### THE NORTH WEST COMPANY INC.

### **HUMAN RESOURCES, COMPENSATION AND PENSION COMMITTEE MANDATE**

The Human Resources, Compensation, and Pension Committee ("Committee") of the Board of Directors (the "Board") of The North West Company Inc. ("North West") has the oversight responsibility and specific duties described below.

# 1. Purpose:

The primary purpose of the Committee is to assist the Board in fulfilling its oversight or direct responsibilities with respect to:

- (a) development, compensation, and retention of Senior Management and Executives of North West and its subsidiaries (as defined herein);
- (b) recruitment, appointment, development, performance evaluation, compensation and retention of the Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") of North West;
- (c) key compensation and human resources strategies and policies;
- (d) succession planning systems and processes relating to the CEO, Executives and Senior Management;
- (e) regulatory duties related to compensation, benefit plans and pension plans;
- (f) share ownership guidelines for the CEO and Executives; and
- (g) the social components of North West's ESG mandate, including relating to diversity, equity and inclusion.

# 2. Committee Composition:

- (a) The Committee will be comprised of at least three Directors. All Committee members will be independent Directors (within the meaning of National Instrument 58-101 Disclosure of Corporate Governance Practices). Any Committee member who, for any reason, is no longer independent immediately ceases to be a Committee member.
- (b) The membership of the Committee will represent a diverse background of experience and skills, including members with retail, human resources (including executive compensation), financial and management experience.
- (c) Committee members will be appointed and removed by the Board. The Committee Chairperson will be appointed by the Board.

# 3. Reports

The Committee shall report to the Board on a regular basis, including before the public disclosure by North West of its Management Information Circular, or as required by continuous disclosure legislation on executive compensation.

# 4. Responsibilities

Subject to the powers and duties of the Board, and with the requirement that the Committee provides timely summary reports to the Board on its activities, the Board hereby delegates to the Committee the following powers and duties to be performed by the Committee on behalf of and for the Board:

# (a) Appointment and Compensation of Key Personnel

#### The Committee:

- (i) shall review and recommend to the Board, the appointment and terms of employment of the CEO;
- (ii) shall review and approve the appointment and terms of employment of any members of senior management who report directly to the CEO ("Executives");
- (iii) shall review and approve annually a salary grid level for senior management who are not Executives, and who hold the title of either "Vice President", "Director" or "General Manager" for North West and its subsidiaries ("Senior Management");
- (iv) may obtain compensation data as necessary concerning entities that would be comparable to North West, and other data deemed appropriate by the Committee, and to the extent possible, understand the basis upon which comparable entities compensate their Executives and Senior Management;
- (v) shall review and recommend to the Board the compensation and design of incentive plans for the CEO, Executives, and Senior Management. In its review the Committee will assess the linkage of its compensation philosophy and incentive plans to North West's financial and non-financial performance, support for North West's business strategy, and alignment with North West's employee compensation philosophy;
- (vi) shall review and recommend to the Board, periodic changes to compensation guidelines and benefit plans;
- (vii) shall review and recommend to the Board:
  - a. payouts and grants pursuant to North West's Share based incentive plans for the CEO;
  - b. the CEO's annual short term incentive plan payment and measures;
  - c. any discretionary bonuses for the CEO; and
  - d. the adjudication of any matters impacting North West's incentive plans relating to the CEO,
- (viii) shall review and approve, for Executives and Senior Management:
  - a. payouts and grants pursuant to North West's Share based incentive plans;

- b. any discretionary bonuses for Executives and Senior Management proposed by the CEO;
- c. for Executives, the payments and measures under North West's annual short term incentive plan; and
- d. the adjudication of matters impacting North West's incentive plans relating to Executives and Senior Management,
- (ix) shall identify and mitigate risks associated with North West's compensation guidelines and benefit plans;
- (x) shall annually review and recommend for approval to the Board, the Compensation Discussion and Analysis for inclusion in the Management Proxy Circular; and
- (xi) shall review all other compensation-related disclosure before North West publicly discloses such information.

# (b) Human Resource Leadership

The Committee shall:

- (i) review North West's key human resources strategies and policies for general adequacy (including the social components of North West's ESG mandate), competitiveness, internal equity and cost effectiveness and, in the Committee's discretion, make recommendations to the Board for consideration;
- (ii) approve in each instance, the participation by the CEO on the board of Directors of any other commercial entity (not including a not-for-profit board), not directly related to the interests of the North West (an "Outside Board"), and the Committee shall review participation by any Executive of North West, as approved by the CEO, to any Outside Board (except for any appointment to a not-for-profit Outside Board):
- (iii) periodically review any policy on Share ownership for Executives and Senior Management, and at the Committee's discretion, make recommendations to the Board for consideration. The Committee shall review as required the actual ownership position relative to ownership guidelines; and
- (iv) review the results of periodic employee opinion surveys.

### (c) Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

The Committee shall:

(i) annually review, and in the Committee's discretion, make recommendations to the Board for consideration regarding the CEO's corporate goals and objectives, performance measurement indicators; compensation, and incentive plans; and (ii) annually evaluate the performance of the CEO, and based on the evaluation, in the Committee's discretion, make recommendations, including with respect to CEO compensation, to the Board for consideration.

# (d) Succession and Development

The Committee shall:

- (i) obtain reasonable assurance that North West has appropriate strategies, systems and processes for the evaluation of Executive and Senior Management, talent development and succession within North West, and shall review at least annually with the CEO the performance of and potential for advancement of each Executive and Senior Management. The Committee may also at its discretion request information on the management resources of any part of the North West or its subsidiaries;
- (ii) report to the Board at least annually its appraisal of the North West's Executive and Senior Management succession circumstances and practices, including the effectiveness of identifying, training and preparing high-potential candidates for advancement;
- (iii) determine periodically, as a separate and supplementary contingency plan to the succession process, the identity of immediate replacements in the event of an emergency for the CEO and the Chief Financial Officer, and make recommendations to the Board for consideration; and
- (iv) review and approve any proposed appointments of Executive, and the organizational structure of Executive and Senior Management reporting directly to the CEO, and as recommended by the CEO, and if such changes are material in nature as determined by the Committee, recommend approval to the Board.

### (e) Executive Pension Plan

### Plan Design

The Committee shall:

- (i) review and recommend to the Board for approval all decisions to initiate, merge or terminate the Executive Pension Plan, or otherwise fundamentally change the nature of the pension arrangement for the Executive Pension Plan, taking into account among other things, North West's attraction and retention goals for its Executive and Senior Management;
- (ii) approve any trust agreement with North West as the sponsor of the Executive Pension Plan; and
- (iii) review and recommend to the Board for approval, all amendments to the Executive Pension Plan.

### Valuation and Funding

The Committee Shall:

- (i) review and recommend to the Board for its approval on a regular basis, a funding policy which sets out guidelines with respect to the valuation and funding of the liabilities of the Executive Pension Plan;
- (ii) review and approve, at least annually, the major actuarial assumptions for the valuation and funding of the liabilities of the Executive Pension Plan, as recommended by the Chief Financial Officer of North West and external advisors, as required;
- (iii) review and approve, at least annually, the actuarial report of the Executive Pension Plan; and
- (iv) review and recommend for approval to the Board, at least annually, the contributions to the pension funds of the Executive Pension Plan, as recommended by the Chief Financial Officer of North West and external advisors, as required.

# Risk Management

The Committee shall:

- establish and periodically review, the goals, objectives and long-term asset mix policy for the Executive Pension Plan, in terms of the proportion of the assets to be invested in various asset classes on average over the long term;
- (ii) establish and periodically review, the goals, objectives and investment program for the Executive Pension Plan, in terms of the number and types of investment options to be offered to the members of the plan;
- (iii) periodically review the performance of the investments for The Executive Pension Plan and meet annually with the investment advisor for the Executive Pension Plan; and
- (iv) meet as required with any advisors of the Executive Pension Plan.

#### Communication and Education

The Committee shall review and approve the communications plan and any material individual communications to members of the Executive Pension Plan relating to the education of such members of the pension plan.

### Operations and Implementation

The Committee shall:

(i) approve and periodically review and approve a pension expense policy which sets out guidelines for the payment of expenses incurred in the management and administration of the Executive Pension Plan from the assets of the pension funds;

- (ii) periodically review the pension administration policies approved management, in order to ensure that it sets out appropriate guidelines and procedures for the effective administration of the Executive Pension Plan, and ensuring compliance with any applicable legislation;
- (iii) appoint the actuary of the Executive Pension Plan;
- (iv) appoint an investment manager for the Executive Pension Plan; and
- (v) appoint a service provider for the Executive Pension Plan.

# (f) Staff Pension Plan

The Pension Benefits Act of Manitoba ("Act") and The North West Company Staff Pension Plan (the "Plan") provide that the Pension Committee established pursuant to the Act (the "Pension Committee") may delegate all or part of its powers and responsibilities to the Board or the Committee. Pursuant to the Delegation Agreement entered into between the Pension Committee and North West effective September 28, 2011, the Committee shall:

- recommend to the Board for approval, the adoption, amendment, merger or consolidation, and windup of the Plan and related documentation, including changes requiring amendments related to Plan design, benefit structure, and membership eligibility;
- (ii) recommend to the Board for approval, the Plan's governance structure and the Plan's governance objectives;
- (iii) receive the report of the Plan's auditor;
- (iv) receive and approve the Plan's audited financial statements, and accounting policies;
- (v) approve, and at the Committee's discretion, delegate to the CEO, the appointment and removal of North West's representatives on the Pension Committee:
- (vi) recommend to the Board for approval, the Plan's funding policies;
- (vii) authorize Executives of North West to accept such delegation from the Pension Committee as they deem appropriate;
- (viii) provide a report to the Board on the Plan, at least on an annual basis, on relevant pension and compliance issues;
- (ix) generally oversee the administration of the Plan and the related fund;
- (x) approve the statement of investment policies and procedures for the Plan and to monitor compliance with such documents;
- (xi) appoint, retain, or terminate certain persons who provide goods or services in respect of the Plan, including but not limited to investment managers, trustee.

- custodian, auditor, actuary, advisors and DC record keeper with respect to the administration of the Plan:
- (xii) approve the asset mix structure and target and strategic ranges of asset class allocations for the defined benefit portion of the Plan;
- (xiii) make such regulations for itself as to the conduct of its activities as the Committee deems appropriate; and
- (xiv) provide a report to the Pension Committee of its activities, not less annually, in such form and content as the Pension Committee deems appropriate to fulfil its general duty of oversight of the Plan, and to meet its obligations as administrator of the Plan.

### 5. Structure

- (a) The Board shall appoint one of the Committee members to act as Chairperson of the Committee.
- (b) The Committee will appoint the Corporate Secretary of North West as secretary of the Committee, who will keep minutes of all meetings. In absence of the Corporate Secretary, the Committee will appoint an acting secretary who will keep minutes of the meeting.
- (c) The Committee will meet as many times as is necessary to carry out its responsibilities but in no event will the Committee meet less than quarterly each year. Meetings will be at the call of the Chairperson. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any member of the Committee may call a meeting of the Committee. The Committee may hold a meeting by telephone conference call.
- (d) No business may be transacted by the Committee except at a meeting of its members at which a quorum of the Committee is present or by a resolution in writing signed by all the members of the Committee. A majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum provided that if the number of members of the Committee is an even number one half of the number of members plus one shall constitute a quorum.
- (e) Any member of the Committee may be removed or replaced at any time by the Board or shall cease to be a member of the Committee as soon as such member ceases to be a Director. Subject to the foregoing, each member of the Committee shall hold such office until the next annual meeting of shareholders.
- (f) The time at which and the place where the meetings of the Committee shall be held, the calling of meetings and the procedure in all respects of such meeting shall be determined by the Committee, unless otherwise provided for in North West's bylaws, or otherwise determined by resolution of the Board.
- (g) Members of the Committee shall be entitled to receive such remuneration for acting as members of the Committee as the Board may from time to time determine.

# 6. Chairperson of the Committee

The Chairperson of the Committee (the "Chairperson") is responsible for the effective functioning of the Committee.

# 7. Independent Advice

The Committee shall:

- (a) have sole authority to retain, oversee, compensate and terminate independent advisors who assist the Committee in its activities. The Committee shall pre-approve all services to be provided by the independent compensation consultant. The Committee may, at its discretion, delegate to the Chairperson the authority to grant pre-approvals provided that those pre-approvals are presented in writing to the Committee at the next regularly scheduled meeting;
- (b) evaluate any independent compensation consultant's qualifications and performance, and take all reasonable steps to be confident that the independent compensation consultant does not provide services that would bring into question its independence; and
- (c) receive adequate funding from North West for any independent advisors and ordinary administrative expenses that are needed or appropriate for the Committee to carry out its duties.

### 8. Evaluation

The Committee shall:

- (a) regularly review and assess the adequacy of its Mandate, and recommend any proposed changes to the Governance and Nominating Committee, for recommendation to the Board for approval; and
- (b) participate in a regular performance evaluation of the Committee, the results of which will be reviewed by the Governance and Nominating Committee, and the Board.

# 9. No Rights Created

This mandate is a broad policy statement and is intended to be part of the Committee's flexible governance framework. While this mandate should comply with all applicable laws, regulations and listing requirements and North West's articles and by-laws, this mandate does not create any legally binding obligations on the Committee, the Board or North West.

Approved by the Board of Directors effective September 7, 2022.