

## IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES' CREDITORS ARRANGEMENT ACT, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36, AS AMENDED

AND

IN THE MATTER OF MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT CO-OPERATIVE AND 1314625 ONTARIO LIMITED

**PETITIONERS** 

# NOTICE OF APPLICATION

NAME OF APPLICANTS:

Alvarez & Marsal Canada Inc. ("**A&M**"), in its capacity as the court-appointed monitor (and, in such capacity, the "**Monitor**") of Mountain Equipment Cooperative and 1314625 Ontario Limited (collectively, the "**Petitioners**").

TO: Service List, attached hereto as Schedule "A"

TAKE NOTICE that an application will be made by the Monitor to the Honourable Madam Justice Fitzpatrick at the courthouse at 800 Smithe Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, at **10:00 a.m. on September 28, 2020**, via Microsoft Teams videoconference, for the order set out in Part 1 below.

### Part 1: ORDER SOUGHT

1. An order substantially in the form attached hereto as **Schedule "B"** sealing the First Report of the Monitor dated September 24, 2020 (the "**First Report**"), which contains Confidential Appendix C, Confidential Appendix D, and Confidential Appendix E (collectively, the "**Confidential Appendices**").

# Part 2: FACTUAL BASIS

# A. Background

- On September 14, 2020, the Petitioners were granted an initial order (the "Initial Order") by the Supreme Court of British Columbia to commence proceedings (the "CCAA Proceedings") under the under the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36, as amended.
- 2. Among other things, the Initial Order afforded MEC an initial stay of proceedings up to and including September 24, 2020 (the "**Stay Period**") and appointed A&M as the Monitor during the CCAA Proceedings.

- 3. On September 21, 2020, the Petitioners filed a notice of application to extend the Stay Period from September 24, 2020 up to and until September 28, 2020, which application is being heard on September 24, 2020.
- 4. On September 22, 2020, the Petitioners filed an application (the "Comeback Application") to, among other things:
  - (a) seek approval of an amended and restated initial order, which amends and restates the Initial Order to, *inter alia*:
    - (i) seek extension of the Stay Period through to October 31, 2020;
    - (ii) authorize an increased maximum amount of borrowing under the Interim Financing Facility (as defined in the First Report) to \$100 million;
    - (iii) grant a key employee retention plan (the "**KERP**") charge against the assets of the Petitioners in an amount not to exceed \$778,000; and
    - (iv) seek approval of the sale approval and vesting order to approve the sale transaction contemplated by the asset purchase and sale agreement between the Petitioners and 1264686 B.C. Ltd. dated September 11, 2020 (the "APA") for the sale of the Purchased Assets and vest all of the Purchased Assets in the Purchaser free and clear of any Encumbrances other than Permitted Encumbrances (the "Proposed Transaction"), as such capitalized terms are defined in the APA.
- 5. The Monitor has, in connection with and in support of the relief sought by the Petitioners at the Comeback Application, prepared the First Report.
- 6. As detailed further below, the Confidential Appendices contain confidential and commercially sensitive information pertaining to the KERP, the pre-filing sales and investment solicitation process (the "SISP"), and the liquidation value of the Petitioners' real estate and inventories (the "Liquidation Value"). Accordingly, and in order to protect this commercially sensitive and confidential information, the Monitor seeks to file the First Report with the Confidential Appendices under seal. A copy of the First Report without the Confidential Appendices has been served on the Service List.

# B. Confidential Appendix C

- 7. As detailed further in the First Report, Confidential Appendix C contains the following four exhibits (collectively the "Confidential Exhibits"):
  - (a) a summary of the parties contacted as part of the pre-filing sales and investment solicitation process (the "SISP") is attached as Exhibit 1;
  - (b) a copy of the Phase 1 process letter, which was provided to interested parties in participating in the SISP, and which contains instructions for submitting a letter of intent ("LOI"), is attached as Exhibit 2;
  - (c) a copy of the Phase 2 process letter (the "**Phase 2 Letter**"), which was provided to qualified parties selected by the Special Committee (as defined in the First Report) to participate in Phase 2 of the SISP, is attached as Exhibit 3; and

- (d) a table comparing each of the four Final Bids (as defined in the Phase 2 Letter) received during Phase 2 is attached as Exhibit 4.
- 8. As set out further in the First Report, the Confidential Exhibits include competitively sensitive financial details about the LOIs and the Final Bids, and the sealing order is therefore necessary to, among other things:
  - (a) protect commercially sensitive information regarding the Petitioners and the SISP; and
  - (b) preserve the confidentiality of the terms of the Final Bids to maintain the competitive nature of the SISP.

# C. Confidential Appendix D

- 9. As detailed further in the First Report, the Monitor is of the view that the Proposed Transaction contemplated in the APA is more beneficial to the creditors of MEC than a liquidation.
- 10. In making this determination, the Monitor has prepared an estimate of the liquidation value (the "**Liquidation Value**") of the Petitioners' real estate and inventories as at the date of the Initial Order.
- 11. The Liquidation Value contains commercial sensitivity estimates surrounding the Liquidation Value of the Petitioners' owned real estate holdings and its inventories, and the detailed calculations thereof have been redacted from the First Report but are contained in Confidential Appendix D.
- 12. Accordingly, and in addition to the foregoing, the sealing order is necessary in order to protect the commercially sensitive estimates and calculations regarding the Petitioners' Liquidation Value.

# D. Confidential Appendix E

- 13. As detailed further in the First Report, the Petitioners' board of directors (the "**MEC Board**") has identified a group of senior Management personnel (the "**Key Employees**") who are critical to the Petitioners' restructuring efforts, maintaining going concern value in support of the Proposed Transaction, and managing the day-to-day operations.
- 14. In order to retain and incentivize the Key Employees as full-time employees, the MEC Board has developed KERP.
- 15. Under the provisions of the KERP, each of the Key Employees will receive a set amount, payable on the earlier of:
  - (a) the successful completion of a sale transaction or 30 days following the successful completion of a sale transaction, depending on the Key Employee:
  - (b) December 10 or 31, 2020, depending on the Key Employee;
  - (c) the last date of employment in the event MEC terminates the Key Employee's employment without cause; or

- (d) on a pro-rated basis at the time of death in such situation if death occurs.
- 16. The maximum aggregate amount of payments under the KERP is \$778,000 for 8 Key Employees.
- 17. A comprehensive summary of the KERP and details of the Key Employees are contained in Confidential Appendix E, which includes, among other things:
  - (a) personal information and details regarding the Key Employees participating in the KERP; and
  - (b) commercially-sensitive information, including commentary regarding the KERP and the proposed remuneration of each of the Key Employees thereunder.
- 18. Accordingly, and in addition to all of the foregoing, a sealing order is necessary in respect of Confidential Appendix E to protect the commercially sensitive and confidential personal information of the KERP and the Key Employees.

### **SEALING ORDER**

- 19. As detailed above, the Confidential Appendices contain sensitive commercial information, including details on the SISP, the Final Bids, the calculation of the Petitioners' Liquidation Value, personal information related to the Key Employees (including the amounts payable to the Key Employees pursuant to the KERP), and details of the KERP (collectively, the "Confidential Information"). If the Confidential Information was made publicly available, such disclosure could materially harm Petitioners' commercial interests and restructuring efforts.
- 20. Accordingly, the Monitor seeks to file the First Report with the Confidential Appendices under seal. However, and in order to ensure that all parties in these proceedings have access to the relevant information, the Monitor:
  - (a) has served a copy of the First Report (without the Confidential Appendices) on the Service List; and
  - (b) will make the First Report (without the Confidential Appendices) publicly available on the website that it maintains for these CCAA Proceedings.

# Part 3: LEGAL BASIS

### Sealing Documents

- The Monitor requires a sealing order in order to authorize it to file the First Report (including the Confidential Appendices) under seal for the purposes of, among other things:
  - (a) protecting the commercially-sensitive Confidential Information; and
  - (b) preserving the overall efficacy of these CCAA Proceedings.
- 2. The following two-part test applies when determining whether public access to a court document may be restricted:

- is the order necessary to prevent a serious risk to an important interest, including a commercial interest, in the context of litigation because reasonably alternative measures will not prevent the risk; and
- (b) do the salutary effects of the sealing order, including the effects on the right of civil litigants to a fair trial, outweigh its deleterious effects, including the effects on the right to free expression, which in this context includes the public interest in open and accessible court proceedings?

Sierra Club of Canada v Canada (Minister of Finance), 2002 SCC 41, at para 53 Sahlin v Nature Trust of British Columbia, Inc., 2010 BCCA 516, at para 6

- 3. The First Report meet this two-part test because:
  - (a) the Confidential Appendices appended to the First Report contain sensitive information that, if released publicly at this time, could materially harm Petitioners' commercial interests and restructuring efforts; and
  - (b) the salutary effects of the requested sealing order outweigh any potential deleterious effects, as none of the parties with a commercial interest in these proceedings would be prejudiced by the granting of the order sought because a copy of the First Report (excluding the Confidential Appendices):
    - (i) has been provided to the Service List; and
    - (ii) will be made publicly available by the Monitor through the website that it maintains for these CCAA Proceedings.

Re Essar Steel Algoma Inc, 2015 ONSC 7656, at para 22 Walter Energy Canada Holdings, Inc (Re), 2016 BCSC 107, at paras 50-51 Walter Energy Canada Holdings, Inc (Re), 2016 BCSC 1746, at para 9 Target Canada Co (Re), 2015 ONSC 1487, at para 28

- 4. In further support of the relief sought in this application, the Monitor relies on the following:
  - (a) Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36, as amended;
  - (b) the inherent and equitable jurisdiction of this Honourable Court; and
  - (c) such further and other grounds as counsel may advise and this Honourable Court may deem just.

# Part 4: MATERIAL TO BE RELIED ON

- 1. The First Report of the Monitor, dated September 24, 2020; and
- 2. such further and other materials as counsel may advise and this Honourable Court may permit.

THO U	sphould obtained that the Application will take to minutes.
	This matter is within the jurisdiction of a Master.

The applicant estimates that the Application will take 10 minutes

This matter is not within the jurisdiction of a Master. This matter is scheduled to be heard by the Honourable Madam Justice Fitzpatrick, who is seized of these proceedings.

TO THE PERSONS RECEIVING THIS NOTICE OF APPLICATION: If you wish to respond to this Notice of Application, you must, within 5 business days after service of this Notice of Application or, if this Application is brought under Rule 9-7, within 8 business days after service of this Notice of Application,

- (a) file an Application Response in Form 33,
- (b) file the original of every Affidavit, and of every other document, that
  - (i) you intend to refer to at the hearing of this Application, and
  - (ii) has not already been filed in the proceeding, and
- (c) serve on the applicant 2 copies of the following, and on every other party of record one copy of the following:
  - (i) a copy of the filed Application Response;
  - (ii) a copy of each of the filed Affidavits and other documents that you intend to refer to at the hearing of this application and that has not already been served on that person;
  - (iii) if this application is brought under Rule 9-7, any notice that you are required to give under Rule 9-7(9).

Date: September 24, 2020

Signature of Lawyer for the Applicant Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP

(H. Lance Williams and Mary I.A. Buttery, Q.C.)

To b	e completed by the Court only:
Orde	er made
	in the terms requested in paragraphs of Part 1 of this Notice of Application
-	in the terms requested in paragraphs or Fart 1 or this Notice of Application
	with the following variations and additional terms:
Date	
Jaio	Signature of Judge Master
	APPENDIX
	AI I ENDIA
THIS	APPLICATION INVOLVES THE FOLLOWING:
	discovery: comply with demand for documents
	discovery: production of additional documents
	other matters concerning document discovery
	extend oral discovery
	other matter concerning oral discovery
	amend pleadings
	add/change parties
	summary judgment
	summary trial
	service
	mediation
	adjournments
	proceedings at trial
	case plan orders: amend
	case plan orders: other
	experts
X	other

### **SCHEDULE "A"**

NO. S-209201 VANCOUVER REGISTRY

### IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES' CREDITORS ARRANGEMENT ACT, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36, AS AMENDED

#### AND

# IN THE MATTER OF MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT CO-OPERATIVE AND 1314625 ONTARIO LIMITED

**PETITIONERS** 

# **SERVICE LIST**

[Current to: September 24, 2020]

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Crestpoint Real Estate Investments Ltd., as authorized asset manager on behalf of

0965311 B.C. Ltd.

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Counsel for Midtown Plaza Inc.

# **SCHEDULE "B"**

NO. S-209201 VANCOUVER REGISTRY

# IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES' CREDITORS ARRANGEMENT ACT, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36, AS AMENDED

AND

IN THE MATTER OF MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT CO-OPERATIVE AND 1314625 ONTARIO LIMITED

**PETITIONERS** 

# ORDER MADE AFTER APPLICATION

BEF	ORE THE HONOURABLE	)	MONDAY, THE 28 <sup>TH</sup> DAY
MAD	AM JUSTICE FITZPATRICK	)	OF SEPTEMBER, 2020
ON T	THE APPLICATION of Alvarez & Marsa	al Canada	Inc., in its capacity as the court-appointed
moni	tor (and, in such capacity, the " <b>Monito</b>	<b>r</b> ") of Mou	untain Equipment Cooperative and 1314625
Onta	rio Limited, coming on for hearing at Va	ancouver	, British Columbia, on the 28 <sup>th</sup> day of
Septe	ember, 2020; AND ON HEARING H. La	ance Willi	ams, counsel for the Monitor, and those
other	counsel listed on Schedule "A" heret	o; AND L	JPON READING the material filed herein,
includ	ding the First Report of the Monitor, dat	ted Septe	ember 24, 2020;
THIS	COURT ORDERS AND DECLARES 1	ГНАТ	
1.	Access to sealed items permitted by	:	Counsel of Record
			☐ Parties on Record
			[X] Further Court Order
			☐ Others

# Items to be Sealed

Date Filed (Date on	filed, including sealing	Sought	ealing		Granted	
Court Stamp)	for the judge	order		Yes	No	
			П	Ц		
To be filed	1	Until further order	<u>[X]</u>	[ <u>X</u> ]		
	(Date on Court Stamp)	(Date on Court Stamp) filed, including any extra copies for the judge	(Date on Court Stamp) filed, including any extra copies for the judge  To be filed  filed, including any extra copies for the judge  Until further	(Date on Court Stamp) filed, including any extra copies for the judge  To be filed  1 Until further order  [X]	(Date on Court Stamp)     filed, including any extra copies for the judge     sealing order       To be filed     1     Until further order     [X]    [X]  [X]	

2. Endorsement of this Order by counsel appearing, other than counsel for the Monitor is hereby dispensed with.

THE FOLLOWING PARTIES APPROVE THE FORM OF THIS ORDER AND CONSENT TO EACH OF THE ORDERS, IF ANY, THAT ARE INDICATED ABOVE AS BEING BY CONSENT:

Signature of Lawyer for the Applicant Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP (Mary I.A. Buttery, Q.C. and H. Lance Williams)

REGISTRAR	

BY THE COURT

# **SCHEDULE "B"**

# Schedule "A"

# **List of Counsel**

Name of Counsel	Party Represented			

# NO. S-209201 VANCOUVER REGISTRY

# IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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ARRANGEMENT ACT, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36,
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AND

IN THE MATTER OF
MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT CO-OPERATIVE AND
1314625 ONTARIO LIMITED

**PETITIONERS** 

# **SEALING ORDER**

# **CASSELS BROCK & BLACKWELL LLP**

Barristers & Solicitors 2200 – 885 West Georgia Street Vancouver, B.C. V6C 3E8 Telephone: (604) 691-6100 Facsimile: (604) 691-6120

LW/sd