills and Experience                                      | Arthurs      | Bird         | Doney        | Nocente      | Shineton     | Waites       |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Business Strategy, Development & Risk Assessment           | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ |              |              |              |              |
| Capital Allocation, Mergers, Acquisitions and Divestitures | $\checkmark$ |              |              | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ |
| Communications   |              | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ |
| Corporate Finance and Capital Markets                      |              |              |              | $\checkmark$ |              | $\checkmark$ |
| Corporate Governance                                       |              | $\checkmark$ |              | $\checkmark$ |              | $\checkmark$ |
| Financial Reporting, Accounting & Audits                   |              |              |              |              |              | $\checkmark$ |
| Government and Stakeholder Relations                       |              | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ |              |              |              |
| Human Resources and Labour Relations                       |              | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ |              |              |              |
| Industry Knowledge & Experience                            |              |              | $\checkmark$ |              |              |              |
| Legal  |              | $\checkmark$ |              |              |              |              |
| Regional Business Experience                               | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ | $\checkmark$ |              |              |              |
| Sales, Marketing, and Product Development                  | $\checkmark$ |              |              |              | $\checkmark$ |              |

#### ATTENDANCE AT BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

It is the Board's expectation that each member of the Board attend each meeting of the Board and the committees of which he or she is a member. However, in circumstances where individual directors are unable to attend a meeting, the Chairman of the Board ("Chairman") or senior management will meet with the absent director at a convenient time after the meeting to brief him or her on the events of the meeting. Directors are invited to attend all committee meetings. The following table summarizes directors' attendance at our Board and committee meetings held in 2016.

| Director <sup>(1)</sup>  | Board of<br>Directors<br>Meetings | Audit<br>Committee<br>Meetings | Environmental,<br>Health and<br>Safety<br>Committee<br>Meetings | Management<br>Resources and<br>Compensation<br>Committee<br>Meetings | Nominating<br>and Corporate<br>Governance<br>Committee<br>Meetings |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|--|
| James Arthurs            | 6 of 6                            | 4 of 4                         | 4 of 4  | 4 of 4   | 3 of 3   |
| Jane Bird <sup>(2)</sup> | 6 of 6                            | N/A                            | N/A   | 2 of 2   | 3 of 3   |
| Donald Demens            | 6 of 6                            | N/A                            | N/A   | N/A  | N/A  |
| Lee Doney                | 6 of 6                            | N/A                            | 4 of 4  | N/A  | N/A  |
| Daniel Nocente           | 6 of 6                            | 4 of 4                         | N/A   | 4 of 4   | 3 of 3   |
| J. Barrie Shineton       | 6 of 6                            | N/A                            | 4 of 4  | 4 of 4   | N/A  |
| Michael T. Waites        | 6 of 6                            | 4 of 4                         | 4 of 4  | N/A  | 3 of 3   |

(1) Director attendance is presented on the basis of Board meetings for which each director was eligible to attend in the year.

(2) Ms. Bird was appointed to the MRCC on May 6, 2016 and thus eligible to attend only two of the Committee's meetings.

During 2016, the Board held six meetings and its standing committees held fifteen meetings. Committee meetings included four meetings of the Audit Committee, four meetings of the Environmental, Health and Safety Committee, four meetings of the Management Resources and Compensation Committee and three meetings of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee.

In addition, there were four meetings of the independent directors, as such term is defined under the standards established by Canadian securities regulatory authorities. As a matter of course, the independent directors must meet at least once each quarter without any non-independent (as defined below under "Statement of Corporate Governance Practices") director or executive officer in attendance, generally following the quarterly scheduled Board meeting. The Independent Lead Director presides at these meetings.

#### DIRECTOR COMPENSATION

#### PHILOSOPHY AND PROCESS

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee ("NCGC") is responsible for the periodic review of the level and mix of director compensation relative to the Corporation's comparator group, and for making recommendations to the Board for adjustments when necessary. These periodic reviews assist in determining whether total compensation for its directors remains within target pay range.

Our director compensation philosophy targets a competitive positioning that is aligned with the Corporation's percentile ranking, on the basis of revenue and market capitalization, relative to the comparator group.

The comparator group is set and monitored by the NCGC, and is comprised of Canadian forest and paper product companies with annual revenue and market capitalization between \$250 million and \$4 billion.

#### BENCHMARKING AND ROLE OF COMPENSATION CONSULTANT

In 2015, the NCGC retained consultant Willis Towers Watson to review and provide expert, objective advice on the Corporation's director compensation arrangements relative to its peers. This review included an assessment of the comparator group (listed below) and analysis of equity ownership guidelines applicable to non-executive directors of the comparator group.

| Acadian Timber <sup>(1)</sup>             | Conifex Timber Inc.         | Resolute Forest Products Inc. |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Ainsworth Lumber Co. Ltd. <sup>(2)</sup>  | Domtar Corporation          | Stella-Jones Inc.             |
| Canfor Corporation <sup>(3)</sup>         | Interfor Corporation        | Tembec Inc.                   |
| Canfor Pulp Products <sup>(3)</sup>       | Norbord Ltd. <sup>(2)</sup> | West Fraser Timber Co. Ltd.   |
| Catalyst Paper Corporation <sup>(4)</sup> | Mercer International Inc.   |                               |

- (1) Acadian Timber has a number of executive officers that are also management of, and believed to receive supplemental compensation from, its primary shareholder or subsidiaries of its primary shareholder Brookfield Asset Management.
- (2) Ainsworth Lumber Co. Ltd. merged with Norbord Ltd. on April 1, 2015 but was included at the time of this analysis.
- (3) Canfor Corporation holds a 51.9% interest in, and shares common executive officers with, Canfor Pulp Products Inc.
- (4) Catalyst Paper Corporation ceased to be a public company and was delisted from the Toronto Stock Exchange ("TSX") on January 27, 2017, but was included at the time of this analysis.

The comparative information reviewed by the NCGC demonstrated that total pay for a typical director of the Corporation was below the 25th percentile of the comparator group and the Corporation's revenue and market capitalization were at the 30<sup>th</sup> and 48<sup>th</sup> percentile, respectively.

On consideration of this data, in 2015 the NCGC recommended a moderate increase in total director compensation which positioned the Corporation at the 33<sup>rd</sup> percentile of the comparator group. Following additional market analysis, the NCGC also recommended the implementation of director equity ownership guidelines. The foregoing recommendations were approved by the Board with effective dates of August 1, 2015 and February 17, 2016, respectively.

In 2016, the NCGC engaged Willis Towers Watson to update their 2015 peer company director compensation review, and provide recommendations with respect to further refining the structure of the Corporation's director compensation program. Following this review, the NCGC recommended (i) moderate increases to total director compensation which keep the Corporation positioned at the 33<sup>rd</sup> percentile of the comparator group, (ii) the elimination of meeting fees and (iii) the requirement that any non-executive director who does not meet the Corporation's director equity ownership guidelines take a minimum of 50% of his or her annual base retainer in Deferred Share Units ("DSUs"). These recommendations were all approved by the Board with an effective date of January 1, 2017.

#### DIRECTORS' FEES AND RETAINERS

In 2016, non-executive directors, who are not officers or employees, were compensated for their services as directors through a combination of meeting and retainer fees. Effective January 1, 2017, meeting fees were eliminated and retainers were revised as presented below:

| Role  | 2016     | 2017      | Director(s)       |
|---|----------|-----------|-------------------|
| Annual Base Retainer  | \$75,000 | \$100,000 | All Non-Executive |
| Annual Chairman Base Retainer                                   | \$50,000 | \$45,000  | Doney             |
| Annual Independent Lead Director Retainer                       |          | \$20,000  | Nocente           |
| Annual Chair Retainer - Audit Committee                         | \$15,000 | \$15,000  | Arthurs           |
| Annual Vice-Chair Retainer - Audit Committee                    | \$5,000  | \$5,000   | Waites            |
| Annual Chair Retainer - Environmental, Health and Safety Comm.  | \$5,000  | \$5,000   | Shineton          |
| Annual Chair Retainer - Nominating & Corp. Governance Comm.     | \$5,000  | \$5,000   | Bird              |
| Annual Chair Retainer - Mgmt. Resources & Compensation Comm.    | \$5,000  | \$5,000   | Nocente           |
| Board and standing committee meeting fees, per meeting attended | \$1,000  | nil       | All Non-Executive |

Directors are reimbursed for travel and other expenses incurred in attending Board or committee meetings.

#### DEFERRED SHARE UNIT PLAN FOR NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

The Deferred Share Unit Plan ("DSU Plan") is designed to focus directors on the long-term interests of the Corporation and growth in shareholder value. Non-executive directors may elect to take a portion of their directors' fees in the form of DSUs. Starting in 2017, any director not meeting the minimum equity ownership guidelines will be required to take a minimum of 50% of his or her annual base retainer in the form of DSUs until such time as the minimum equity ownership guidelines are met. The number of DSUs allotted is determined by dividing the dollar value of the portion of the fees that the director has elected to take in DSUs by the closing price of our Common Shares on the fifth day following the quarter end with respect to which the directors' fees are payable, and if that is not a trading day on the TSX, the next trading day.

Holders of DSUs are eligible to receive additional DSUs to reflect any cash dividend declared on Common Shares during the term of their participation in the DSU Plan. The number of additional DSUs to be allocated is determined by dividing the aggregate dollar value of the declared dividend that would have been paid to the participants if the DSUs held on the relevant record date for dividends had been Common Shares, by the closing price of our Common Shares on the payment date of such dividend.

DSUs can only be redeemed for cash after the holder ceases to be a Director of the Corporation or of a subsidiary. The value of the DSUs on redemption is based on the closing price of the Corporation's Common Shares, on the date the notice of redemption is received from the director, or if no notice of redemption is received, on November 30<sup>th</sup> in the year following the year of the termination of directorship and if that is not a trading day on the TSX, the next trading day.

#### OTHER EQUITY-BASED DIRECTOR COMPENSATION

In 2006, the Corporation ceased the granting of Options to non-executive directors and as of December 31, 2016, no Options are held by non-executive directors.

#### **DIRECTOR EQUITY OWNERSHIP GUIDELINES**

To better align director objectives with those of shareholders, the Corporation has established minimum equity ownership requirements for its Board. The Board has adopted a guideline to the effect that each non-executive director should own, by the later of February 17, 2021 or within five years of joining the Board, Common Shares, Deferred Share Units or share equivalents of the Corporation, if any ("WFP Securities") with a value of at least three times the annual base director retainer (the "Minimum Shareholding Requirement"). In the case of the Chairman of the Board, the Minimum Shareholding Requirement is three times the total of the annual base director retainer and the Chairman's retainer. Each non-executive director is required to continue to hold such value throughout his or her tenure as a director. The WFP Securities held to comply with the Minimum Shareholding Requirement shall not be, during the director's tenure, the object of specific monetization procedures or other hedging procedures to reduce the exposure related to his or her holding.

All directors are prohibited from trading in our securities or entering into transactions through participation in the Stock Option Plan (the "Option Plan") unless such transactions are executed and disclosed in full compliance with the Corporation's Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, Communication Policy and Insider Trading Policy and all relevant securities regulations and laws. A director who violates these policies may face disciplinary action including possible removal from the Board. The violation of these policies may also violate certain securities laws. If the Corporation discovers that a director has violated securities law, the matter may be referred to the appropriate regulatory authorities, which could lead to penalties and fines.

The following table presents the actual and future securities ownership requirements for the non-executive directors as at December 31, 2016:

| Director                          | Number of<br>Shares<br>Held | Number of<br>DSUs Held | Total<br>securities<br>Held | Value of<br>Securities<br>Held <sup>(2)</sup> | Value of<br>Holdings<br>Required <sup>(3)</sup> | Date Required |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|---------------|
| James Arthurs                     | 53,564                      | -                      | 53,564                      | \$103,103                                     | \$225,000                                       | Feb. 17, 2021 |
| Jane Bird                         | 5,300                       | 26,446                 | 31,746                      | \$64,760                                      | \$225,000                                       | Feb. 17, 2021 |
| Lee Doney                         | 6,128                       | 665,971                | 672,099                     | \$1,298,574                                   | \$375,000                                       | Feb. 17, 2021 |
| Daniel Nocente                    | 25,000                      | 70,551                 | 95,551                      | \$199,656                                     | \$225,000                                       | Feb. 17, 2021 |
| J. Barrie Shineton <sup>(1)</sup> | -                           | -                      | -                           | See Note 1                                    | \$225,000                                       | Feb. 17, 2021 |
| Michael T. Waites                 | 40,000                      | 97,482                 | 137,482                     | \$294,310                                     | \$225,000                                       | Feb. 17, 2021 |

(1) On February 24, 2017, Mr. Shineton purchased 45,000 Shares for a total cost of \$96,300.

(2) Value of Shares and DSUs held is calculated on the greater of the current market value and the grant or acquisition date value of eligible securities. Market value used above reflects the closing price of \$1.89 per Share on December 31, 2016.

(3) On January 1, 2017, minimum holdings were increased commensurate with revised director fees.

For 2017, with the exception of Mr. Doney who meets the director equity ownership requirements, all nonexecutive directors elected to take a minimum of 50% of their annual base retainers in DSUs.

#### DIRECTOR COMPENSATION TABLE

The following table sets forth all compensation paid or payable to the non-executive directors with respect to the financial year ended December 31, 2016:

| Director                         | Fees Paid in Cash | DSUs      | All Other Fees | Total Compensation |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|----------------|--------------------|
| James Arthurs                    | \$110,000         | -         | -              | \$110,000          |
| Jane Bird <sup>(2)</sup>         | \$36,000          | \$54,000  | -              | \$90,000           |
| Lee Doney <sup>(1)</sup>         | \$134,000         | -         | \$132,000      | \$266,000          |
| Daniel Nocente <sup>(2)</sup>    | -                 | \$116,000 | -              | \$116,000          |
| J. Barrie Shineton               | \$93,000          | -         | -              | \$93,000           |
| Michael T. Waites <sup>(2)</sup> | -                 | \$96,000  | -              | \$96,000           |

(1) Mr. Doney provides management consultancy services to the Corporation pursuant to a consultancy arrangement with RLD Strategies Ltd., an entity controlled by Mr. Doney.

(2) Ms. Bird elected to take 60% of her directors' fees earned during 2016 in the form of DSUs; Mr. Nocente and Mr. Waites elected to take 100% of their respective directors' fees earned during 2016 in the form of DSUs.

#### Additional Information

#### INDEBTEDNESS OF DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVES AND SENIOR OFFICERS

As at the date hereof and since the beginning of our most recently completed financial year, there was no indebtedness in respect of the purchase of securities or other indebtedness owed to us or any of our subsidiaries (other than routine indebtedness) or to any other entity where the indebtedness was the subject of a guarantee, support agreement, letter of credit or similar arrangement provided by us or any of our subsidiaries, by any individual who is or was since the beginning of the recently completed financial year end a present or former executive officer, director or employee of the Corporation, a proposed nominee for election as a director of the Corporation or an associate of any of the foregoing.

#### DIRECTORS' AND OFFICERS' LIABILITY INSURANCE

Western has entered into indemnification agreements with certain of its directors, directors of its subsidiaries, and officers. There was no indemnification payable during the most recent financial year to any of Western's directors or officers.

Western maintains liability insurance for its and its subsidiaries' directors and officers in the aggregate amount of \$75 million, subject to a deductible of \$100,000. The premium, in the amount of \$204,000, was paid with respect to the period from November 1, 2016 to November 1, 2017. Under this insurance coverage, the Corporation is reimbursed for indemnity payments made to directors or officers as required or permitted by law or under provisions of its bylaws. Such payments could be made to directors or officers to indemnify for losses, including legal costs, arising from acts, errors or omissions committed by directors and officers during the course of their duties as such. This insurance also provides coverage to individual directors and officers if they are not indemnified by the Corporation. The insurance coverage for directors and officers has certain exclusions including, but not limited to, those acts determined to be deliberately fraudulent or dishonest or to have resulted in personal profit or advantage.

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

Other than as set forth in this Circular, none of our directors or executive officers, nor any person who has held such a position since the beginning of our last completed financial year, nor any of our proposed nominees for election as a director of the Board, nor any of their respective associates or affiliates, has any material interest, direct or indirect, by way of beneficial ownership of securities or otherwise, in any matter to be acted upon at the Meeting (excluding the election of directors and the appointment of auditors).

#### INTEREST OF MANAGEMENT AND OTHERS IN MATERIAL TRANSACTIONS

Other than as set forth in this Circular, we are not aware of any material interest, direct or indirect, of any informed person of the Corporation, any of our proposed nominees for election as a director of the Board, or any associate or affiliate of any of the foregoing, in any transaction which has been entered into since the commencement of our most recently completed financial year or in any proposed transaction which, in either case, has materially affected or will materially affect us or any of our subsidiaries.

#### SHAREHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The Board is committed to engaging actively with our shareholders. Shareholders may provide feedback to the Chairman or the Independent Lead Director, care of our Corporate Secretary, at the address set out below.

Western Forest Products Inc. 800 – 1055 West Georgia St. Royal Centre Building PO Box 11122 Vancouver, BC V6E 3P3 Attention: Alyce Harper, Corporate Secretary Email: corporatesecretary@westernforest.com

# **RECENT CORPORATE GOVERNANCE INITIATIVES**

Below is a summary of recent key actions the NCGC, Management Resources and Compensation Committee ("MRCC") and the Board have taken to address feedback received through engagement with shareholders and to enhance Western's corporate governance to meet evolving best practices in Canada:

| INITIATIVE  | Status  |
|---|---|
| Independent<br>Lead Director                              | The independent directors appointed Mr. Nocente as Independent Lead Director in August 2015, to provide independent leadership to the Board and preside over the in camera meetings of the independent directors.   |
| Independence of the Board                                 | A majority (83%) of non-executive directors are independent. The total number of independent directors was increased to five with the appointment of Ms. Bird to the Board in August 2015.  |
| Gender Diversity<br>of Directors and<br>Senior Leadership | Western has not adopted any fixed targets or quotas with respect to gender diversity; however, the representation of women on the Board and senior leadership has increased with the appointment of Ms. Bird to the Board in August 2015, and with the executive and corporate officer additions of Ms. Shannon Janzen and Ms. Jennifer Foster in January and December 2015, respectively, and Ms. Alyce Harper in February 2017. |
| Director<br>Compensation<br>Benchmarking                  | In 2015, Willis Towers Watson was engaged to benchmark the Corporation's total director compensation in comparison to a peer comparator group. The Corporation implemented changes to increase its total director compensation to the 33 <sup>rd</sup> percentile of its peer comparator group.   |
|   | In 2016, Willis Towers Watson was engaged to provide an updated total director compensation review. The Corporation maintained director compensation at the 33 <sup>rd</sup> percentile of the peer comparator group; eliminated meeting fees; and set the requirement that non-executive directors who do not meet the Director Equity Ownership Guidelines take a minimum of 50% of their base retainers in the form of DSUs.   |
| Board Evaluation<br>Policy                                | The Board expanded on and formalized its annual director assessment<br>requirements through the adoption of a written Board evaluation policy, that<br>includes the requirement for a third party, independent board assessment every<br>three years, at a minimum.   |
| Director Equity<br>Ownership<br>Guidelines                | To better align director objectives with those of shareholders, the Corporation's Equity Ownership Guidelines were extended from its executives to include non-executive directors beginning in 2016.   |
| Director<br>Over-boarding<br>Policy                       | In the recent transition of the Corporation's directors, evaluation metrics for<br>potential director candidates have included an assessment of their time<br>available to effectively represent shareholders' interests. Consistent with this<br>approach, in February 2016, the Board chose to implement a policy limiting the<br>public company directorships that may be held by each director.                               |

#### RECENT CORPORATE GOVERNANCE INITIATIVES, CONTINUED

| INITIATIVE  | STATUS  |
|---|---|
| Advisory Vote on<br>Executive<br>Compensation:<br><i>"Say on Pay"</i> | A voluntary resolution was passed by the Board in February 2017 to hold an<br>advisory vote on the approach to executive compensation at every annual<br>general meeting. The purpose of this 'Say on Pay' advisory vote is to provide<br>shareholders with the opportunity to indicate their acceptance of the Board's<br>overall approach to executive compensation.  |
| Prohibiting<br>Option<br>Repricing                                    | The Corporation has never repriced its outstanding Options; however, the ability<br>to do so existed, without the need for shareholder approval in certain<br>circumstances, in the Corporation's Option Plan until March 2016, when the<br>Corporation received approval from the TSX to amend its Option Plan to<br>eliminate the Board's ability to reprice options in any circumstance without<br>shareholder approval. |
|   | In February 2017, the Board approved an amendment to the Option Plan that explicitly prohibits the repricing of Options.  |
| Quorum<br>Minimum<br>Representation                                   | A resolution was passed by the Board in February 2017 to put to shareholder vote at the Meeting a revision to the Corporation's bylaws to redefine the quorum at meetings of shareholders to be two persons holding, or representing by proxy, at least 25% of the issued voting shares of the Corporation.   |

## STATEMENT OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE PRACTICES

Corporate governance relates to the activities of the members of the Board who are elected by and are accountable to the shareholders, and takes into account the role of management who are appointed by the Board and who are charged with ongoing management of the Corporation. The Board encourages sound corporate governance practices designed to promote the well-being and ongoing development of the Corporation, having always as its ultimate objective our best long-term interests and the enhancement of value for all shareholders. The Board also believes that sound corporate governance benefits our employees and the communities in which we operate.

The Board is of the view that our corporate governance policies and practices, outlined below, are comprehensive and consistent with the corporate governance guidelines outlined in National Policy 58-201, *Corporate Governance Guidelines*.

#### MANDATE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board oversees the management of our affairs either directly or through its standing committees as described below. In doing so, the Board acts at all times with a view to the best interests of Western and our shareholders. The responsibilities of the Board and each committee of the Board are set out in written charters. A copy of the Board's charter is attached as Appendix A to the Information Circular.

In fulfilling its mandate, the Board is responsible, among other matters, for the following: reviewing our overall long-term business strategies and the Corporation's annual business plan; reviewing our principal business risks to assess whether these risks are within acceptable limits and the appropriate systems are in place to manage these risks; reviewing major strategic initiatives to determine whether our proposed actions accord with long-term shareholder objectives; appointing the Chief Executive Officer and other members of senior management and reviewing succession planning; assessing management's performance against approved business plans; reviewing and approving the reports issued to shareholders, including annual and interim financial statements; promoting the effectiveness of the Board; and safeguarding shareholders' interests.

#### **MEETINGS OF THE BOARD**

The Board meets at least once each quarter, with additional meetings held when appropriate. During 2016, there were four regularly scheduled meetings and two meetings to review specific matters. Four regular meetings are scheduled for 2017. Meeting frequency and agenda items may change depending on the opportunities or risks faced by the Corporation. The agenda for regularly scheduled Board meetings is prepared by the Chairman.

#### SIZE, COMPOSITION AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE BOARD

The Board currently consists of seven directors, all of whom will be standing for re-election at the Meeting. This is within the minimum and maximum range set out in our articles, and which the Corporation considers to be appropriate at this time. A majority of the directors are independent within the meaning of NI 58-101 (as defined below under "Executive Compensation"), being Mr. Arthurs, Ms. Bird, Mr. Nocente, Mr. Shineton, and Mr. Waites.

#### **MEETINGS OF THE INDEPENDENT DIRECTORS**

The independent directors hold an in camera session, without management and non-independent Board members in attendance, every quarter. The Independent Lead Director presides at each of these sessions. Independent Board members do not always meet independently at special meetings. The Corporation's independent Board members met separately four times during 2016.

The Board has reviewed the relationships between each of its director nominees and the Corporation and has determined that the proposed list of director nominees fairly represents the share ownership interests in the Corporation and the requirements for director independence under Canadian securities legislation. In reaching this conclusion, the Board considers that Mr. Demens is related to the Corporation due to his position as Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation. Effective January 1, 2011, Mr. Doney, who had since November 2008 acted in a non-executive capacity as Vice Chairman of the Board and effective February 21, 2014 as Chairman of the Board, began providing certain management services to the Corporation under a consultancy arrangement with an entity controlled by Mr. Doney; accordingly he is not considered an independent director. It is the policy of the Board that all Board meetings and committee meetings include an in camera session without the presence of management and related directors. In the case of the Audit Committee, each meeting includes a session with only the external auditors and the committee members.

#### INDEPENDENT LEAD DIRECTOR

Mr. Nocente was appointed the Independent Lead Director on August 4, 2015. The Board elected to create an Independent Lead Director role in 2015 to strengthen the independence of its Board leadership. The Board has developed a written position description for the Independent Lead Director to ensure separation of the Chairman's and the Independent Lead Director's respective roles and responsibilities, which are as set out below and presented in Appendix B.

Mr. Nocente's responsibilities include (a) providing effective leadership so that the Board can function independently of management by requiring that the independent directors meet regularly, (b) presiding over all meetings of the Board at which the Chairman is not present, including independent directors' meetings; (c) serving as liaison with the other independent directors; (d) consulting with the Chairman, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Secretary regarding meeting agendas and information sent to the Board; (e) ensuring that he is available for consultation and direct communication with shareholders; and (f) notifying other members of the Board regarding any legitimate shareholder concerns of which he becomes aware.

#### COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

Board committees assist in the effective functioning of the Board. All Board standing committees are comprised primarily of independent directors, which ensures that the views of independent directors are effectively represented. The Board currently has four standing committees, the membership of which is summarized below, as at the date hereof:

| Committee  | Arthurs | Bird  | Doney | Nocente | Shineton | Waites         |
|--|---------|-------|-------|---------|----------|----------------|
| Audit Committee                                  | Chair   |       |       | х       |          | Vice-<br>Chair |
| Environmental, Health and Safety Committee       | х       |       | х     |         | Chair    | х              |
| Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee    | х       | Chair |       | х       |          | х              |
| Management, Resources and Compensation Committee | х       | х     |       | Chair   | х        |                |

The roles and responsibilities of each committee chair are delineated in the committee charters, which are available on the Corporation's website at <u>www.westernforest.com</u>.

In addition to these standing committees, special committees may be formed from time to time as required to review particular matters or transactions. All Board members have an open invitation to attend any committee meeting.

#### AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee assists the Board in meeting its fiduciary responsibilities relating to corporate accounting and reporting practices. The Audit Committee is responsible for reviewing our quarterly and annual financial statements and management's discussion and analysis prior to their approval by the Board and release to the public. The Audit Committee is also responsible for appointing our external auditors, subject to the approval of the Board and shareholders, and for pre-approving the fees associated with any non-audit work to be performed by the external auditors. Each meeting of the Audit Committee includes a session with only the external auditors and the committee members. The Board reviews the terms of reference of the Audit Committee on a regular basis and updates such as legislation governing audit committees changes and best practices are established. The Board considers all three members of the Audit Committee in National Instrument 52-110, *Audit Committees*. Additional information on the Audit Committee, including the Audit Committee's charter can be found in our Annual Information Form, under the heading "Audit Committee", which is posted on our website at <u>www.westernforest.com</u> or can be found on SEDAR at <u>www.sedar.com</u>.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

The mandate of the EH&S is to assist the Board in carrying out its responsibilities with respect to environmental, health and safety issues. The EH&S reviews compliance with relevant Board resolutions and with our environmental, health and safety policies, and assesses the effectiveness of our environmental management processes and health and safety programs including the review of internal audits of these processes and programs. A copy of the EH&S charter can be found on our website at <u>www.westernforest.com</u>.

#### MANAGEMENT RESOURCES AND COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

The MRCC assists the Board with respect to our compensation and benefits policies and practices. In particular, the MRCC: recommends to the Board persons to be appointed as our executive officers; assesses the performance of the Chief Executive Officer against agreed-upon targets and recommends his compensation to the Board; approves the compensation levels for other executive officers; reviews overall compensation plans for executive officers and recommends changes thereto to the Board; and oversees the funding, investment management and administration of our employee retirement plans, as delegated to our Pension Advisory Committee, which is not a Board committee. All of the members of this committee are independent. A copy of the Management Resources and Compensation Committee charter can be found on our website at <a href="http://www.westernforest.com">www.westernforest.com</a>.

#### NOMINATING AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

The NCGC is responsible for assisting the Board in the development and monitoring of our corporate governance practices. Its duties include the identification and recommendation of potential nominees or appointees to the Board, and the assessment of the effectiveness of the Board, its size and composition, its structure and the individual performance of its directors. The NCGC also has responsibility for the review of our Disclosure Policy and Code of Business Conduct and Ethics. All of the members of this committee are independent. A copy of the NCGC charter can be found on our website at <a href="http://www.westernforest.com">www.westernforest.com</a>.

#### DIRECTOR OVER-BOARDING

Certain of our directors serve as directors on boards of other reporting issuers in Canada or a foreign jurisdiction as set out below:

| Director            | Jane Bird      | Daniel Nocente    | Barrie Shineton | Michael T. Waites  |
|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|--|
| Reporting<br>Issuer | IBI Group Inc. | Savary Gold Corp. | Norbord Inc.    | HudBay Minerals, Inc.<br>Repsol Oil & Gas<br>Canada Inc. |

To ensure our Board remains strongly independent and that all directors are able to properly discharge their duties to act effectively and in the best interests of the Corporation, the Board actively reviews the number of outside boards on which any one director sits. Specifically, the Board has determined that:

- Maximum directorships: directors are limited in the number of boards of directors on which they serve to no more than four public company boards, including the Corporation.
- Maximum directorships for the Chief Executive Officer: the Chief Executive Officer is limited in the number of boards of directors on which he or she serves to no more than two public company boards, including the Corporation.

All the proposed nominees, who are the current directors, meet the foregoing guidelines. The Board is fully satisfied that each director has sufficient time, attention and ability to devote the time required to be a high-performing contributor to the Board. Each director has demonstrated the necessary commitment to do so as is evidenced by the attendance record.

As at the date hereof, no members of the Board served together on the board of any other public company.

#### **BOARD RENEWAL AND DIRECTOR TERM LIMITS**

The term of each director expires at the end of each annual general meeting of shareholders, or when his or her successor is elected or appointed to the Board. The Corporation does not otherwise have an established term limit for its directors or a retirement policy. The Board, including in particular the NCGC, considers the criteria and process mentioned under "Board Evaluation" below an effective basis to assess board renewal and, as a result, has determined that set term limits are therefore unnecessary. The terms of the current nominees for election as directors are not high, when compared to other similar public companies and prevailing governance standards. Other than the longest serving directors, Mr. Arthurs and Mr. Doney, who have been on the Board for 12 years, the other four non-executive directors have been on the Board for less than three years. Due to recent turnover of a significant component of the Board, the NCGC considers the establishment of term limits for its directors as a counter-productive governance initiative at this time. Furthermore, it recognizes that considerable Corporation and industry-specific knowledge is gained over a consistent tenure with the Board and therefore seeks to retain this skill set among its Board members unless circumstances otherwise require.

#### NOMINATION OF DIRECTORS

Each year, the NCGC reviews the composition of the Board, assesses Board performance and the contributions of individual directors and, if appropriate, identifies new candidates and makes recommendations to the Board for nominees for election as directors. In that regard, the committee considers: the competencies and skills that are considered to be necessary for the Board, as a whole, to possess; the competencies and skills that each existing director possesses; the competencies and skills cach new nominee will bring to the Board and whether the nominees can devote sufficient time to the Corporation and the Board; and the performance of existing directors.

#### **GENDER DIVERSITY**

The Corporation has not adopted a written policy relating to the identification and nomination of female director nominees or executive or corporate officer candidates. However, when identifying new candidates for nomination to the Board, the NCGC takes into account a broad variety of factors it considers appropriate, including skills, independence, financial acumen, board dynamics and personal characteristics, including gender. In addition, diversity in perspective arising from personal, professional or other attributes and experiences is considered when identifying potential director candidates. In the process of identifying candidates for executive and corporate officer appointments, the Corporation does consider whether its executive and officers consists of persons with sufficiently diverse and independent backgrounds.

The Corporation does consider gender diversity to be important and believes that its current framework for evaluating Board and officer candidates takes into account gender diversity. The priority of the Corporation in recruiting new candidates is ensuring individuals bring value to the Corporation and its shareholders by possessing a suitable mix of qualifications, experience, skills and expertise.

The Board currently has one female director and the Corporation has three women in executive or corporate officer roles. The Corporation does not currently intend to adopt targets for female nominee directors, executive, or officers as the composition of the Board and its executives and officers is based on a broad variety of factors the Corporation considers appropriate. It is ultimately the skills, experience, characteristics and qualifications of the individual that are most important in assessing the value the individual could bring to the Corporation.

Ms. Bird was appointed as an independent director on August 4, 2015. The search for qualified individuals is an ongoing process, regardless of whether there is a vacancy on the Board of Directors, and the NCGC, having identified a qualified candidate with the right fit and a strong skill set, complementary to the skills of the other directors of the Corporation, decided to recommend her appointment. This appointment brought the number of directors to seven, and increased female representation on the Board to one of six non-executive directors (approximately 17%). The Board is of the view that its size and composition are adequate and allow for efficient functioning of the Board as a decision making body.

#### DIRECTOR ORIENTATION AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

The Board has established an orientation and continuing education program for directors to ensure they are equipped to fulfill their roles. New directors are provided with comprehensive information about the Corporation prior to their appointment that includes annual reports, management information circulars and strategic and operating plans. Shortly after becoming a director, new directors are invited to tour our operations and spend time at the head office for personal briefings by senior management on our strategic plan, major risks and other key business matters.

Informative updates by appropriate senior management and consultants on our business, operations and products are regularly scheduled for presentation to directors to help them understand our business environment, strategies and operations. In addition, all directors have the opportunity to meet and participate in work sessions with management to obtain further insight into the operations and our business. Directors also receive and review materials on industry trends and regulatory updates from management and other sources on a regular basis. Periodically, directors are invited to visit our operations at various locations to tour the facilities and to meet with employees and local officials.

Directors are free to consult with members of management, whenever they so require, and to engage outside advisors at the expense of the Corporation subject to approval of the Chairman or a majority of the independent Board members. Directors may participate in outside professional development programs approved by the Chairman at the expense of the Corporation. Each committee is also authorized to engage outside advisers at the Corporation's expense.

#### **BOARD EVALUATION**

The Board, its committees and individual directors are regularly assessed with respect to their effectiveness and contribution. The assessment considers: (a) compliance with the Board's mandate; (b) the charter of each committee of the Board; and (c) the competencies and skills that the individual director brings to the Board.

The Board has a process to annually assess its effectiveness, the effectiveness of its committees, the Chairman of the Board, the committee chairs and individual directors. This review process relates directly to the description of the duties and responsibilities of the Board of Directors and to the mandate of its committees and of the Independent Lead Director.

This process is under the supervision of the NCGC and the Chairman of the Board and is comprised of the following steps:

- The following questionnaires are prepared by the Corporate Secretary and approved by the NCGC and the Chairman of the Board, taking into account current issues, the findings of previous years and input from the Board of Directors:
  - Board and committee performance evaluation questionnaires, including a selfassessment by individual directors;
  - Chairman of the Board evaluation questionnaire; and
  - Chairman of committee evaluation questionnaires.
- Each questionnaire is then sent to every director and a complete set of the responses is forwarded to the Chairman of the Board, except for the responses to the evaluation questionnaire relating to the Chairman of the Board, which is forwarded directly to each of the chairs of the NCGC and the MRCC.
- Following receipt of the completed questionnaires, the Chairman of the Board contacts every director and conducts confidential one-on-one meetings. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss the answers received from and in respect of each director, to take into account any comments which the director may have and to review the self-evaluation of each director. One of the NCGC or MRCC chairs also discusses individually with each director his or her responses and comments on the Chairman of the Board evaluation questionnaire.
- Reports are then made by the Chairman of the Board, and the NCGC and MRCC chairs to the Board of Directors, with suggestions to improve the effectiveness of the Board of Directors, Board committees, Chairman of the Board and committee chairs, and separately to individual directors in respect of their personal performance and peer feedback.
- The Chairman of the Board and committee chairs take into consideration the overall results and suggestions derived from the annual Board performance assessment in order to improve the functioning and activities of the Board and Board committees.

The Corporation's Board Evaluation Policy prescribes that every three years the annual Board evaluation process is supplemented by a third party, independent board evaluation specialist assessment.

#### **BOARD AND MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Board has developed written position descriptions for the Chairman of the Board, the Independent Lead Director, and the Chair of each committee. In addition, the Board and Chief Executive Officer have developed a written position description for the Chief Executive Officer. The duties and responsibilities of the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer are set out in the Board's mandate attached as Appendix A to this Circular. Our Board has also developed and approved the corporate goals and objectives that the Chief Executive Officer is responsible for meeting.

Effective February 21, 2013, the positions of Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer were separated. These positions are currently held by Lee Doney and Donald Demens, respectively. Additionally, the independent directors meet without management in attendance as they see necessary. Standing board committees are comprised primarily of independent directors (all directors are independent with the exception of Mr. Doney and Mr. Demens).

The Chairman is generally responsible for managing the affairs of the Board and ensures that the functions identified in its mandate are being carried out effectively. In addition the Chairman is responsible for:

- preparing the agenda for each Board meeting in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer;
- ensuring that all directors receive the information required for the proper performance of their duties;
- presiding over all meetings of the Board and ensuring that there is adequate time for discussion of relevant issues and for members of the Board to meet without the presence of management;
- ensuring that the appropriate committee structure is in place and assisting the NCGC in recommending appointments to such committees;
- together with the NCGC, leading the annual review of directors, Board committees and Board performance and making recommendations for changes when appropriate; and
- monitoring progress on corporate governance, corporate performance and to represent the Corporation to external stakeholders.

The Chief Executive Officer provides leadership for the Corporation and is generally responsible for managing the operation, organization and administration of the Corporation, subject to approved policies and direction by the Board. The responsibilities of the Chief Executive Officer include: providing vision and leadership for the Corporation; presenting a strategic plan together with the business and financial plans for the Corporation to the Board for approval; managing the business operations in accordance with the strategic and operational policies as approved by the Board; acting as the primary spokesperson for the Corporation to all its stakeholders; presenting to the Board for annual approval an assessment of the Corporation's management resources together with recommendations on appropriate rewards and incentives; developing and implementing the systems and processes to support the policies established by the Board and reporting non-compliance to the Board on a timely basis; and fostering a corporate culture that promotes ethical practices and encourages individual integrity and social responsibility.

#### MANAGEMENT'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE BOARD

The primary responsibility of management is to safeguard Western's assets and to create value for its shareholders. In the event that management's performance is found to be inadequate, the Board has the responsibility to bring about change to enable the Corporation to perform satisfactorily.

Our senior management reports to and is accountable to the Board. At its meetings, the Board regularly engages in a private session with the Chief Executive Officer without other members of management present. The Board also meets independently of management at every meeting.

#### MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

The Board believes in the importance of developing strategic and operating plans to ensure the compatibility of shareholder, Board and management views on direction and performance targets, and the effective utilization of shareholder capital. Each year, the Board reviews the strategic initiatives and annual plan submitted by senior management. The Board's approval of the annual plan provides a mandate for senior management to conduct our affairs within the terms of the plan, knowing it has the support of the Board. Material deviations from the plan are reported to and considered by the Board.

#### BOARD AND COMMITTEE INFORMATION

The information provided by our management to the Board is critical to the Board's effectiveness. In addition to reports presented to the Board and its committees at regular meetings, the Board is also informed on a timely basis by management of corporate developments and key decisions taken by management in pursuing Western's strategic plan and objectives. The Board periodically assesses the quality, completeness and timeliness of information provided by management to the Board.

#### CODES OF BUSINESS CONDUCT

The Board has adopted two written codes of conduct (the "Codes"), an Employee Code of Conduct for employees and a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics for directors and officers, prescribing the minimum moral and ethical standards of conduct required of all directors, officers and employees of the Corporation and its subsidiaries.

These Codes address the following matters:

- (a) conflicts of interest, including transactions and agreements in respect of which a director or executive officer has a material interest;
- (b) protection and proper use of corporate assets and opportunities;
- (c) confidentiality of corporate information;
- (d) fair dealing with our security holders, customers, suppliers, competitors and employees;
- (e) compliance with laws, rules and regulations; and
- (f) reporting of any illegal or unethical behaviour.

A copy of the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics for directors and officers can be found on our website at <u>www.westernforest.com</u> or can be found on SEDAR at <u>www.sedar.com</u>.

We provide, on an annual basis, a copy of the Employee Code of Conduct to all salaried employees who are required to sign an acknowledgment that they have received, read and understand the contents of the Employee Code of Conduct and agree to adherence to its principles. All violations of law or of the Employee Code of Conduct must be reported. As part of the Employee Code of Conduct, we have implemented a Compliance and Code of Conduct Hotline, allowing directors, officers, employees, customers and suppliers to report, in confidence, a violation of law, the Employee Code of Conduct, or any other ethical concerns through an independent third-party ethics reporting system, called "Global Compliance".

The NCGC oversees compliance with each of the Codes and policies, authorizes any waivers and confirms with management the appropriate disclosure of any waiver. Where appropriate, the Committee will also cause an investigation of any reported violation of the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics and oversee an appropriate response to any violation. The Chief Executive Officer promotes compliance with the Employee Code of Conduct, causes an investigation of any reported violation of any reported violation.

Certain directors are directors or officers of other corporations and, to the extent that such other corporations may participate in transactions or other ventures in which we may participate, the directors may have a conflict of interest in negotiating and concluding terms respecting the extent of such participation. The Board requires that directors provide disclosure to it of all boards and committees that they are members of, and all offices held at, other issuers. Western also requires conflicts of interest to be disclosed to our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics contact person and reported to the NCGC. In the event that a conflict of interest arises, a director who has such a conflict is required under the CBCA to disclose the conflict and (except in limited circumstances permitted by the CBCA), to abstain from voting for or against the approval of the matter. In addition, in considering transactions and agreements in respect of which a director has a material interest, our Board will require that the interested person absent himself from portions of Board or committee meetings so as to allow independent discussion of points in issue and the exercise of independent judgment. In appropriate cases, we may also establish a special committee of independent directors to review a matter in respect of which directors or management may have a conflict.

#### **COMMUNICATION POLICY**

We have adopted a Communication Policy that summarizes the policies and practices regarding disclosure of material information to the public, investors, analysts and the media. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that our communication with the investment community is timely, consistent and in compliance with all applicable securities legislation. The Communication Policy is reviewed annually.

We endeavour to keep our shareholders informed of our progress through a comprehensive annual report, quarterly interim reports and periodic press releases. The Corporation also maintains a web site that provides summary information on Western and ready access to its published reports, press releases, statutory filings and supplementary information provided to analysts and investors. Directors and management meet with our shareholders at the Annual Meeting. Senior management is available to answer questions either directly or via e-mail. Shareholders who wish to contact the Chairman or other Board members can do so directly or through our Corporate Secretary.

We maintain an investor relations program to respond to inquiries in a timely manner. Management meets on a regular basis with investment analysts and financial advisors to ensure that accurate information is available to investors on our financial results. We also endeavour to ensure that the media are kept informed of developments as they occur, and have an opportunity to meet and discuss these developments with our designated spokespersons.

# **EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

#### COMPOSITION AND MANDATE OF THE MANAGEMENT RESOURCES AND COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

In accordance with its terms of reference, all members of the MRCC of the Board are independent directors under the standards established by Canadian securities regulatory authorities in National Instrument 58-101, *Disclosure of Corporate Governance Practices* ("NI 58-101").

Our executive compensation program is administered by the MRCC. As part of its mandate, the MRCC makes recommendations to the Board with respect to the compensation of the Chief Executive Officer and reviews and approves the compensation of all other executive officers including the Chief Financial Officer and the next three most highly compensated executive officers included in the Summary Compensation Table on page 37 (collectively, the "Named Executive Officers" or "NEOs"). The MRCC is also responsible for reviewing the design and general competitiveness of our compensation and benefit programs and recommending any changes to the Board.

As at the date of this Circular, the MRCC is comprised of Mr. Nocente (Chairman), Mr. Arthurs, Ms. Bird, and Mr. Shineton. Each of these individuals has held senior executive roles which have included involvement in executive compensation issues. None of the members of the MRCC is an officer, employee or former officer of the Corporation or is eligible to participate in our executive compensation programs. The MRCC members have diverse professional backgrounds as discussed in their respective biographies provided at pages 7 to 10.

The MRCC, in accordance with its terms of reference, meets as required to monitor and review management compensation policies, management succession planning and to review the overall composition and quality of our management resources. In addition, the MRCC oversees the funding, investment management and administration of our employee retirement plans. The MRCC met four times during 2016.

Our Chief Executive Officer is not a member of the MRCC but does make recommendations to the MRCC with respect to the Corporation's compensation policy and regarding compensation paid to senior officers.

#### ADVISORY VOTE ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION: "SAY ON PAY"

The Board has implemented an annual advisory vote on executive compensation for the Meeting.

The purpose of the 'Say on Pay' advisory vote is to provide appropriate director accountability to the shareholders of the Corporation for the Board's compensation decisions by giving shareholders a formal opportunity to provide their views on the disclosed objectives of the executive compensation plans, and on the plans themselves, for the past, current and future fiscal years.

While shareholders will provide their collective advisory vote, the directors of the Corporation remain fully responsible for compensation decisions and are not relieved of these responsibilities by a positive advisory vote by shareholders.

The MRCC and Board have thoroughly assessed executive compensation as part of their commitments to shareholders, and the Board expects that shareholders will perform reasonable due diligence prior to exercising their votes. The nature and extent of the Corporation's change in compensation philosophy are disclosed in this Circular and the 2016 management information circular. The Corporation's revised approach to executive compensation, and its improved corporate governance policies, reflect a commitment to best practices and have positively positioned the Corporation relative to its peers.

#### **COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

#### **RECENT INITIATIVES**

Under the direction of past Board leadership, the Corporation administered a compensation philosophy whereby senior executives received below market annual cash compensation, with long-term incentives (delivered 100% in Options) used to ensure total compensation was broadly competitive. This approach was adopted to preserve cash as the Corporation, along with the forestry industry as a whole, experienced highly challenging market conditions.

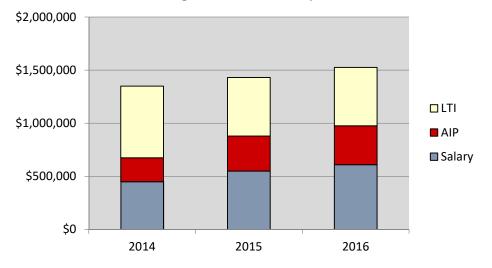
Having successfully repositioned the business for growth, the Corporation needs to attract highly qualified talent to execute its strategy. As the reconstituted Board began to evaluate its executive compensation, it became apparent that the existing compensation philosophy limited the Corporation's ability to attract the calibre of candidates required. This conclusion prompted a review of our compensation programs to ensure their suitability for the Corporation's next stage of growth and its long-term success.

Upon recommendation from the MRCC, the Board approved the following changes to executive compensation programs effective in 2015:

- Rebalancing compensation away from an emphasis on Options towards a more balanced mix of salary, annual incentives and long-term incentives to improve competitiveness relative to the Corporation's comparator group, while retaining strong emphasis on long-term performance and shareholder value creation;
- Introducing a performance share unit ("PSU") program to the Long-Term Incentive ("LTI") Plan alongside a reduction in the value of Options granted to executives;
- Establishing a supplemental retirement program to more closely align with the retirement programs available among the comparator group; and
- Introducing equity ownership guidelines, an anti-hedging policy and a clawback policy to bring the Corporation's compensation governance more in line with the practices of leading Canadian companies.

Following these changes, overall compensation levels were not significantly different year-over-year as illustrated below by the target total direct compensation (the sum of base salary plus target Annual Incentive Plan ("AIP") award plus target LTI awards) of the Corporation's Chief Executive Officer in 2014, 2015 and 2016.

In 2016, there were no changes to the composition or weighting of the rebalanced executive compensation program put in place in 2015.



#### **Total Target CEO Direct Compensation**

#### **COMPENSATION OBJECTIVES AND PHILOSOPHY**

The objective of the Corporation's compensation philosophy is to attract, develop, motivate and retain high performing individuals who are capable of delivering the next stage of our development. Our compensation program emphasizes variable pay designed to align with corporate performance and the experience of shareholders. Compensation levels are assessed on a holistic basis to include salary, short- and long-term incentives and benefit programs with total compensation targeted in a range around the median of the Corporation's comparator group.

#### COMPETITIVE MARKET ASSESSMENTS

The MRCC periodically reviews market compensation levels to determine whether total compensation for the Corporation's executive officers remains in the targeted median pay range, and makes adjustments when necessary. This review includes assessment of base salary, annual incentives, long-term incentives, and a qualitative assessment of the value of retirement programs.

An in-depth assessment was undertaken in late 2014 and completed in 2015 as part of which the MRCC established a new comparator group comprised of Canadian forest and paper product companies (listed below) with annual revenue and market capitalization between \$250 million and \$4 billion.

| Acadian Timber <sup>(1)</sup>             | Conifex Timber Inc.         | Resolute Forest Products Inc. |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Ainsworth Lumber Co. Ltd. <sup>(2)</sup>  | Domtar Corporation          | Stella-Jones Inc.             |
| Canfor Corporation <sup>(3)</sup>         | Interfor Corporation        | Tembec Inc.                   |
| Canfor Pulp Products <sup>(3)</sup>       | Norbord Ltd. <sup>(2)</sup> | West Fraser Timber Co. Ltd.   |
| Catalyst Paper Corporation <sup>(4)</sup> | Mercer International Inc.   |                               |

- (1) Acadian Timber has a number of executive officers that are also management of, and believed to receive supplemental compensation from, its primary shareholder or subsidiaries of its primary shareholder Brookfield Asset Management.
- (2) Ainsworth Lumber Co. Ltd. merged with Norbord Ltd. on April 1, 2015 but was included at the time of this analysis.
- (3) Canfor Corporation holds a 51.9% interest in, and shares common executive officers with, Canfor Pulp Products Inc.
- (4) Catalyst Paper Corporation ceased to be a public company and was delisted from the TSX on January 27, 2017, but was included at the time of this analysis.

An update to this assessment was performed in 2016 and completed in January 2017. This assessment concluded that the components and total target value of the executive compensation program was largely in line with the median of the Corporation's comparator group, with the exception of CEO compensation which was significantly below the median.

In addition to the current pay practices of this group, from time to time, the MRCC reviews various pay surveys, including surveys of pay practices of forest products companies and comparably-sized manufacturing companies, along with general industry data for similar size companies. This information, when available, is considered by the MRCC in determining the total compensation to be paid to each executive officer.

#### **ROLE OF COMPENSATION CONSULTANT**

From time to time, the MRCC uses an independent consultant to provide expert, objective advice on compensation matters. In 2015 and 2016, the MRCC retained consultant Willis Towers Watson to assist in ensuring that compensation practices aligned with the Corporation's compensation philosophy. Aggregate fees for director and executive compensation services provided by Willis Towers Watson in 2016 and 2015 are as follows:

| Compensation related fees | 2016     | 2015      |
|---------------------------|----------|-----------|
| Willis Towers Watson      | \$49,459 | \$103,933 |

#### **RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE**

The MRCC considers the implications of the risks associated with our compensation policies and practices, including the significant component of each executive's compensation that is variable and therefore at-risk. In order to mitigate any incentive to engage in inappropriate or excessive risk taking, the MRCC considers the balance between long-term objectives and short-term financial goals incorporated into our executive compensation program. Risks, if any, may be identified and mitigated through regular meetings of the MRCC and the Board. No risks have been identified arising from our compensation policies and practices that are reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on the Corporation.

The following policies have been adopted to mitigate risks associated with our compensation program.

#### Diversified pay mix and performance measures

Western uses two LTI vehicles to reward for share price and corporate performance over the mid- to longterm (i.e. three to a maximum 10 years). This approach encourages executives to adopt a long-term view of performance. Additionally, overlapping PSU and Option performance vesting periods reward sustained performance and provide equity at different share prices reflecting the experience of shareholders.

#### Equity ownership guidelines and disclosure

Minimum equity ownership requirements for the Corporation's executive officers were introduced in 2015 to align executive officer interests with those of our shareholders. Ownership levels must be met by the later of March 13, 2020 or within five years of becoming an executive officer. Equity ownership value as a multiple of base salary is set at 3 times for the Chief Executive Officer, 1.25 times for the Chief Financial Officer, and 1 time for other Vice Presidents of the Corporation. These guidelines are subject to MRCC discretion to ensure no unintended consequences arise. Qualifying equity for the purposes of the equity ownership requirements include Common Shares and DSUs under the Corporation's DSU Plan. The table below summarizes equity holdings for each of the Corporation's NEOs at December 31, 2016.

| Named<br>Executive<br>Officer | Equity<br>Ownership<br>Required <sup>(1)</sup> | Common<br>Shares<br>Held | DSUs<br>Held | Total<br>Securities<br>Held | Value of<br>Securities<br>Held <sup>(2)</sup> | Value of<br>Holdings<br>Required | Date Required  |
|-------------------------------|--|--------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Donald Demens                 | 3.00x  | -                        | 221,827      | 221,827                     | \$452,473                                     | \$1,830,000                      | March 13, 2020 |
| Stephen Williams              | 1.25x  | 100,500                  | -            | 100,500                     | \$195,905                                     | \$525,000                        | March 13, 2020 |
| Rick Forgaard                 | 1.00x  | 40,500                   | -            | 40,500                      | \$77,355                                      | \$340,000                        | March 13, 2020 |
| Michael Cass                  | 1.00x  | -                        | 17,797       | 17,797                      | \$36,697                                      | \$325,000                        | March 13, 2020 |
| Jennifer Foster               | 1.00x  | 40,500                   | -            | 40,500                      | \$82,470                                      | \$265,000                        | Dec. 7, 2020   |

(1) Equity ownership requirement as a multiple of base salary

(2) Value of Shares and DSUs held is calculated on the greater of the current market value and the grant or acquisition date value of eligible securities. The market value as at December 31, 2016 was \$1.89 per Share or DSU held, which was the closing price of Shares on December 31, 2016.

#### Hedging

All executive officers are prohibited from trading in our securities or entering into transactions through participation in the Option Plan unless such transactions are executed and disclosed in full compliance with the Corporation's Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, Communication Policy, Insider Trading Policy and all relevant securities regulations and laws. An executive who violates these policies may face disciplinary action including possible termination of employment. The violation of these policies may also violate certain securities laws. If the Corporation discovers that an executive has violated any securities laws, the matter may be referred to the appropriate regulatory authorities, which could lead to penalties and fines.

Effective March 13, 2015, executive officers and directors are prohibited from purchasing financial instruments for the purpose of hedging or offsetting a decrease in market value of the Corporation's equity securities. Specifically, this policy prohibits the executive officers from engaging in the following transactions with respect to Common Shares: short sales, monetization of stock option awards before vesting, transactions in derivatives on Common Shares such as put and call options, any other hedging or equity monetization transactions where the individual's economic interest and risk exposure in the Common Shares are changed, such as collars or forward sale contracts.

To the knowledge of the Corporation, none of the NEOs or directors has purchased any such instruments for such purposes.

#### Clawback policy

Incentives paid and equity compensation vested can be clawed back at the Board's discretion where it determines that there has been misconduct resulting in a material restatement of the Corporation's financial results.

#### KEY ELEMENTS OF TOTAL COMPENSATION

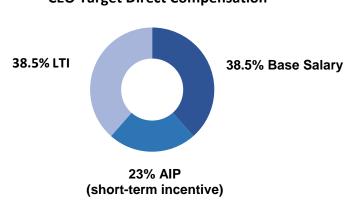
Our executive compensation program includes the following elements:

| Element                                | Objective  | Details  |
|--|--|--|
| Base salary                            | Compensation for experience and expertise  | <ul><li>Paid in cash</li><li>Assessed annually</li></ul>   |
| Short-term<br>incentive plan<br>awards | Designed to incentivize executives to meet short-term corporate and individual goals | <ul> <li>Variable compensation paid in cash<br/>contingent on corporate and individual<br/>performance relative to established<br/>goals</li> </ul>  |
| Performance<br>share units             | Incentivizes executives to maximize medium-<br>term corporate performance            | <ul> <li>Variable compensation linked to the value of the Corporation's shares</li> <li>Settled in cash at the end of the 3-year performance term contingent on performance against targets</li> </ul> |
| Options                                | Long-term alignment of shareholder performance and executive compensation            | <ul> <li>Variable compensation with awards<br/>vesting 20% per year for 5 years</li> <li>Total term up to 10 years</li> </ul>  |
| Retirement<br>program                  | Provide executives with income in retirement   | <ul> <li>Defined contribution program</li> </ul>   |
| Other benefits                         | Offer market competitive benefits  | <ul><li>Medical, dental and insurance benefits</li><li>Car allowance</li></ul>   |

#### TARGET PAY MIX

Target direct compensation for all executives includes salary, short-term incentives, and long-term incentives. Target short-term and long-term incentives are all at-risk, in line with the Corporation's pay for performance objectives.

The 2016 target pay mix of the CEO includes at risk components which comprise approximately 62% of total target direct compensation, as shown below. For each of the remaining NEOs, more than 50% of total target direct compensation is at-risk.



#### **CEO Target Direct Compensation**

#### **BASE SALARIES**

Base salaries for executive officers are established with reference to market data, including salaries paid to similar positions at Comparator companies as identified through the most recent market comparison assessment, and internal job classification as it relates to the contribution to our strategic and financial results. Base salaries of our executives are reviewed by the MRCC and approved by the Board annually to ensure that they reflect the contribution of each executive officer.

In 2015, the MRCC recommended and the Board approved salary increases for the NEOs to rebalance the Corporation's approach to total compensation. Subsequent salary increases in 2016 and 2017 have been aligned with the Corporation's goal of maintaining total NEO target compensation at levels near the median of our comparator group.

| Named Executive Officer | 2015                     | <b>2016</b> <sup>(1)</sup> | <b>2017</b> <sup>(1)</sup> |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Donald Demens           | \$550,000                | \$610,000                  | \$700,000                  |
| Stephen Williams        | \$400,000                | \$420,000                  | \$450,000                  |
| Rick Forgaard           | \$325,000                | \$340,000                  | \$350,000                  |
| Michael Cass            | \$325,000 <sup>(2)</sup> | \$325,000                  | \$325,000                  |
| Jennifer Foster         | \$265,000 <sup>(3)</sup> | \$265,000                  | \$285,000                  |

(1) In 2016, executive salary increases were effective February 17, 2016 except for Mr. Demens' salary increase which was effective April 1, 2016. In 2017, executive salary increases were effective February 16, 2017.

- (2) Mr. Cass's 2015 salary figure reflects a July 1, 2015 compensation change in conjunction with his appointment as Vice President, Timberlands on May 19, 2015. Previous to this, Mr. Cass held the position Vice President, Human Resources.
- (3) Ms. Foster was appointed Vice-President, Human Resources on December 7, 2015.

#### SHORT-TERM INCENTIVE PLAN AWARDS

The issuance of and value of all short-term incentive plan awards are at the discretion of the Board. All salaried employees, including executive officers, participate in our Annual Incentive Plan ("AIP"), which is designed to foster an environment of continuous improvement based on key performance indicators of the business and to recognize collective and individual performance directly related to our financial and strategic goals.

Target awards, expressed as a percentage of base salary, have been established for all salaried employees, including executive officers. Target awards for executive officers ranged 45% to 60% of base salary for 2016, reflecting competitive practices in the market for similar positions.

AIP awards are based on a combination of corporate and individual performance. Corporate performance is calculated using the Corporation's Return on Capital Employed ("ROCE"). ROCE is a non-IFRS measure (refer to page 44 for an expanded definition). Individual performance is evaluated based on achievement of individual goals for each NEO. For the CEO all individual goals are approved by the Board upon the recommendation of the MRCC; for all other NEOs, individual goals are approved by the CEO, in consultation with the MRCC, to ensure they are clearly aligned with overall corporate objectives.

In order to align pay with performance of the Corporation, a minimum ROCE must be attained for any payments to be made in respect of the AIP. In addition, for an employee to be eligible for an AIP award he or she must achieve at least a threshold level of individual performance. For 2016, ROCE must be greater than 4% to result in a payment, with a maximum payment of 200% of target achievable for ROCE of 30% and above. Amounts paid to NEOs for 2016 were based on the following formula:

#### Annual Salary x Target Award % x [Corporate Factor + Individual Factor]<sup>(1)</sup> 2

(1) The Corporate Factor will be zero if ROCE is 4% or less and will reach a maximum of 2.0 with a ROCE of 30% or above. The Individual Factor will be zero if performance is less than 0.6 (below expectations) and will reach a maximum of 2.0 (exceptional). For an employee to be eligible for an award, both the corporate and individual factors must achieve at least the minimum level of performance (defined as a ROCE of greater than 4% and an individual performance factor of 0.6 or higher). The MRCC reviews our financial performance as part of the award setting process.

Target and actual 2016 AIP awards for NEOs are summarized below:

| Named Executive Officer | Range of AIP<br>Opportunity | Target AIP<br>Award % | Target 2016<br>AIP Award | Actual 2016<br>AIP Award |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Donald Demens           | 0% to 120%                  | 60%                   | \$366,000                | \$565,000                |
| Stephen Williams        | 0% to 110%                  | 55%                   | \$231,000                | \$335,000                |
| Rick Forgaard           | 0% to 110%                  | 55%                   | \$187,000                | \$225,000                |
| Michael Cass            | 0% to 110%                  | 55%                   | \$178,750                | \$170,000                |
| Jennifer Foster         | 0% to 110%                  | 55%                   | \$145,750                | \$200,000                |

The Board issued a discretionary short-term incentive award of \$265,000 to Mr. Demens in addition to the AIP award above. The Board has monitored Mr. Demens' achievements in stabilizing the Corporation's financial performance and significantly improving the financial position of the Corporation, and it chose to issue a one-time award in recognition of accomplishing these goals and the Corporation's record annual financial performance in the year-ended December 31, 2016. The Board has applied the same multi-year, conservative approach to evaluating Mr. Demens' total compensation, making gradual increases to bring Mr. Demens' compensation to competitive market levels while seeking to ensure it incents sustained improvements to the Corporation's financial performance and stability.

# LONG-TERM INCENTIVE PLANS

We believe it is important that the interests of executives be aligned with the interests of shareholders. Our LTI plans consist of an Option Plan and Performance Share Unit plan that reward management based on increases in the value of the Corporation's Common Shares and also the achievement of key corporate performance objectives. The weighting between the two LTI vehicles, based on grant date award value, is 40% Options and 60% PSUs. Target LTI awards, as a percentage of base salary, for the NEOs and the resulting 2016 grant date values are as follows:

| Named Executive Officer | LTI Target Award<br>(as a % of salary) | 2016 Grant Date<br>Value |
|-------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Donald Demens           | 100%                                   | \$550,000                |
| Stephen Williams        | 70%                                    | \$294,000                |
| Rick Forgaard           | 65%                                    | \$221,000                |
| Michael Cass            | 65%                                    | \$211,250                |
| Jennifer Foster         | 60%                                    | \$159,000                |

## Stock Option Plan

Our Option Plan was adopted in 2004 and is administered by the Board with the assistance of the MRCC in accordance with our compensation policies and the policies of the TSX.

The purpose of the Option Plan is to advance the interests of the Corporation in the following ways:

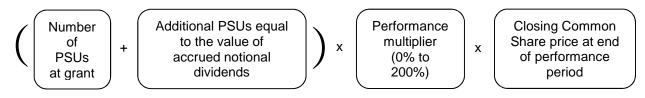
- aligning the interests of executives and shareholders in the success of the Corporation through increases in the value of our Common Shares;
- providing an additional incentive in lieu of cash remuneration thereby encouraging retention of executives as a result of the vesting provisions; and
- attracting new executives by remaining competitive in terms of total compensation arrangements.

Executive officers are eligible to receive Options. The exercise price for Options granted pursuant to the Option Plan is determined on the date of the grant, and the price may not be less than the market value. Options vest at the annual rate of 20% per year beginning on the first anniversary of the date of grant and have a maximum term of 10 years.

The Option Plan permits the granting of Options up to a maximum of 20,000,000 Common Shares (representing approximately 5.1% of the issued and outstanding Common Shares as of the date hereof).

# Performance Share Unit Plan

The Performance Share Unit Plan ("PSU Plan") was introduced in 2015 to complement the existing Option Plan by providing executives with an incentive linked to maximizing shareholder value as reflected in the share price, and performance of the Corporation against a key financial metric. PSUs are settled in cash with a payment at the end of the three-year performance period, in line with Canadian *Income Tax Act* regulations. The final value of PSUs that are cash-settled at the end of the performance period is determined based on a formula, as summarized below:



The performance multiplier for the 2015 and 2016 PSU awards is based on ROCE over a three-year period as follows:

| ROCE                   | Performance multiplier |  |  |
|------------------------|------------------------|--|--|
| Below threshold of 10% | 0%                     |  |  |
| Threshold of 10%       | 50%                    |  |  |
| Target of 15%          | 100%                   |  |  |
| Maximum 20% or higher  | 200%                   |  |  |

For performance between threshold and maximum, the performance multiplier is determined by straight line interpolation.

Holders of PSUs are eligible to receive additional PSUs to reflect any cash dividend declared on Common Shares during the term of the participants' participation in the PSU Plan. The number of additional PSUs to be allocated is determined by dividing the aggregate dollar value of the declared dividend that would have been paid to the participants if the PSUs held by the participants on the relevant record date for dividends had been Common Shares, by the closing share price on the trading day immediately after the dividend date or record.

# 2016 LONG-TERM INCENTIVE AWARDS

| Named Executive  | Optio   | Options <sup>(1)</sup> |         | PSUs <sup>(2)</sup> |           |  |
|------------------|---------|------------------------|---------|---------------------|-----------|--|
| Officer          | Number  | Grant Value            | Number  | Grant Value         | Value     |  |
| Donald Demens    | 430,781 | \$220,000              | 167,512 | \$330,000           | \$550,000 |  |
| Stephen Williams | 230,272 | \$117,600              | 85,543  | \$176,400           | \$294,000 |  |
| Rick Forgaard    | 173,096 | \$88,400               | 67,309  | \$132,600           | \$221,000 |  |
| Michael Cass     | 165,459 | \$84,500               | 64,340  | \$126,750           | \$211,250 |  |
| Jennifer Foster  | 124,535 | \$63,600               | 48,426  | \$95,400            | \$159,000 |  |

The Corporation's 2016 LTI awards were as follows:

(1) Option grant date value was \$0.51 per unit. Refer to note 4 under the Summary Compensation Table on page 37 for more details on stock option valuation.

(2) PSU grant date value was \$1.97 per unit, reflecting the closing price of Common Shares on February 16, 2016, the day prior to the Grant.

#### DEFERRED SHARE UNIT PLAN

The DSU Plan was closed to executives as of January 1, 2015. Prior to this, designated executives were able to elect to receive all or a portion of their AIP compensation in the form of DSUs. Executives were required to make an irrevocable election to participate in the DSU Plan prior to the end of each fiscal year to which the AIP compensation applied. Remaining DSUs held by executives continue to be governed by the terms of the DSU Plan.

Holders of DSUs are eligible to receive additional DSUs to reflect any cash dividend declared on Common Shares during the term of the participants' participation in the DSU Plan. The number of additional DSUs to be allocated is determined by dividing the aggregate dollar value of the declared dividend that would have been paid to the participants if the DSUs held by the participants on the relevant record date for dividends had been Common Shares, by the closing price of our Common Shares on the payment date of such dividend.

As DSUs are only paid out in the year following termination of employment, those executives holding DSUs remain eligible for additional DSUs to reflect dividends declared on Common Shares. In 2016, the two NEOs who participated in the DSU Plan prior to January 1, 2016 received 8,980 DSUs to reflect cash dividends declared.

Refer to "Deferred Share Unit Plan for Non-Executive Directors" on page 13 for more information.

#### **RETIREMENT AND OTHER BENEFITS**

#### Retirement Benefits

The Corporation provides a defined contribution pension plan with a supplemental component for executives whose benefits are affected by *Income Tax Act* limits. See "Pension Plan Benefits" below for more information.

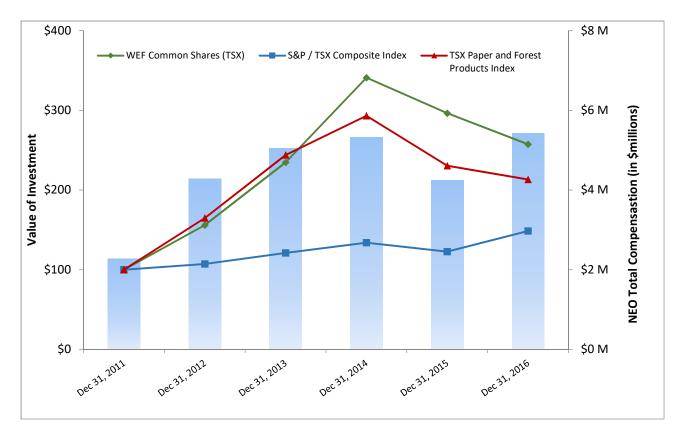
## Other Benefits

All salaried employees, including executive officers, are eligible to participate in various other benefits including: health and dental coverage, life insurance, disability insurance, paid leave and paid holidays. In addition, executive officers receive a car allowance. These benefits are designed to be competitive with market practices.

#### PERFORMANCE GRAPH

The following data and graph present the Total Shareholder Return ("TSR") over the last five years of an investment in our Common Shares as compared to the performance of the S&P / TSX Composite Index and the S&P / TSX Composite Forest Products Index. This analysis assumes \$100 was invested on December 31, 2011, and that all dividends are reinvested. Also presented in the graph is the trend in TSR compared to the trend in Named Executive Officer compensation.

|   | 2011  | 2012  | 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| WEF Common<br>Shares                            | \$100 | \$156 | \$235 | \$341 | \$296 | \$258 |
| S&P / TSX<br>Composite Index                    | \$100 | \$107 | \$121 | \$134 | \$123 | \$149 |
| S&P / TSX<br>Composite Forest<br>Products Index | \$100 | \$165 | \$244 | \$293 | \$231 | \$213 |



For the five year period ended in 2016, the cumulative TSR for \$100 invested in our Common Shares has exceeded the comparable TSR for both the S&P/TSX Composite Index and the TSX Paper and Forest Products Index. The change in NEO compensation over the same five year period was in line with TSR on our Common Shares.

## SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE

The following table sets forth all compensation paid or payable from Western or its subsidiaries in respect of each of the NEOs for services rendered during the three most recently completed financial years:

|   |      | 0.1           | Share-  | Option-   |  | y Incentive<br>pensation          | Pension      | All Other                | Til                   |
|---|------|---------------|---|-----------|--|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Name and Principal<br>Position              | Year | Salary<br>(1) | Based Based -<br>Awards Awards<br>(2) (3) (4) |           | Annual<br>Incentive<br>Plan <sup>(3)</sup> | Long<br>Term<br>Incentive<br>Plan | Value<br>(5) | Compen-<br>sation<br>(6) | Total<br>Compensation |
| Donald Demens                               | 2016 | \$595,000     | \$330,000                                     | \$220,000 | \$565,000                                  | -                                 | \$64,050     | \$312,362                | \$2,086,412           |
| President and<br>Chief Executive            | 2015 | \$535,616     | \$330,000                                     | \$220,000 | \$320,000                                  | -                                 | \$38,251     | \$30,668                 | \$1,474,535           |
| Officer                                     | 2014 | \$454,231     | -   | \$749,200 | \$300,000                                  | -                                 | \$24,930     | \$9,399                  | \$1,537,760           |
| Stephen Williams <sup>(6)</sup>             | 2016 | \$417,423     | \$176,400                                     | \$117,600 | \$335,000                                  |                                   | \$46,720     | \$17,691                 | \$1,110,834           |
| Senior Vice President,<br>& Chief Financial | 2015 | \$386,027     | \$168,000                                     | \$112,000 | \$250,000                                  | -                                 | \$26,488     | \$9,565                  | \$952,080             |
| Officer                                     | 2014 | \$101,538     | -   | \$186,930 | \$120,000                                  | -                                 | \$7,269      | \$101,125                | \$516,862             |
| Rick Forgaard <sup>(7)</sup>                | 2016 | \$338,067     | \$132,600                                     | \$88,400  | \$225,000                                  |                                   | \$35,915     | \$10,199                 | \$830,181             |
| Vice President,                             | 2015 | \$317,671     | \$126,750                                     | \$84,500  | \$175,000                                  | -                                 | \$24,078     | \$4,323                  | \$732,322             |
| Manufacturing                               | 2014 | \$56,058      | -   | -         | \$25,000                                   | -                                 | \$3,332      | -                        | \$84,390              |
| Michael Cass <sup>(8)</sup>                 | 2016 | \$325,000     | \$126,750                                     | \$84,500  | \$170,000                                  |                                   | \$32,900     | \$13,139                 | \$752,289             |
| Vice President,                             | 2015 | \$271,945     | \$81,000                                      | \$54,000  | \$145,000                                  | -                                 | \$22,559     | \$7,117                  | \$581,621             |
| Timberlands                                 | 2014 | \$209,385     | -   | \$243,497 | \$75,000                                   | -                                 | \$14,215     | \$1,563                  | \$543,660             |
| Jennifer Foster <sup>(9)</sup>              | 2016 | \$265,000     | \$95,400                                      | \$63,600  | \$200,000                                  |                                   | \$19,250     | \$5,578                  | \$648,828             |
| Vice President,                             | 2015 | \$19,365      | -   | \$70,000  | \$10,000                                   | -                                 | \$1,356      | \$76                     | \$100,797             |
| Human Resources                             | 2014 | -             | -   | -         | -  | -                                 | -            | -                        | -                     |

(1) The amount in this column for each NEO reflects the dollar amount of base salary earned in each of the three financial years, including salary increases, if any.

(2) Share-based awards consist of PSU awards made under the PSU Plan. The value of PSUs was calculated by multiplying the number of share units granted during the respective period by the closing price of Common Shares on the grant date.

(3) The AIP awards represent bonuses earned by the NEOs in the fiscal year noted but paid subsequent to the end of the applicable year.

- (4) The dollar value of Option-based awards is the grant date fair market value of Options granted during the respective year using the Hull-White or Black Scholes option pricing models which include assumptions on expected volatility, expected life, expected termination rate, expected dividend yield, and risk-free interest rate. This value is also the accounting fair value and the assumptions applied in valuing these Option grants are detailed in the Corporation's consolidated financial statements for the applicable year. The stock options are only exercisable when the share price exceeds \$0.70 for 60 consecutive days on a volume weighted average price basis. The value stated does not represent the actual value which will be realized upon exercise of the stock option.
- (5) Pension value includes compensation relating to the Defined Contribution Plan and the Supplementary Executive Retirement Plan.
- (6) All other compensation includes the value of premiums for executive life insurance payable by the Corporation and additional DSUs and PSUs corresponding to dividends declared on the Common Shares credited under the DSU Plan and PSU Plan (for 2016: Mr. Demens: \$43,261, 8,313 DSUs, 12,399 PSUs; Mr. Williams: \$13,549, 6,475 PSUs; Mr. Forgaard: \$10,199, 4,874 PSUs; Mr. Cass: \$9,634, 667 DSUs, 3,940 PSUs; and Ms. Foster \$3,924, 1,875 PSUs). In addition, in the case of Mr. Demens, other compensation includes a \$265,000 discretionary bonus awarded by the Board for 2016, and in the case of Mr. Williams, it includes \$100,000 paid for consulting services in 2014 prior to his appointment as an executive on October 31, 2014.
- (7) Mr. Forgaard became Vice President, Manufacturing effective October 20, 2014.
- (8) Mr. Cass was appointed Vice President, Timberlands effective May 19, 2015. Mr. Cass was previously Vice President, Human Resources.
- (9) Ms. Foster was appointed Vice President, Human Resources on December 7, 2015.

The following table sets forth Option and share-based (DSU and PSU) awards outstanding as at December 31, 2016 for each of the NEOs:

|                               |  | Option-b                                  | ased Awards                                 |   | 5  | Share-based Awa   | rds <sup>(4)</sup>  |
|-------------------------------|--|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| Named<br>Executive<br>Officer | Number of<br>securities<br>underlying<br>unexercised<br>options <sup>(1)</sup> | Option<br>exercise<br>price<br>(\$/share) | Option<br>expiration<br>date <sup>(2)</sup> | Value of<br>unexercised<br>in-the-money<br>options <sup>(3)</sup> | Number<br>of share<br>units that<br>have not<br>vested | Market or<br>payout value<br>of share-<br>based<br>awards that<br>have not<br>vested <sup>(5)</sup> | Market or<br>payout value<br>of vested<br>share-based<br>awards not<br>paid out or<br>distributed |
| Donald                        | 1,000,000  | \$0.22                                    | Mar 2, 2020                                 | \$4,901,500   | 332,355  | \$1,059,306   | \$419,252   |
| Demens                        | 500,000  | \$0.77                                    | Feb 22, 2021                                |   |  |   |   |
|                               | 550,000  | \$0.95                                    | Feb 21, 2022                                |   |  |   |   |
|                               | 1,650,000  | \$0.96                                    | Jul 30, 2022                                |   |  |   |   |
|                               | 1,000,000  | \$1.27                                    | Feb 20, 2023                                |   |  |   |   |
|                               | 600,000  | \$2.61                                    | Feb 20, 2024                                |   |  |   |   |
|                               | 523,810  | \$2.20                                    | Mar 13, 2025                                |   |  |   |   |
|                               | 430,781  | \$1.97                                    | Feb 16, 2026                                |   |  |   |   |
| Stephen                       | 300,000  | \$2.34                                    | Oct 31, 2024                                | -   | 173,626  | \$552,291   | -   |
| Williams                      | 266,667  | \$2.20                                    | Mar 13, 2025                                |   |  |   |   |
|                               | 230,272  | \$1.97                                    | Feb 16, 2026                                |   |  |   |   |
| Rick                          | 201,190  | \$2.20                                    | Mar 13, 2025                                | -   | 130,735  | \$419,920   |   |
| Forgaard                      | 173,096  | \$1.97                                    | Feb 16, 2026                                |   |  |   | -   |
| Michael                       | 300,000  | \$0.95                                    | Feb 21, 2022                                | \$762,500   | 105,697  | \$330,880   | \$33,637  |
| Cass                          | 250,000  | \$0.96                                    | Jul 30, 2022                                |   |  |   |   |
|                               | 400,000  | \$1.27                                    | Feb 20, 2023                                |   |  |   |   |
|                               | 195,000  | \$2.61                                    | Feb 20, 2024                                |   |  |   |   |
|                               | 128,571  | \$2.20                                    | Mar 13, 2025                                |   |  |   |   |
|                               | 165,459  | \$1.97                                    | Feb 16, 2026                                |   |  |   |   |
| Jennifer                      | 116,000  | \$2.17                                    | Dec 7, 2025                                 | -   | 50,301   | \$147,802   | -   |
| Foster                        | 124,535  | \$1.97                                    | Feb 16, 2026                                |   |  |   |   |

(1) All stock options were granted under the Option Plan and entitle each NEO to purchase Common Shares.

(2) All stock options issued after March 2010 with expiry dates equal to or greater than March 2020 are exercisable only when the share price exceeds \$0.70 for a period of 60 consecutive days on a volume weighted average price basis.

(3) Of the in-the-money Options, Mr. Demens and Mr. Cass each have a number of vested options with an aggregate value totalling \$4,803,600 as at December 31, 2016.

(4) Share-based awards includes DSUs and PSUs. The value of DSUs and PSUs was calculated by multiplying the number of share units granted, including dividend equivalent share units and, for PSUs, through the application of target performance multiplier, by the closing price of the Common Share on December 31, 2016, being \$1.89. The DSU Plan was closed to executives effective January 1, 2015 however certain executives continue to earn DSU dividend equivalents on their outstanding DSU awards.

(5) This column represents the value of unvested PSUs where the number of PSUs eligible for vesting is based on performance and has not yet been determined, including dividend equivalent PSUs credited on such PSUs. PSUs vest on completion of a three year period and entitle the holder, upon vesting, to a variable payout based on the value of a Common Share and dependent on the Corporation's performance against specific performance criteria. Market value is calculated using the closing price of \$1.89 per Common Share on December 31, 2016, and performance multipliers which use actual performance results to December 31, 2016 and target performance results for future years covered by the PSU performance periods. The market value presented does not reflect the actual value of the payment that may be received after the vesting of the award. The following table sets forth the value vested or earned by the NEOs under the Corporation's Option and share-based award programs for the year ended December 31, 2016:

|                            | Value vested o                     | Value earned during the year      |   |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Named<br>Executive Officer | Option-based Awards <sup>(1)</sup> | Share-based Awards <sup>(2)</sup> | Non-equity incentive plan compensation <sup>(3)</sup> |
| Donald Demens              | \$807,700                          | \$17,316                          | \$830,000   |
| Stephen Williams           | -                                  | -                                 | \$335,000   |
| Rick Forgaard              | -                                  | -                                 | \$225,000   |
| Michael Cass               | \$190,000                          | \$1,389                           | \$170,000   |
| Jennifer Foster            | -                                  | -                                 | \$200,000   |

(1) Option value vested was calculated by multiplying the number of Options that vested in 2016 by the difference between the exercise price and the closing price of the Common Shares on the vesting date, where the result was a positive amount.

- (2) Share-based awards vested reflects DSU dividend equivalents credited in 2016. The DSU Plan was closed to executives effective January 1, 2015 however certain executives continue to earn DSU dividend equivalents, which vest immediately upon grant, on their outstanding DSU awards. Share-based awards vested was calculated by multiplying the number of share units that vested in 2016 by the closing price of the Common Shares on the vesting date.
- (3) Relates to AIP awards and other short-term incentives as disclosed in the "Summary Compensation Table".

## **PENSION PLAN BENEFITS**

There are two funded defined benefit pension plans, two unfunded defined benefit pension plans, a funded defined contribution pension plan and several voluntary group retirement savings plans, all of which provide retirement benefits to substantially all of our salaried employees and certain hourly employees.

The defined benefit pension plans ("DB Plans I & II") were closed to new participants effective June 30, 2006. No further benefits accrue under these plans for years of service after December 31, 2010, and no further benefits accrue under these plans for compensation increases effective December 31, 2016. No NEO is a member of DB Plans I & II.

With the closure of DB Plans I & II, the former members became eligible to join our existing defined contribution pension plan ("DC Plan") and substantially all salaried employees, including all NEOs, are members of our DC Plan. For all members of the DC Plan, the Corporation contributes 7% of each participant's base salary and AIP to the DC Plan, up to the maximum contribution allowed under the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) (the "ITA Limit").

The Corporation has a Supplementary Executive Retirement Plan (the "SERP") that provides a pension supplement to executive officers who are also members of the DC Plan in order to provide total pension contributions to the level that members would receive if no ITA Limit was in place. SERP benefits are accumulated based on 7% of annual base salary and AIP, less the Corporation's contributions to the DC Plan. Contributions under the SERP are accumulated with interest, and are payable to the executives upon retirement, death or termination of employment, other than termination with cause. Benefits are paid out in a lump sum, or over five annual installments. The SERP is funded from general operations.

The following table provides total accumulated value of the DC Plan and the SERP at the start and end of the year, as well as compensatory amounts earned during the year, for each of the NEOs:

| Named<br>Executive Officer | Accumulated Value at<br>January 1, 2016 | Compensatory<br>Change <sup>(1)</sup> | Accumulated Value at<br>December 31, 2016 |
|----------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| Donald Demens              | \$156,939                               | \$64,050                              | \$222,422                                 |
| Stephen Williams           | \$33,845                                | \$46,720                              | \$90,430                                  |
| Rick Forgaard              | \$27,493                                | \$35,915                              | \$67,149                                  |
| Michael Cass               | \$73,275                                | \$32,900                              | \$111,589                                 |
| Jennifer Foster            | \$1,356                                 | \$19,250                              | \$22,213                                  |

(1) Compensatory change represents the Corporation's DC Plan and SERP contributions on behalf of the NEO.

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## **TERMINATION AND CHANGE OF CONTROL BENEFITS**

The Corporation has entered into agreements with each NEO that provide notice or payment in lieu thereof on instance of termination for other than just cause, including termination involving change of control. With respect to a change of control situation, these agreements have a double-trigger requirement, meaning that two events must occur before any cash benefits are payable: a change of control and termination of employment without cause within 24 months of the change of control.

Change of control is defined as (i) the acquisition of 50% or more of the voting rights attached to all outstanding voting shares of the Corporation by a person or combination of persons, (ii) the amalgamation, consolidation or combination of the Corporation with, or merger into, any other person (unless the Corporation is the surviving person, and at least 50% of the voting rights attached to all outstanding voting shares immediately after such a transaction are held by persons who held them immediately before such a transaction of 90% or more of the assets of the Corporation (unless the disposition is to a corporation and immediately after the disposition, at least 50% of the voting rights attached to all outstanding voting shares of such corporation are owned by the Corporation, or by persons who held the voting rights immediately before such a disposition), or, (iv) directors elected at the beginning of any one year term cease to constitute 50% of the Board during such year, other than as a result of voluntary resignation.

Pursuant to the Corporation's LTI plans, the extent to which unvested stock options and PSUs may be forfeited, paid out (PSUs) or continue to vest, following termination of employment varies depending on the circumstances giving rise to the termination. See the discussion under the table "Securities Authorized for Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans" for further information with respect to the treatment of Options under different scenarios on ceasing employment with the Corporation.

| Event   | Base Salary     | AIP                            | Option Plan PSU Plan   |  |
|---|-----------------|--------------------------------|--|--|
| Retirement  | None            | Prorated up to retirement      | No further vesting<br>of awardsProrated up<br>retirement(3)                                      |  |
| Termination for just cause  | None            | None                           | Immediate forfeiture   |  |
| Termination without cause <sup>(1)</sup>                              | 18-24<br>months | 18-24<br>months <sup>(2)</sup> | 90 day exercise window<br>for vested awards only<br>Prorated up to<br>termination <sup>(3)</sup> |  |
| Termination without cause<br>within 24 months of<br>change of control | 24 months       | 24 months <sup>(2)</sup>       | Immediate vesting of all<br>awards, 90 day exercise<br>window awards <sup>(4)</sup>              |  |

The table below outlines the Corporation's approach to compensation payable to NEOs upon retirement, termination or termination without cause within two years of a change of control:

(1) Agreements provide 24 months' notice or payment in lieu thereof to the Chief Executive Officer and 18 months' notice or payment in lieu thereof to other NEOs.

(2) Incremental payment due is calculated as the average AIP award earned in the past three years, multiplied by the number of months' notice or payment in lieu thereof due. If the NEO has worked for the Corporation for less than three years, the AIP award will be averaged over the actual period worked.

(3) Plan participants continue to be entitled to payment, occurring at the end of each underlying three-year performance period. Incremental payment due is calculated as the final value of PSUs vested at the end of the performance period, prorated based on the number of days employed during the related performance period.

(4) Participants will be entitled to payment on the date of termination without cause within 24 months of change of control, applying a Performance Multiplier of 100%.

The following table sets out the estimated payments which would have resulted from termination without cause or a change of control, assuming the event occurred on December 31, 2016:

|                               |                                  | Estimated Payments in Respect of: |           |                                 |           |                      |             |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|-----------|----------------------|-------------|
| Named<br>Executive<br>Officer | Type of Event                    | Base<br>Salary                    | AIP       | Unvested<br>PSUs <sup>(2)</sup> | Pension   | Other <sup>(3)</sup> | Total       |
| Donald                        | Term. without cause              | \$1,220,000                       | \$790,000 | \$521,338                       | \$140,170 | \$61,337             | \$2,733,375 |
| Demens                        | Change of control <sup>(1)</sup> | \$1,220,000                       | \$790,000 | \$628,151                       | \$140,170 | \$61,337             | \$2,840,188 |
| Stephen                       | Term. without cause              | \$630,000                         | \$396,291 | \$269,573                       | \$71,840  | \$42,447             | \$1,410,151 |
| Williams                      | Change of control <sup>(1)</sup> | \$840,000                         | \$528,338 | \$328,153                       | \$95,787  | \$56,596             | \$1,848,925 |
| Rick                          | Term. without cause              | \$510,000                         | \$290,134 | \$203,137                       | \$56,009  | \$44,330             | \$1,103,610 |
| Forgaard                      | Change of control <sup>(1)</sup> | \$680,000                         | \$386,845 | \$247,089                       | \$74,679  | \$59,107             | \$1,447,721 |
| Michael                       | Term. without cause              | \$487,500                         | \$195,000 | \$150,850                       | \$47,775  | \$39,054             | \$920,179   |
| Cass                          | Change of control <sup>(1)</sup> | \$650,000                         | \$260,000 | \$199,767                       | \$63,700  | \$52,072             | \$1,225,540 |
| Jennifer                      | Term. without cause              | \$397,500                         | \$295,556 | \$49,267                        | \$48,515  | \$35,840             | \$826,687   |
| Foster                        | Change of control <sup>(1)</sup> | \$530,000                         | \$394,087 | \$95,069                        | \$64,686  | \$47,787             | \$1,131,629 |

(1) Change of control assumes termination without cause on December 31, 2016, within 24 months of a previously occurring change of control of the Corporation.

(2) Unvested PSUs are valued at \$1.89, the closing price of Shares on December 31, 2016.

(3) Other includes the equivalent value of 18 to 24 months of payments for benefits such as life insurance, medical and dental benefits, and car allowance.

# SECURITIES AUTHORIZED FOR ISSUANCE UNDER EQUITY COMPENSATION PLANS

| As at<br>December 31, 2016                                   | Number of Securities to<br>be issued upon exercise<br>of outstanding Options | Weighted-average<br>exercise price of<br>outstanding Options | Number of securities<br>remaining available for<br>future issuance under<br>equity compensation plans<br>(excluding securities in<br>column (a)) |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| Plan Category  | (a)  | (b)  | (C)  |  |
| Equity compensation<br>plans approved by<br>shareholders     | 11,235,585   | \$1.50   | 3,952,415  |  |
| Equity compensation<br>plans not approved by<br>shareholders | -  | -  | -  |  |
| Total  | 11,235,585   | \$1.50   | 3,952,415  |  |

Our Option Plan was adopted in 2004 and amended on May 10, 2007, May 8, 2008, June 3, 2011, May 8, 2013, March 13, 2015, February 17, 2016, and February 16, 2017. The Option Plan is administered by the Board with the assistance of the MRCC in accordance with our compensation policies and the policies of the TSX.

The Option Plan permits the granting of Options in accordance with the terms of the Option Plan to eligible participants to purchase up to a maximum of 20,000,000 Common Shares (representing approximately 5.1% of the issued and outstanding Common Shares as of the date hereof). In addition to the 11,235,585 Options outstanding at December 31, 2016, a further 1,560,750 Options were granted on February 16, 2017. Hence there are Options to purchase 12,796,335 Common Shares (representing approximately 3.2% of the issued and outstanding Common Shares as of the date hereof) that have been granted to eligible participants and are outstanding, 4,812,000 Common Shares that have been issued pursuant to the exercise of Options, and a total of 2,391,665 Common Shares that will remain available under the Option Plan. Options which have expired, were cancelled or otherwise terminated without having been exercised are available for subsequent grants under the Option Plan.

The Option Plan provides that the Board may from time to time grant Options to acquire Common Shares to any participant who is an employee, officer or director of Western or its affiliates or a consultant to the Corporation or its affiliates. The Options are non-assignable and non-transferable otherwise than by will or by laws governing the devolution of property in the event of death. Each Option entitles the holder to acquire one Common Share, subject to certain adjustments. The exercise price for Options granted pursuant to the Option Plan will be determined by the Board on the date of the grant, which price may not be less than the market value. "Market value" is defined under the Option Plan as the closing price of our Common Shares on the TSX on the trading day immediately preceding the grant day and if there is no closing price, the last sale prior thereto. The term of the Options granted is determined by the Board, which term may not exceed a maximum of ten years from the date of the grant. Pursuant to the Option Plan, additional terms and conditions, including vesting requirements, may be imposed by the Board on Options granted. The Option Plan does not contemplate that the Corporation will provide financial assistance to any optionee in connection with the exercise of the Option.

The maximum number of Common Shares that may be issued to the Corporation's insiders and their associates pursuant to Options granted under the Option Plan within any one-year period, when taken together with the number of Common Shares issued to such insiders and their associates under our other previously established or proposed share compensation arrangements, may not exceed 10% of the issued and outstanding Common Shares on a non-diluted basis at the end of such period and, in the case of any one insider and his associates, may not exceed 5% of such issued and outstanding Common Shares. The maximum number of Common Shares that may be reserved for issuance under Options granted to insiders and their associates under the Option Plan together with the number of Common Shares reserved for issuance to such insiders and their associates under other previously established or proposed share compensation arrangements may not exceed 10% of the issued and outstanding Common Shares reserved for issuance to such insiders and their associates under other previously established or proposed share compensation arrangements may not exceed 10% of the issued and outstanding Common Shares reserved for issuance to such insiders and their associates under other previously established or proposed share compensation arrangements may not exceed 10% of the issued and outstanding Common Shares on a non-diluted basis at the grant date of the Options.

Unless otherwise determined by the Board, if the holder of the Option ceases to be an eligible participant under the Option Plan:

- (a) for any reason other than death, retirement, early retirement, sickness or disability, the Options held by the participant terminate;
- (b) as a result of retirement (other than early retirement), Options that are held by the participant that have vested continue in force;
- (c) by reason only of early retirement as permitted under the provisions of our pension plan, Options that are held by the participant that have vested continue in force; and
- (d) as a result of death, the legal representatives of the participant may exercise the Options that are held by the participant within six months after the date of the participant's death to the extent such Options were by their terms vested and exercisable as of the date of the participant's death or within the period of six months following the participant's death.

For greater clarity, no Option shall be exercisable after the expiry of the option period applicable thereto.

The Option Plan also provides that if an Option expires:

- (a) within a self-imposed black-out period. The expiry date will be a date which is ten business days after expiry of the black-out period; or
- (b) within nine business days after the end of a self-imposed black-out period. The expiry date will be a date which is ten business days after expiry of the black-out period less the number of business days between the date of expiry of the Option and the date on which the black-out period ends.

The expiry dates for black-out periods are fixed under the Option Plan and are not subject to the discretion of the board of directors.

The Board may, subject where required to securities regulators' and/or TSX and security holder approval, from time to time amend, suspend or terminate the Option Plan in whole or in part. The directors also have the right, in their absolute discretion, to amend the Option Plan or any Option without shareholder approval to make the following changes:

- (a) amending the time or times that the Common Shares subject to each Option will become purchasable by an optionee, including accelerating the vesting terms, if any, applicable to an Option;
- (b) amending the process by which an optionee who wishes to exercise his or her Option can do so, including the required form of payment for the Common Shares being purchased, the form of exercise notice and the place where such payments and notices must be delivered;
- (c) extending the term of an Option, other than an Option held by an insider of the Corporation;
- (d) amending the terms of the Option Plan relating to the effect of termination, cessation or death of an optionee on the right to exercise Options (including Options held by an insider of the Corporation);
- (e) making any amendments of a typographical, grammatical or clerical nature; and
- (f) making any amendments necessary to bring the Option Plan into compliance with applicable securities and corporate laws and the rules and policies of the TSX.

Amendments which extend the term of an Option held by an insider, reduce the exercise price of an Option, or which increase the fixed maximum number of Common Shares issuable under the Option Plan will require shareholder approval.

As noted under "Recent Corporate Governance Initiatives" herein, the Board approved certain amendments to the Option Plan not requiring shareholder approval. These amendments were effective on February 17, 2016. The current version of the Option Plan is available at <u>www.sedar.com</u> under our name and a copy may also be obtained by any shareholder by request to our Corporate Secretary at 604-648-4500.

# **OTHER INFORMATION**

#### PERFORMANCE AND NON-INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS MEASURES

We use a number of non-IFRS measures to measure overall performance and to assess each of our business. Non-IFRS measures are not defined terms under IFRS and, therefore, are unlikely to be comparable to similar terms used by other issuers. Therefore, they should not be considered in isolation or as a substitute for any other financial information prepared in accordance with IFRS.

A non-IFRS measure referenced in this Circular is ROCE. ROCE is defined as the earnings of Western before interest charges, taxes, depreciation and amortization ("adjusted EBITDA"), divided by capital employed (defined as net working capital, property, plant and equipment, intangible assets, biological assets and other assets).

For a discussion of adjusted EBITDA and how it relates to our reported net income, see our most recent Management's Discussion and Analysis which is available on the Corporation's website at <u>www.westernforest.com</u>.

## SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS FOR NEXT YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING

The CBCA permits certain eligible shareholders of the Corporation to submit shareholder proposals to the Corporation, which proposals may be included in a management information circular relating to an Annual Meeting of shareholders. Any notice of a shareholder proposal intended to be raised at next year's Annual Meeting of our shareholders must be submitted to us at our registered office, to the attention of the Corporate Secretary, on or before December 30, 2017, to be considered for inclusion in the management information circular for the Annual Meeting of our shareholders in 2018.

#### AVAILABILITY OF DISCLOSURE DOCUMENTS

Financial information is provided in our comparative annual financial statements and management's discussion and analysis of financial condition and results of operations for the financial year ended December 31, 2016.

We will provide any person or company, upon request to the Corporate Secretary of the Corporation, with a copy of this Circular and: (i) the most recent Annual Information Form of the Corporation, together with a copy of any document, or pertinent pages of any document, incorporated therein by reference; (ii) the comparative financial statements of the Corporation for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, together with the report of the auditors thereon; (iii) the most recent annual report of the Corporation, which includes management's discussion and analysis of financial condition and results of operations; and (iv) the interim financial statements of the Corporation for the periods subsequent to the end of its fiscal year. This information, along with other information relating to the Corporation, is also available on the Corporation's web site at www.westernforest.com or on SEDAR at www.sedar.com.

#### DIRECTORS' APPROVAL

The contents and sending of the Circular have been approved by the directors of the Corporation.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lee Doney Chairman, Board of Directors Western Forest Products Inc.

## Appendix A

## MANDATE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF

## WESTERN FOREST PRODUCTS INC.

#### 1. General

The Board of Directors (the "Board") of Western Forest Products Inc. (the "Corporation") is responsible for the overall stewardship of the Corporation and is elected by the shareholders to represent and serve the interests of all shareholders of the Corporation.

The Board will appoint a competent executive management team to run the day-to-day operations of the Corporation and will oversee and supervise the management of the business of the Corporation by that team. The Board will also review the Corporation's systems of corporate governance and financial reporting and controls with the objective that the Corporation reports accurate and complete financial information to shareholders and engages in ethical and legal corporate conduct. The Board will carry out its mandate directly and through the following committees of the Board (and such other committees as it may appoint from time to time): the Audit Committee, the Management Resources and Compensation Committee, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and the Environmental, Health and Safety Committee.

#### 2. Appointment, Supervision and Compensation of Management

To carry out its responsibilities, the Board will:

- Appoint the Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") and confirm the appointment of other senior officers comprising the senior management team ("SMT") and provide them with advice and counsel.
- Monitor the performance of the CEO and SMT against a set of mutually agreed corporate objectives directed at maximizing shareholder value.
- To the extent feasible, satisfy itself as to the integrity of the CEO and other senior officers and encourage the CEO and other senior officers to create a culture of integrity throughout the organization.
- Approve CEO compensation.
- Establish a process to provide for management succession.
- Establish boundaries between the Board and management responsibilities and establish limits of authority delegated to management.
- Review and consider for approval:
  - o corporate strategy and operating plans;
  - o capital and operating budgets; and
  - o matters of policy;

and any material amendments thereto or departures therefrom proposed by management.

#### 3. Strategic Planning and Risk Management

The Board will:

- Adopt a strategic planning process and review and approve annually a corporate strategic plan which takes into account, among other things, the opportunities and risks of the business on a long-term and short-term basis.
- Review for consistency with the corporate strategy and approve annually management's operational plans.
- Monitor management's performance against both short-term and long-term strategic plans and annual performance objectives.
- Confirm that a management system is in place to identify the principal risks to the Corporation and its business and that appropriate procedures are in place to monitor and mitigate those risks.
- Confirm that processes are in place to comply with the Corporation's by-laws, Codes of Conduct and all other significant policies and procedures.

# 4. Financial Reporting, Regulatory Compliance and Controls

The Board will:

- Approve the Corporation's financial statements and oversee the Corporation's compliance with applicable audit, accounting and financial reporting requirements.
- Review and approve annual operating and capital budgets.
- Review and assess the adequacy and effectiveness of the Corporation's internal control and management information systems.
- Review operating and financial performance results relative to established strategy, budgets and objectives.
- Review and assess the adequacy of the Audit Committee Charter periodically.
- Confirm that management processes are in place to address and comply with applicable regulatory, corporate, securities and other compliance matters.

## 5. Shareholder Communication and Disclosure

The Board will:

- Confirm that management has established a system for effective corporate communications including processes for consistent, transparent regular and timely public disclosure.
- Approve the adoption of a disclosure policy relating to, among other matters, the confidentiality of the Corporation's business information (the "Communications Policy") and monitor compliance with such policy.
- Report annually to shareholders on the Board's stewardship for the previous year.
- Determine appropriate criteria against which to evaluate corporate performance against shareholder expectations and confirm that the Corporation has a system in place to receive feedback from shareholders.
- Review and assess the adequacy of the Communications Policy and Insider Trading Policy periodically.

## 6. Corporate Governance

The Board will:

- Establish an appropriate system of corporate governance including practices to permit the Board to function independently of management.
- When the Chair of the Board is not an independent director, the Board shall appoint an independent Lead Director to provide leadership to the independent directors and to ensure that the Board's agenda will enable it to successfully carry out its duties.
- Adopt, from time to time, criteria for selection of Board members.
- Adopt, as appropriate, and monitor compliance with, any policies relating to the number of outside boards on which any one director sits.
- Approve the nomination of directors. Prior to approving such nominations, the Board should first consider
  what competencies and skills the Board, as a whole, should possess. It should then assess what
  competencies and skills each existing director possesses. It is unlikely that any one director will have all
  the competencies and skills required by the Board. Instead, the Board should be considered as a group,
  with each individual making his or her own contribution. Attention should also be paid to the personality
  and other qualities of each director as these may ultimately determine the boardroom dynamic. The
  Board should then consider the competencies and skills each new nominee will bring and whether he or
  she can devote sufficient time to the Board.
- Establish committees, initially an Audit Committee, an Environmental, Health and Safety Committee, a Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and a Management Resources and Compensation Committee and approve their respective charters, the limits of authority delegated to each committee and position descriptions for the Chair of the Committee.
- The Board should regularly assess its own effectiveness, as well as effectiveness and contribution of each Board Committee and each individual director. An assessment should consider (a) compliance with this Board mandate, (b) the Charter of each Board Committee, and (c) the competencies and skills each individual director is expected to bring to the Board.

- Review on an annual basis the independence of each Board member and whether the composition of the Board needs to be changed due to independence concerns.
- Review the adequacy and form of directors' compensation.
- Arrange for non-management directors to meet regularly, and with the objective of not less frequently than quarterly, without management present.
- Establish a minimum attendance expectation for Board members in respect of Board and committee meetings, keeping in mind the principle that the Board believes that all directors should attend and participate in all meetings of the Board and each committee on which he or she sits.

## 7. Codes of Conduct

The Board will:

- Adopt a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics and an Employee Code of Conduct (collectively, the "Codes of Conduct") and monitor compliance with those codes.
- Approve any waivers and require disclosure of any waivers of the Codes of Conduct in the Corporation's annual report or management information circular.

## 8. The Chair of the Board

The Chair of the Board reports to the shareholders and provides leadership to the Board in matters relating to the effective execution of all Board responsibilities and works with the CEO and SMT to address the organization's responsibilities to stakeholders including shareholders, employees, customers, governments and the public. The Chair of the Board will, in consultation with any independent Lead Director:

- Provide effective leadership so that the Board can function independently of management by requiring that the Board meets regularly without management and that the Board and Board members may engage outside advisors subject to the approval of the Chair or the majority of independent Board members.
- Establish procedures to govern the Board's work including:
  - o scheduling meetings of the Board and its committees;
  - o chairing all meetings of the Board;
  - encouraging full participation, stimulating debate and facilitating consensus and clarity regarding decision-making;
  - developing the agenda for Board meetings with input from other Board members and management;
  - o requiring that proper and timely information is delivered to the Board;
  - o requiring that the Board has appropriate administrative support; and
  - o addressing complaints, questions and concerns regarding Board matters.
- Require that the Board fully exercises its responsibilities and duties and complies with applicable governance and other policies.
- Meet or communicate regularly with the CEO regarding corporate governance matters, corporate performance and feedback from Board members.
- Act as a liaison between the Board and management.
- Serve as advisor to the CEO and other officers.
- Together with the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, establish appropriate committee structures, including the assignment of Board members and the appointment of committee chairs.
- Establish, together with the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, an adequate orientation and ongoing training programs for Board members.
- Together with the Board's Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, establish performance criteria for the Board and for individual Board members and coordinate the evaluation of performance and reporting against these criteria.
- Establish, together with the Management Resources and Compensation Committee, performance criteria for the CEO to facilitate the evaluation of the CEO's performance.
- Work with the Management Resources and Compensation Committee to establish and manage a succession program for the CEO's position.
- Oversee matters relating to shareholder relations and chair meetings of the shareholders.

- Work with the CEO to represent the Corporation to external stakeholders including shareholders, the investment community, governments and communities. The Chair of the Board's performance will be measured by the Board, with the recommendations of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, against the following key metrics:
  - the effectiveness with which the Board functions, including satisfaction of Board members regarding the functioning of the Board;
  - the extent to which the Corporation carries out its responsibilities to shareholders, employees, customers, governments, and the public; and
  - the quality of communications between the Board and management, including satisfaction of members of management and Board members regarding this communication.

# 9. The Chief Executive Officer

The CEO is accountable to the Board for achieving corporate objectives within specified limitations and in accordance with the CEO's performance objectives determined annually by the Board.

The CEO will:

- Provide vision and leadership for the Corporation.
- Develop and recommend corporate strategies, and business and financial plans for the approval of the Board.
- Execute the corporate strategy with a goal of achieving profitable growth and maximizing shareholder value for the Corporation's shareholders.
- Manage the business operations in accordance with the strategic direction approved by the Board and within operational policies as determined by the Board.
- Challenge management to set and achieve viable annual and long-term strategic and financial goals.
- Monitor the performance of management against a set of initially agreed corporate objectives directed at maximizing shareholder value.
- Recommend appropriate rewards and incentives for management.
- Report information from management to the Board in a manner and time so that the Board may effectively monitor and evaluate corporate (operational and financial) performance against stated objectives and within executive limitations.
- Report to the Board on relevant trends, anticipated media and analyst coverage, material external or internal changes, and any changes in the assumptions upon which any Board decision or approval has previously been made.
- Advise the Board if, in the CEO's opinion, the Board is not in compliance with its own policies, or legal and/or regulatory requirements.
- Provide the Board with all information and access that the Board may require in order to make fully-informed decisions.
- Report in a timely manner any actual or anticipated non-compliance with any Board approved policy or decision.
- Promote compliance with the Employee Code of Conduct, cause an investigation of any reported violations to be undertaken and cause an appropriate response to be taken to any violation of the Employee Code of Conduct.

Dated as of May 5, 2016

## Appendix **B**

#### MANDATE OF THE INDEPENDENT LEAD DIRECTOR OF

## WESTERN FOREST PRODUCTS INC.

#### 1. General

The independent lead director (the "Independent Lead Director") of Western Forest Products Inc. (the "Corporation") is appointed by the board of directors of the Corporation (the "Board") from among the independent directors. The Independent Lead Director is responsible for providing leadership to, and oversight of, the Board to ensure the effective execution of its responsibilities independent of the interests of management.

The Independent Lead Director also works with the Chairman of the Board, the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer to address the Corporation's responsibilities to stakeholders including shareholders, employees, customers, governments and the public.

#### 2. Responsibilities

To facilitate the general mandate of the Independent Lead Director described above, the Independent Lead Director will:

- Provide effective leadership so that the Board can function independently of management by requiring that the independent directors meet regularly;
- Preside over all meetings of the Board at which the Chairman, if any, is not present, including independent directors' meetings;
- Generally serve as liaison with the other independent directors;
- Consult with the Chairman of the Board, the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer regarding meeting agendas and other information sent to the Board;
- Ensure that he or she is available for consultation and direct communication with shareholders and the investment community; and
- Notify other members of the Board regarding any legitimate shareholder concerns of which he or she becomes aware.

Dated as of February 17, 2016