

**Notice of National Instrument 44-102
And Companion Policy 44-102CP
Shelf Distributions**

This page intentionally left blank.

**NOTICE OF NATIONAL INSTRUMENT 44-102
AND COMPANION POLICY 44-102CP
SHELF DISTRIBUTIONS**

Notice of Rule and Policy

The Ontario Securities Commission (the "Commission") has, under section 143 of the *Securities Act (Ontario)* (the "Act"), made National Instrument 44-102 Shelf Distributions (the "National Instrument") as a Rule under the Act and has adopted Companion Policy 44-102CP (the "Companion Policy") as a Policy under the Act.

The National Instrument and the Companion Policy (collectively, the "Instruments") replace those provisions of National Policy Statement No. 44 Rules for Shelf Prospectus Offerings and for Pricing Offerings after the Final Prospectus is Received ("NP44") pertaining to shelf prospectus distributions. NP44 will expire on December 31, 2000.

The Instruments and the material required by the Act to be delivered to the Minister of Finance were delivered on October 13, 2000. The Instruments will come into force on December 31, 2000 unless the Minister rejects the National Instrument or returns it to the Commission for further consideration.

The Instruments are initiatives of the Canadian Securities Administrators (the "CSA"). The CSA published drafts of the National Instrument (the "1998 Draft Instrument") and Companion Policy (the "1998 Draft Policy") for comment on October 2, 1998. The accompanying notice (the "1998 Notice") summarized the 1998 Draft Instrument and 1998 Draft Policy (collectively the "1998 Draft Instruments") and requested comments on them.

The CSA received one comment letter on the 1998 Draft Instruments. A summary of the comments, together with the CSA's responses to those comments, are contained in the Appendix to this Notice.

Substance and Purpose of National Instrument and Companion Policy

The National Instrument will regulate Canadian shelf prospectus distributions, thereby reformulating and replacing the provisions of NP44 relating to shelf distributions. The National Instrument is based upon, and is largely consistent with, the shelf provisions in NP44.

Changes from NP 44

The regime contained in the National Instrument involves three main changes from the shelf provisions contained in NP44.

- First, access to the shelf procedures has been expanded through the interaction of the National Instrument with National Instrument 44-101 Short Form Prospectus Distributions to permit the use of the shelf procedures for distributions of cash settled derivatives and asset-backed securities, with specific requirements applicable if the securities to be distributed are "novel".
- Second, the National Instrument permits a shelf prospectus that contemplates both equity and debt offerings without specific allocation between them. This added flexibility is balanced by provision for early disclosure of an equity offering under an unallocated shelf prospectus. A news release must be issued when an issuer or selling security holder has discussions with an underwriter concerning the distribution of a tranche of equity securities under an unallocated shelf prospectus, of sufficient specificity that it is reasonable to expect that the distribution will proceed.
- Third, the National Instrument includes an expiry mechanism for a shelf receipt making it clear that the receipt expires if, prior to the issuance of securities under the shelf prospectus, the conditions relating to the issuer's qualification to file a prospectus in the form of a short form prospectus are not satisfied.

The Companion Policy states the views of the Canadian securities regulatory authorities on various issues concerning the shelf procedures, including the qualification criteria, information that may be omitted from a base shelf prospectus, distributions of derivatives and asset-backed securities, use of an unallocated shelf, shelf prospectus supplements and amendments and firm commitments and best efforts distributions.

For additional information concerning the background to the Instruments, reference should be made to the 1998 Notice.

Summary of Changes to the National Instrument and Companion Policy from the Versions published in 1998

The changes made to the 1998 Draft Instruments are not material. Accordingly, under section 143.2 of the Act, the Commission has not republished the Instruments for comment.

A change has been made to section 6.5 of the National Instrument that prescribes the manner in which the provisions of securities legislation that regulate conflicts of interest in connection with a distribution of securities using the shelf procedures are to be satisfied. The National Instrument stipulates that the requirements concerning the participation of independent underwriters are to be satisfied, in the case of medium term note programs or other continuous distributions, on the basis of the total dollar amount of securities that, at any given time, have been or are being distributed under the program. This requires the independent underwriter participation requirements to be satisfied on a "rolling" basis. The 1998 Draft Instrument referred only to the total dollar amount of securities that are being distributed under the program, thus implying that the requirements need only be satisfied at the end of the distribution of all of the securities to be distributed under the program.

Other changes have been made to conform the substance, terminology and drafting style of the National Instrument to National Instrument 44-101 Short Form Prospectus Distributions as the shelf qualification criteria in the National Instrument parallel the qualification criteria in National Instrument 44-101 for filing a prospectus in the form of a short form prospectus. Further changes of a minor nature have been made for clarification or drafting purposes.

Text of the National Instrument and the Companion Policy

The text of the National Instrument and the Companion Policy follows.

DATED: October 13, 2000

APPENDIX A
SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED ON
PROPOSED NATIONAL INSTRUMENT 44-102 AND
COMPANION POLICY 44-102CP
SHELF PROSPECTUS
AND
RESPONSES OF THE CANADIAN SECURITIES ADMINISTRATORS

The CSA received one submission on the 1998 Draft Instruments.

The CSA considered the comments received and thank the commenter for its comments.

The following is a summary of the comments received, together with the CSA's responses. Unless otherwise provided, references to section numbers in this Appendix are to section numbers in the 1998 Draft Instruments.

1. *Comment:* The commenter recommends the use of term sheets as a precursor to the preparation of a shelf prospectus supplement.

Response: The current prospectus regime does not contemplate the use of a term sheet as an offering document to be given to prospective purchasers. To permit the use of a term sheet would be a fundamental change to the shelf procedures which the CSA do not propose to make at this time. Section 1.3 of the Companion Policy currently contemplates a preliminary form of shelf prospectus supplement that may be used to market securities before the offering price has been determined.

2. *Comment:* The commenter suggested that it would be helpful if the National Instrument or Companion Policy would address who the issuer is in various structured finance distributions using special purpose vehicles.

Response: The identity of the "issuer" is very fact specific to each offering. While the CSA recognize that it may involve a complex legal analysis, it is beyond the scope of the National Instrument to provide the kind of guidance sought.

3. *Comment:* The commenter thought it would be helpful if:

- (a) the Companion Policy provided greater guidance as to how the definition of "novel" would apply to an offering of derivatives or asset-backed securities;
- (b) the consequences of a disagreement between the issuer and the regulator as to what is novel were clarified; and
- (c) the CSA indicated its willingness to discuss with issuers and, where appropriate, provide comfort that securities proposed to be distributed are, or are not, novel.

Response:

- (a) The CSA recognize that the concept of "novel" may be difficult to apply in certain circumstances. In subsection 3.4(4) of the Companion Policy, the CSA express their view that the definition of the term "novel" should be read relatively restrictively. The CSA have also clarified that a security would not be novel merely because a new underlying interest was used. At this point, the CSA do not propose to attempt to provide additional explanation in the Companion Policy as to the interpretation and application of the definition of "novel" because the application of the definition in a particular case is highly fact specific.
 - (b) The consequences of a disagreement between the issuer and the regulator as to what is novel will vary depending on the circumstances. Whether a breach of an undertaking not to distribute novel derivatives or asset-backed securities without pre-clearing the supplement has occurred is a legal determination, not an exercise of regulatory discretion. In some jurisdictions, breach of an undertaking filed with the securities regulatory authority is an offence under securities legislation and may therefore be the subject of enforcement action. Furthermore, the public interest power of Canadian securities regulatory authorities to cease trade issuers is available in appropriate circumstances.
 - (c) The CSA are always prepared to discuss with issuers matters of concern and appreciate the potential difficulty of applying the definition of "novel" in certain cases. The CSA would require an issuer that wishes to discuss whether an offering is novel to make written submissions describing the proposed distribution in detail and analyzing the aspects in which the distribution is similar to and different from other analogous distributions. For distributions in more than one jurisdiction, issuers should use the pre-filing procedures set out in Part 9 of National Policy 43-201 Mutual Reliance Review System for Prospectuses and Annual Information Forms to make their submissions. Issuers should not expect CSA staff to perform this analysis for them; rather staff may be able to guide issuers as to how the definition, in their view, should be applied to a distribution in the context of the issuer's analysis of the facts. The CSA also caution issuers and underwriters against routinely seeking comfort on this issue as a matter of due diligence.
4. *Comment:* The commenter suggests that no independent underwriter should be required in cases where a special purpose vehicle distributing asset-backed securities is owned by an underwriter, given that the securities to be distributed must have received an approved rating.

Response: This comment falls within the purview of Multilateral Instrument 33-105 Underwriting Conflicts. In that context, the CSA did not consider an approved rating to be a sufficient proxy for the participation of an independent underwriter.

5. *Comment:* The commenter requested that the National Instrument exempt from the definition of "distribution" the sale of asset-backed securities by an owner underwriter in the course of its market making activities on the basis that the Ontario Securities Commission has been prepared to grant this relief in the past.

Response: The CSA are not prepared to do so at this time as they are of the view that applications for this relief should be considered on a case by case basis.

National Instrument 44-102

Shelf Distributions

This page intentionally left blank.

**NATIONAL INSTRUMENT 44-102
SHELF DISTRIBUTIONS**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART TITLE

PART 1 DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION
1.1 Definitions

PART 2 SHELF QUALIFICATION AND PERIOD OF RECEIPT EFFECTIVENESS
2.1 General
2.2 Shelf Qualification for Distributions Qualified under Section 2.2 (Basic Qualification) or 2.8 (Following a Reorganization) of National Instrument 44-101
2.3 Shelf Qualification for Distributions Qualified under Section 2.3 of National Instrument 44-101 (Substantial Issuers)
2.4 Shelf Qualification for Distributions Qualified under Section 2.4 of National Instrument 44-101 (Approved Rating Non-Convertible Securities)
2.5 Shelf Qualification for Distributions made under Section 2.5 of National Instrument 44-101 (Guaranteed Non-Convertible Debt Securities, Preferred Shares and Cash Settled Derivatives)
2.6 Shelf Qualification for Distributions made under Section 2.6 of National Instrument 44-101 (Guaranteed Convertible Debt Securities or Preferred Shares)
2.7 Shelf Qualification for Distributions made under Section 2.7 of National Instrument 44-101 (Asset-Backed Securities)
2.8 Lapse Date - Ontario
2.9 Lapse Date - Alberta
2.10 Prohibited Offerings

PART 3 UNALLOCATED SHELF
3.1 Unallocated Shelf Permitted
3.2 Distributions of Equity Securities Under Unallocated Shelf

PART 4 DISTRIBUTIONS OF NOVEL DERIVATIVES OR ASSET-BACKED SECURITIES UNDER SHELF
4.1 Distributions of Novel Derivatives or Asset-Backed Securities Under Shelf

PART 5 BASE SHELF PROSPECTUSES
5.1 Opting out of the Shelf Procedures After a Preliminary Prospectus has been Received
5.2 Opting into the Shelf Procedures After a Preliminary Prospectus has been Received
5.3 Form of Base Shelf Prospectus
5.4 Dollar Value of Securities
5.5 Required Disclosure
5.6 Disclosure that may be Omitted
5.7 Issue of Receipt
5.8 Amendments

PART 6 SHELF PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENTS
6.1 Requirement to Use Shelf Prospectus Supplements
6.2 Incorporation by Reference
6.3 Shelf Prospectus Supplement Disclosure
6.4 Filing Requirement For Shelf Prospectus Supplements
6.5 Underwriters' Conflicts of Interest
6.6 Market Stabilization
6.7 Delivery Requirement

PART 7 SHELF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS
7.1 General
7.2 Consents
7.3 Auditor's Comfort Letters
7.4 Underwriting Agreements

PART 8 MEDIUM TERM NOTE PROGRAMS AND OTHER CONTINUOUS DISTRIBUTIONS UNDER SHELF
8.1 General
8.2 Additional Disclosure Requirements
8.3 Filing Requirement
8.4 Requirement to Update Earnings Coverage Ratios

PART 9 AT-THE-MARKET DISTRIBUTIONS OF EQUITY SECURITIES UNDER SHELF
9.1 At-the-Market Distributions of Equity Securities Under Shelf

PART 10 TRANSITIONAL SHELF PROCEDURES
10.1 Transitional Shelf Procedures

PART 11 EXEMPTIONS
11.1 Exemption
11.2 Evidence of Exemption

APPENDIX A - METHOD 1 FOR SHELF PROSPECTUS CERTIFICATES

APPENDIX B - METHOD 2 FOR SHELF PROSPECTUS CERTIFICATES

**NATIONAL INSTRUMENT 44-102
SHELF DISTRIBUTIONS**

PART 1 DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

1.1 Definitions

(1) In this Instrument

"acting jointly or in concert" has the meaning ascribed to that phrase in securities legislation;

"at-the-market distribution" means a non-fixed price distribution of equity securities under the shelf procedures into a pre-existing trading market in which securities of the same class are traded;

"base shelf prospectus" means a short form prospectus that is prepared in the form required under National Instrument 44-101 Short Form Prospectus Distributions, as varied in accordance with this Instrument;

"clearing corporation" has the meaning ascribed to that term in National Instrument 81-102 Mutual Funds;

"conventional convertible security" means a security of an issuer that is, according to its terms, convertible into, or exchangeable for, other securities of the issuer, or of an affiliate of the issuer;

"conventional warrant or right" means a security of an issuer, other than a clearing corporation, that gives the holder the right to purchase securities of the issuer or of an affiliate of the issuer;

"index participation unit" means a security traded on a stock exchange in Canada or the United States and issued by an issuer the only purpose of which is to

- (a) hold the securities that are included in a specified widely quoted market index in substantially the same proportion as those securities are reflected in the index; or
- (b) invest in a manner that causes the issuer to replicate the performance of that index;

"method 1" means the method described in Appendix A of providing forward looking prospectus certificates in a base shelf prospectus or in a shelf prospectus supplement that establishes an MTN program or continuous distribution;

"method 2" means the method described in Appendix B of providing non-forward looking prospectus certificates in a base shelf prospectus and a shelf prospectus supplement;

"MTN program" means a continuous distribution of debt securities in which the specific variable terms of the individual debt securities and the method of distribution of those securities are determined at the time of the distribution;

"novel" means

- (a) for a specified derivative proposed to be distributed using the shelf procedures
 - (i) a derivative of a type that has not been distributed by way of prospectus in at least one jurisdiction before the proposed distribution, or
 - (ii) a derivative of a type that has been distributed by way of prospectus in at least one jurisdiction before the proposed distribution, but
 - (A) the attributes of the derivative differ materially from the attributes of derivatives of the same type previously distributed by way of prospectus,
 - (B) the structure and contractual arrangements underlying the derivative differ materially from the structure and contractual arrangements underlying derivatives of the same type previously distributed by way of prospectus, or
 - (C) the type of the underlying interest for the derivative differs materially from the type of underlying interest for derivatives of the same type previously distributed by way of prospectus, and
- (b) for an asset-backed security proposed to be distributed using the shelf procedures
 - (i) a security of a type that has not been distributed by way of prospectus in at least one jurisdiction before the proposed distribution, or
 - (ii) a security of a type that has been distributed by way of prospectus in at least one jurisdiction before the proposed distribution, but
 - (A) the attributes of the security differ materially from the attributes of securities of the same type previously distributed by way of prospectus,

(B) the structure and contractual arrangements underlying the security differ materially from the structure and contractual arrangements underlying securities of the same type previously distributed by way of prospectus, or

(C) the type of financial assets servicing the security differ materially from the type of financial assets servicing securities of the same type previously distributed by way of prospectus;

"pricing supplement" means a shelf prospectus supplement that contains the price of securities distributed under an MTN program or other continuous distribution using the shelf procedures;

"shelf information" means the information permitted by this Instrument to be omitted from a base shelf prospectus;

"shelf procedures" means the requirements in this Instrument for the distribution of securities under a base shelf prospectus and a shelf prospectus supplement;

"shelf prospectus supplement" means a supplement to a base shelf prospectus, containing some or all of the information omitted from the base shelf prospectus as permitted by this Instrument;

"special warrant" means a security that, by its terms or the terms of an accompanying contractual obligation, entitles or requires the holder to acquire another security without payment of material additional consideration and obliges the issuer of the special warrant or the other security to undertake efforts to file a prospectus to qualify the distribution of the other security;

"specified derivative" means an instrument, agreement or security, the market price, value or payment obligations of which are derived from, referenced to, or based on an underlying interest, other than one that is also

- (a) a conventional convertible security,
- (b) a specified asset-backed security,
- (c) an index participation unit,
- (d) a government or corporate strip bond,
- (e) a capital, equity dividend or income share of a subdivided equity or fixed income security,
- (f) a conventional warrant or right, or
- (g) a special warrant; and

"stabilization provisions" means those provisions of securities legislation that prohibit an issuer, selling securityholder, underwriter or dealer, or an affiliate of any of the foregoing persons or companies, or any person or company acting jointly or in concert with any of them from trading in securities being distributed by way of prospectus during the period of distribution.

- (2) All terms defined in National Instrument 44-101 and used, but not defined, in this Instrument have the respective meanings ascribed to them in National Instrument 44-101.

1.2 Amendments - References in this Instrument, other than in Appendix A and Appendix B, to an amendment to a prospectus include both an amendment that does not fully restate the text of a prospectus and an amended and restated prospectus.

1.3 Market Value Calculation - For the purposes of this Instrument, the aggregate market value of an issuer's equity securities on a date shall be calculated in accordance with section 2.9 of National Instrument 44-101.

PART 2 SHELF QUALIFICATION AND PERIOD OF RECEIPT EFFECTIVENESS

2.1 General - An issuer shall not file a short form prospectus that is a base shelf prospectus, unless the issuer is qualified to do so under this Instrument or has been exempted from this section under section 11.1.

2.2 Shelf Qualification for Distributions Qualified under Section 2.2 (Basic Qualification) or 2.8 (Following a Reorganization) of National Instrument 44-101

- (1) An issuer is qualified to file a preliminary short form prospectus that is a preliminary base shelf prospectus if, at the time of filing, the issuer is qualified under section 2.2 or 2.8 of National Instrument 44-101 to file a prospectus in the form of a short form prospectus.

- (2) An issuer that has filed a preliminary base shelf prospectus in reliance on the qualification criteria in subsection (1) is qualified to file a short form prospectus that is the corresponding base shelf prospectus.

- (3) A receipt issued for a base shelf prospectus of an issuer qualified under subsection (2) is effective until the earliest of

- (a) the date 25 months from the date of its issue;

- (b) the time immediately before the entering into of an agreement of purchase and sale for a security to be sold under the base shelf prospectus, if at that time
 - (i) the issuer does not have a current AIF, or
 - (ii) the aggregate market value of the issuer's equity securities, listed and posted for trading on an exchange in Canada, has not been \$75,000,000 or more on a date within 60 days before the date of the agreement; and
- (c) the lapse date, if any, prescribed by securities legislation, if relief has not been granted to the issuer extending the lapse date for the distribution.

2.3 Shelf Qualification for Distributions Qualified under Section 2.3 of National Instrument 44-101 (Substantial Issuers)

- (1) An issuer is qualified to file a preliminary short form prospectus that is a preliminary base shelf prospectus if, at the time of filing, the issuer is qualified under section 2.3 of National Instrument 44-101 to file a prospectus in the form of a short form prospectus.
- (2) An issuer that has filed a preliminary base shelf prospectus in reliance on subsection (1) is qualified to file a short form prospectus that is the corresponding base shelf prospectus.
- (3) A receipt issued for a base shelf prospectus of an issuer qualified under subsection (2) is effective until the earliest of
 - (a) the date 25 months from the date of its issue;
 - (b) the time immediately before the entering into of an agreement of purchase and sale for a security to be sold under the base shelf prospectus, if at that time
 - (i) the issuer does not have a current AIF, or
 - (ii) the aggregate market value of the issuer's equity securities, listed and posted for trading on an exchange in Canada, has not been \$300,000,000 or more on a date within 60 days before the date of the agreement; and
 - (c) the lapse date, if any, prescribed by securities legislation, if relief has not been granted to the issuer extending the lapse date for the distribution.

2.4 Shelf Qualification for Distributions Qualified under Section 2.4 of National Instrument 44-101 (Approved Rating Non-Convertible Securities)

- (1) An issuer is qualified to file a preliminary short form prospectus that is a preliminary base shelf prospectus for approved rating non-convertible securities if, at the time of filing, the issuer has reasonable grounds for believing that, if it were to distribute securities under the base shelf prospectus, the securities distributed would receive an approved rating and would not receive a rating lower than an approved rating from any approved rating organization.
- (2) An issuer that has filed a preliminary base shelf prospectus in reliance on the qualification criteria in subsection (1) is qualified to file a short form prospectus that is the corresponding base shelf prospectus if, at the time of the filing of the base shelf prospectus, the issuer has reasonable grounds for believing that, if it were to distribute non-convertible securities under the base shelf prospectus, the securities distributed would receive an approved rating and would not receive a rating lower than an approved rating from any approved rating organization.
- (3) A receipt issued for a base shelf prospectus of an issuer filed under subsection (2) is effective until the earliest of
 - (a) the date 25 months from the date of its issue;
 - (b) the time immediately before the entering into of an agreement of purchase and sale for a security to be sold under the base shelf prospectus, if at that time
 - (i) the issuer does not have a current AIF,
 - (ii) the securities to which the agreement relates
 - (A) have not received a final approved rating,
 - (B) are the subject of an announcement by an approved rating organization of which the issuer is or ought to be aware that the approved rating given by the organization may be down-graded to a rating category that would not be an approved rating, or
 - (C) have received a provisional or final rating lower than an approved rating from any approved rating organization; and
 - (c) the lapse date, if any, prescribed by securities legislation, if relief has not been granted to the issuer extending the lapse date for the distribution.

- 2.5 Shelf Qualification for Distributions made under Section 2.5 of National Instrument 44-101 (Guaranteed Non-Convertible Debt Securities, Preferred Shares and Cash Settled Derivatives)**
- (1) An issuer is qualified to file a short form prospectus that is a preliminary base shelf prospectus for non-convertible debt securities, non-convertible preferred shares or non-convertible cash settled derivatives if, at the time of filing, the issuer is qualified under section 2.5 of National Instrument 44-101 to file a prospectus in the form of a short form prospectus.
 - (2) An issuer that has filed a preliminary base shelf prospectus in reliance on subsection (1) is qualified to file a short form prospectus that is the corresponding base shelf prospectus.
 - (3) A receipt issued for a base shelf prospectus of an issuer qualified under subsection (2) is effective until the earliest of
 - (a) the date 25 months from the date of its issue;
 - (b) the time immediately before the entering into of an agreement of purchase and sale for a security to be sold under the base shelf prospectus, if at that time
 - (i) a person or company has not provided a guarantee or alternative credit support for the securities to which the shelf prospectus supplement relates that satisfies the criteria in paragraph 1 of subsection 2.5(1) of National Instrument 44-101,
 - (ii) the credit supporter referred to in subparagraph (i)
 - (A) is not a reporting issuer, or
 - (B) does not have a current AIF, or
 - (iii) the aggregate market value of the equity securities of the credit supporter referred to in subparagraph (i), listed and posted for trading on an exchange in Canada has not been \$75,000,000 or more on a date within 60 days before the date of the agreement, and either of the following are true:
 1. The credit supporter does not have issued and outstanding non-convertible securities that
 - (A) have received an approved rating,
 - (B) have not been the subject of an announcement by an approved rating organization of which the issuer is or ought to be aware that the approved rating given by the organization may be down-graded to a rating category that would not be an approved rating, and
 - (C) have not received a rating lower than an approved rating from any approved rating organization.
 2. The securities to which the agreement relates
 - (A) have not received a final approved rating,
 - (B) have been the subject of an announcement by an approved rating organization of which the issuer is or ought to be aware that the approved rating given by the organization may be down-graded to a rating category that would not be an approved rating, and
 - (C) have received a provisional or final rating lower than an approved rating from any approved rating organization; and
 - (c) the lapse date, if any, prescribed by securities legislation, if relief has not been granted to the issuer extending the lapse date for the distribution.
- 2.6 Shelf Qualification for Distributions made under Section 2.6 of National Instrument 44-101 (Guaranteed Convertible Debt Securities or Preferred Shares)**
- (1) An issuer is qualified to file a short form prospectus that is a preliminary base shelf prospectus for convertible debt securities and convertible preferred shares if, at the time of filing, the issuer is qualified under section 2.6 of National Instrument 44-101 to file a prospectus in the form of a short form prospectus.
 - (2) An issuer that has filed a preliminary base shelf prospectus in reliance on subsection (1) is qualified to file a short form prospectus that is the corresponding base shelf prospectus.
 - (3) A receipt issued for a base shelf prospectus qualified under subsection (2) is effective until the earliest of
 - (a) the date 25 months from the date of its issue;
 - (b) the time immediately before the entering into of an agreement of purchase and sale for a security to be sold under the base shelf prospectus, if at that time

- (i) the issuer of the securities into which the securities to which the agreement relates are convertible has not provided a guarantee or alternative credit support that satisfies the criteria in subsection 2.6 (1) of National Instrument 44-101,
- (ii) the credit supporter referred to in subparagraph (i)
 - (A) is not a reporting issuer,
 - (B) does not have a current AIF, or
 - (C) does not have equity securities listed and posted for trading on an exchange in Canada, the aggregate market value of which has been \$75,000,000 or more on a date within 60 days before the date of the agreement; and
- (c) the lapse date, if any, prescribed by securities legislation, if relief has not been granted to the issuer extending the lapse date for the distribution.

2.7 Shelf Qualification for Distributions made under Section 2.7 of National Instrument 44-101 (Asset-Backed Securities)

- (1) An issuer qualified under section 2.7 of National Instrument 44-101 to file a prospectus in the form of a short form prospectus may file a preliminary base shelf prospectus for asset-backed securities if, at the time of filing, the issuer has reasonable grounds for believing that
 - (a) all asset-backed securities that it may distribute under the base shelf prospectus will receive an approved rating; and
 - (b) no asset-backed securities that it may distribute under the base shelf prospectus will receive a rating lower than an approved rating from any approved rating organization.
- (2) An issuer that has filed a preliminary base shelf prospectus in reliance on the qualification criteria in section 2.7 of National Instrument 44-101 may file the corresponding base shelf prospectus if, at the time of the filing of the base shelf prospectus, the issuer has reasonable grounds for believing that
 - (a) all asset-backed securities that it may distribute under the base shelf prospectus will receive an approved rating; and
 - (b) no asset-backed securities that it may distribute under the base shelf prospectus will receive a rating lower than an approved rating from any approved rating organization.
- (3) A receipt issued for a base shelf prospectus qualified under subsection (2) is effective for a distribution of asset-backed securities until the earliest of
 - (a) the date 25 months from the date of its issue;
 - (b) the time immediately before the entering into of an agreement of purchase and sale for an asset-backed security to be sold under the base shelf prospectus, unless at that time the asset-backed securities to which the agreement relates
 - (i) have not received a final approved rating,
 - (ii) have been the subject of an announcement by an approved rating organization of which the issuer is or ought reasonably to be aware that the approved rating given by the organization may be downgraded to a rating category that would not be an approved rating, or
 - (iii) have received a provisional or final rating lower than an approved rating from any approved rating organization; and
 - (c) the lapse date, if any, prescribed by securities legislation, if relief has not been granted to the issuer extending the lapse date for the distribution.

2.8 Lapse Date - Ontario - In Ontario, the lapse date prescribed by securities legislation for a receipt issued for a base shelf prospectus is extended to the date 25 months from the date of issuance of the receipt.

2.9 Lapse Date - Alberta - In Alberta, the lapse date prescribed by securities legislation for a receipt issued for a base shelf prospectus is the date 25 months from the date of the issuance of the receipt.

2.10 Prohibited Offerings - Despite any provision in this Instrument, the shelf procedures shall not be used for a distribution of rights under a rights offering.

PART 3 UNALLOCATED SHELF

- 3.1 Unallocated Shelf Permitted** - A base shelf prospectus may pertain to more than one type of security for which the issuer is qualified to file a prospectus in the form of a short form prospectus.
- 3.2 Distributions of Equity Securities Under Unallocated Shelf** - An issuer or selling security holder that forms a reasonable expectation that a distribution of a tranche of equity securities will proceed under a base shelf prospectus that is not specifically restricted to equity securities shall immediately issue a news release that announces the intention to proceed with the distribution.

PART 4 DISTRIBUTIONS OF NOVEL DERIVATIVES OR ASSET-BACKED SECURITIES UNDER SHELF**4.1 Distributions of Novel Derivatives or Asset-Backed Securities Under Shelf**

- (1) If a base shelf prospectus pertains to specified derivatives or asset-backed securities, the issuer or the selling security holder, as the case may be, shall file before or concurrently with the base shelf prospectus an undertaking that it will not distribute under the base shelf prospectus specified derivatives or asset-backed securities, as the case may be, in the local jurisdiction that, at the time of distribution, are novel without pre-clearing with the regulator in accordance with subsection (2) the disclosure to be contained in a shelf prospectus supplement pertaining to the distribution of the novel specified derivatives or asset-backed securities.
- (2) The undertaking referred to in subsection (1) shall state that the issuer or the selling security holder, as the case may be, shall not distribute specified derivatives or asset-backed securities in the local jurisdiction that, at the time of distribution, are novel, unless
- (a) the draft shelf prospectus supplement or, if more than one shelf prospectus supplement is to be used, the draft shelf prospectus supplements, pertaining to the distribution of the novel specified derivatives or asset-backed securities have been delivered to the regulator in substantially final form; and
 - (b) either
 - (i) the regulator has confirmed his or her acceptance of each draft shelf prospectus supplement in substantially final form or each shelf prospectus supplement in final form, or
 - (ii) 21 days have elapsed since the date of delivery to the regulator of each draft shelf prospectus supplement in substantially final form and the regulator has not provided written comments on the draft shelf prospectus supplement.

PART 5 BASE SHELF PROSPECTUSES

- 5.1 Opting out of the Shelf Procedures After a Preliminary Prospectus has been Received** - An issuer that has filed a preliminary base shelf prospectus shall not file a short form prospectus that is not a base shelf prospectus unless the issuer files
- (a) either
 - (i) an amended preliminary short form prospectus in accordance with National Instrument 44-101 that is not a preliminary base shelf prospectus, or
 - (ii) a new preliminary short form prospectus that is not a preliminary base shelf prospectus; and
 - (b) a covering letter stating that the issuer or the selling security holder, as the case may be, has decided not to use the shelf procedures for the distribution.
- 5.2 Opting into the Shelf Procedures After a Preliminary Prospectus has been Received** - An issuer that has filed a preliminary short form prospectus that is not a preliminary base shelf prospectus shall not file a base shelf prospectus for the distribution unless the issuer files
- (a) either
 - (i) an amended preliminary base shelf prospectus in accordance with this Instrument, or
 - (ii) a new preliminary short form prospectus that is a preliminary base shelf prospectus in accordance with this Instrument; and
 - (b) a covering letter stating that the issuer or the selling securityholder, as the case may be, has decided to use the shelf procedures for the distribution.
- 5.3 Form of Base Shelf Prospectus** - Despite National Instrument 44-101, a short form prospectus that is a base shelf prospectus may vary from Form 44-101F3 to the extent required or permitted by this Instrument.

- 5.4** **Dollar Value of Securities** - A base shelf prospectus shall pertain to no more than the dollar value of securities that the person or company proposing to distribute securities under the base shelf prospectus reasonably expects, at the time the base shelf prospectus is filed, to distribute within 25 months after the date of the receipt for the base shelf prospectus.
- 5.5** **Required Disclosure** - A base shelf prospectus shall contain the following:
1. A statement at the top of the cover page identifying the short form prospectus as a base shelf prospectus.
 2. The following statement in red ink in *italics* on the cover page:

"This short form prospectus has been filed under legislation in [insert name[s] of the jurisdiction[s] where qualified] that permits certain information about these securities to be determined after this prospectus has become final and that permits the omission from this prospectus of that information. The legislation requires the delivery to purchasers of a prospectus supplement containing the omitted information within a specified period of time after agreeing to purchase any of these securities."
 3. A statement that all shelf information omitted from the base shelf prospectus will be contained in one or more shelf prospectus supplements that will be delivered to purchasers together with the base shelf prospectus.
 4. A statement that each shelf prospectus supplement will be incorporated by reference into the base shelf prospectus for the purposes of securities legislation as of the date of the shelf prospectus supplement and only for the purposes of the distribution of the securities to which the shelf prospectus supplement pertains.
 5. A statement of the aggregate dollar amount of securities that may be raised under the base shelf prospectus.
 6. Disclosure of the types of securities that may be distributed under the base shelf prospectus.
 7. If an undertaking is required to be filed under subsection 4.1(1), a statement that the issuer or the selling security holder, as the case may be, has filed an undertaking that it will not distribute specified derivatives or asset-backed securities, as the case may be, that, at the time of distribution, are novel without pre-clearing with the regulator the disclosure to be contained in the shelf prospectus supplement pertaining to the distribution of the novel specified derivatives or asset-backed securities.
 8. The prospectus certificates prescribed by
 - (a) method 1, if
 - (i) the base shelf prospectus is being used to establish an MTN program or other continuous distribution, or
 - (ii) method 2 has not been elected; or
 - (b) method 2, if method 2 has been elected.
- 5.6** **Disclosure that may be Omitted** - If the specified circumstances exist, a base shelf prospectus may omit the following information:
1. The variable terms of the securities that may be distributed under the base shelf prospectus, if not known on the date the base shelf prospectus is filed.
 2. The dollar amount, size and other specific terms of each tranche of securities that may be distributed under the base shelf prospectus, if not known on the date the base shelf prospectus is filed.
 3. The variable terms of the plans of distribution for the securities that may be distributed under the base shelf prospectus, if not known on the date the base shelf prospectus is filed.
 4. The name and prospectus certificate of an underwriter if, at the time of the filing of the base shelf prospectus, no underwriter is, and it is not known to the issuer that a particular underwriter will be, in a contractual relationship with the issuer or selling security holder requiring the underwriter to distribute under the base shelf prospectus.
 5. If one or more underwriters have agreed to purchase the securities to be distributed under the base shelf prospectus at a specified price, the statement required under Form 44-101F3 that the securities are to be taken up by the underwriters, if at all, on or before a specified date.
 6. If the securities to be distributed under the base shelf prospectus are underwritten on a best efforts basis for which a minimum amount of funds are required by an issuer, the disclosure required under Form 44-101F3 concerning the maximum length of time for which the distribution may continue and concerning the disposition of subscription funds.
 7. Any other information that pertains only to a specific distribution of securities under the base shelf prospectus, if not known on the date the base shelf prospectus is filed.
 8. Any other information required under National Instrument 44-101 or other securities legislation that is not known and cannot be ascertained at the time of filing of the base shelf prospectus.

- 5.7 Issue of Receipt** - Despite the omission of shelf information, the regulator may issue a receipt for a base shelf prospectus.
- 5.8 Amendments** - If a material change occurs at a time when no securities are being distributed under a base shelf prospectus, the provisions of securities legislation that require the filing of an amendment to a prospectus if a material change occurs are satisfied by
- (a) the filing of a material change report; and
 - (b) the incorporation by reference in the base shelf prospectus of the material change report.

PART 6 SHELF PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENTS

6.1 Requirement to Use Shelf Prospectus Supplements - An issuer or selling security holder that distributes securities under a base shelf prospectus shall supplement the disclosure in the base shelf prospectus with a shelf prospectus supplement, or more than one shelf prospectus supplement, in order for the prospectus to contain full, true and plain disclosure of all material facts relating to the securities distributed under the prospectus.

6.2 Incorporation by Reference

- (1) An issuer shall incorporate by reference in the corresponding base shelf prospectus by means of a statement in the base shelf prospectus each shelf prospectus supplement referred to in section 6.1 as of the date of the shelf prospectus supplement and only for purposes of the distribution to which the shelf prospectus supplement pertains.
- (2) If an issuer does not incorporate by reference in a base shelf prospectus a shelf prospectus supplement required to be incorporated by reference under subsection (1), the shelf prospectus supplement is conclusively deemed for purposes of securities legislation to be incorporated by reference in the issuer's base shelf prospectus as of the date of the shelf prospectus supplement and only for purposes of the distribution to which the shelf prospectus supplement pertains.

6.3 Shelf Prospectus Supplement Disclosure

- (1) A shelf prospectus supplement shall contain the following:
 1. The name of the issuer on the cover page.
 2. The dates of the corresponding base shelf prospectus and of each previously filed shelf prospectus supplement corresponding to the same base shelf prospectus and pertaining to the same distribution, on the cover page.
 3. The prospectus certificates prescribed by
 - (a) method 1, if the shelf prospectus supplement establishes an MTN program or other continuous distribution; or
 - (b) method 2, if the prospectus certificates prescribed by method 1 have not been included in the corresponding base shelf prospectus and if method 1 is not mandatory under paragraph (a).
 4. A list of each document that is incorporated by reference into the corresponding base shelf prospectus as of the date of the shelf prospectus supplement and provides disclosure pertaining to the securities being distributed under the shelf prospectus supplement.
- (2) If only one shelf prospectus supplement is used to supplement the disclosure in the corresponding base shelf prospectus pertaining to a distribution of securities, that shelf prospectus supplement shall contain the following, and if more than one shelf prospectus supplement is used to supplement the disclosure in the corresponding base shelf prospectus pertaining to a distribution of securities, the shelf prospectus supplements used shall, together, contain the following:
 1. All of the shelf information pertaining to the distribution of securities that was not disclosed in the corresponding base shelf prospectus.
 2. All material facts relating to the securities to be distributed and all other information required under securities legislation to be disclosed in a short form prospectus that is not disclosed, either directly or through incorporation by reference, in the corresponding base shelf prospectus.

6.4 Filing Requirement For Shelf Prospectus Supplements

- (1) A shelf prospectus supplement shall be filed in the local jurisdiction if a base shelf prospectus to which the shelf prospectus supplement pertains was filed in the local jurisdiction.
- (2) A shelf prospectus supplement that is required to be filed under subsection (1) shall be filed,
 - (a) if the shelf prospectus supplement pertains to a distribution of securities, other than an MTN program or other continuous distribution, on or before the earlier of

- (i) the date the shelf prospectus supplement was first sent or delivered to a purchaser or a prospective purchaser, and
 - (ii) the date two business days after the offering price of the securities to which it pertains is determined; or
 - (b) in all other circumstances, on or before the date two business days after the date the shelf prospectus supplement was first sent or delivered to a purchaser or a prospective purchaser.
- 6.5 Underwriters' Conflicts of Interest** - For a distribution of securities under a base shelf prospectus, the provisions of securities legislation that regulate conflicts of interest in connection with a distribution of securities of a registrant, a connected issuer of a registrant or a related issuer of a registrant
- (a) concerning the participation of independent underwriters shall be satisfied
 - (i) on a tranche-by-tranche basis for a distribution other than an MTN program or other continuous distribution, or
 - (ii) on the basis of the total dollar amount of securities that, at any given time, have been or are being distributed under the program or distribution for a distribution of securities under an MTN program or other continuous distribution; and
 - (b) concerning disclosure, to the extent not previously satisfied in the base shelf prospectus, shall be satisfied by including the prescribed disclosure in a shelf prospectus supplement pertaining to the distribution.
- 6.6 Market Stabilization** - The stabilization provisions shall be satisfied on a tranche-by-tranche basis for a non-continuous distribution of securities under a base shelf prospectus.
- 6.7 Delivery Requirement** - The shelf prospectus supplement or supplements that, together with the corresponding base shelf prospectus, contain full, true and plain disclosure of all material facts relating to the securities being distributed shall be sent by prepaid mail or delivered to a purchaser of the securities with the base shelf prospectus.

PART 7 SHELF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- 7.1 General** - The provisions of National Instrument 44-101 requiring the filing of supporting documents with a preliminary short form prospectus, a short form prospectus or a prospectus amendment do not apply to a filing of a preliminary base shelf prospectus, a base shelf prospectus or an amendment to a preliminary base shelf prospectus or to a base shelf prospectus, except to the extent varied in this Part.
- 7.2 Consents**
- (1) If any solicitor, auditor, accountant, engineer or appraiser, or any other person or company whose profession gives authority to a statement made by that person or company, is
 - (a) named in a document that is
 - (i) incorporated by reference into a base shelf prospectus, and
 - (ii) filed after the date of filing of the base shelf prospectus; and
 - (b) named in the document as having prepared or certified
 - (i) any part of the base shelf prospectus, amendment or shelf prospectus supplement, or
 - (ii) a report or valuation referred to in the base shelf prospectus or shelf prospectus supplement, either directly or in a document incorporated by reference,

the issuer shall file the written consent of the person or company to being named and to that use of the report or valuation in accordance with subsection (2).
 - (2) A consent of an expert required under subsection (1) shall be filed in accordance with the following:
 1. If the document in which the expert is named is incorporated by reference into the base shelf prospectus by means of a statement to that effect in the base shelf prospectus, the consent shall be filed
 - (a) no later than the time the document is filed, if the base shelf prospectus establishes an MTN program or other continuous distribution; and
 - (b) in all other circumstances, no later than the time of the next filing of a shelf prospectus supplement corresponding to the base shelf prospectus.
 2. If the document in which the expert is named is incorporated by reference into a shelf prospectus supplement by means of a statement to that effect in the shelf prospectus supplement and filed before or concurrently

- with the shelf prospectus supplement, the consent shall be filed no later than the time the shelf prospectus supplement is filed.
3. If the document in which the expert is named is incorporated by reference into a shelf prospectus supplement by means of a statement to that effect in the shelf prospectus supplement and filed after the shelf prospectus supplement is filed, the consent shall be filed no later than the time the document is filed.
- 7.3 Auditor's Comfort Letters** - An auditor's comfort letter for unaudited financial statements incorporated by reference into a base shelf prospectus but filed after the date of filing of the base shelf prospectus shall be filed
- (a) concurrently with the unaudited financial statements, if the base shelf prospectus establishes an MTN program or other continuous distribution; and
 - (b) in all other circumstances, no later than the time of the next filing of a shelf prospectus supplement corresponding to the base shelf prospectus.
- 7.4 Underwriting Agreements**
- (1) If, at the time an issuer files a base shelf prospectus, no underwriter is in a contractual relationship with the issuer or selling security holder requiring the underwriter to distribute securities under the base shelf prospectus, the issuer is not required to file a copy of an underwriting agreement with the base shelf prospectus.
 - (2) If an underwriter enters into a contractual relationship with an issuer or selling security holder requiring the underwriter to distribute securities under a base shelf prospectus after the base shelf prospectus is filed, the issuer shall file a copy of the underwriting agreement pertaining to the distribution concurrently with the next shelf prospectus supplement filed pertaining to that distribution.
- PART 8 MEDIUM TERM NOTE PROGRAMS AND OTHER CONTINUOUS DISTRIBUTIONS UNDER SHELF**
- 8.1 General** - An issuer that is qualified under Part 2 to file a base shelf prospectus for securities may distribute those securities by way of an MTN program or other continuous distribution, if it files
- (a) a base shelf prospectus or a shelf prospectus supplement that establishes the program or distribution; and
 - (b) a pricing supplement.
- 8.2 Additional Disclosure Requirements**
- (1) Despite section 5.5, a base shelf prospectus or shelf prospectus supplement that establishes an MTN program or other continuous distribution shall contain the following:
 1. A description of the method of distribution, including the name of any underwriter involved in the distribution and the amount of any underwriting fee, discount or commission.
 2. A description of the intended parameters of the terms of the MTN program or other continuous distribution.
 3. At the option of the issuer or selling security holder proposing to distribute securities under the MTN program or other continuous distribution, a statement that the issuer or selling security holder, as the case may be, reserves the right to issue securities under the MTN program or other continuous distribution on terms outside the intended parameters disclosed under paragraph 2.
 - (2) A pricing supplement for an MTN program or other continuous distribution under the shelf procedures shall contain the following:
 1. The terms of the securities distributed that are not disclosed in the base shelf prospectus or shelf prospectus supplement establishing the MTN program or other continuous distribution.
 2. A list of each document that is incorporated by reference into the corresponding base shelf prospectus as of the date of the pricing supplement and that provides disclosure pertaining to the securities being distributed under the MTN program or other continuous distribution.
- 8.3 Filing Requirement** - If an issuer sends or delivers to a purchaser or a prospective purchaser in the local jurisdiction a pricing supplement in a particular month, the issuer shall, despite section 6.4, file within seven days after the end of the month
- (a) a copy of each pricing supplement sent or delivered to a purchaser or prospective purchaser during the month, if the pricing supplement had not previously been sent or delivered to any purchaser or prospective purchaser; or
 - (b) a summary of the information contained in each pricing supplement sent or delivered to a purchaser or prospective purchaser during the month, including
 - (i) a list of the pricing supplements referred to in paragraph (a),

- (ii) the terms of the securities distributed under each pricing supplement sent or delivered to a purchaser or a prospective purchaser during the month, and
- (iii) the aggregate amount of securities distributed under each pricing supplement sent or delivered to a purchaser or a prospective purchaser during the month.

8.4 Requirement to Update Earnings Coverage Ratios - An issuer distributing securities by way of an MTN program or other continuous distribution using the shelf procedures shall

- (a) calculate updated earnings coverage ratios for the ratios contained in its base shelf prospectus each time the issuer prepares interim or audited annual financial statements, using the 12 month period that ended on the last day of the most recently completed financial period; and
- (b) file the updated earnings coverage ratios, concurrently with the filing of its financial statements, either
 - (i) as an exhibit to the financial statements, or
 - (ii) as a shelf prospectus supplement corresponding to the base shelf prospectus.

PART 9 AT-THE-MARKET DISTRIBUTIONS OF EQUITY SECURITIES UNDER SHELF

9.1 At-the-Market Distributions of Equity Securities Under Shelf

- (1) Despite section 11.1 of National Instrument 44-101, equity securities may be distributed by way of an at-the-market distribution using the shelf procedures if the market value of equity securities distributed does not exceed 10 percent of the aggregate market value of the issuer's outstanding equity securities of the same class as the class of securities distributed, calculated in accordance with section 2.9 of National Instrument 44-101, as at the last trading day of the month before the month in which the first trade under the at-the-market distribution is made.
- (2) No underwriter or dealer distributing equity securities by way of an at-the-market distribution, or any affiliate of such an underwriter or dealer, or any person or company acting jointly or in concert with such an underwriter or dealer, shall, in connection with the distribution, over-allot the securities or effect a transaction that is intended to stabilize or maintain the market price of the securities.
- (3) An issuer shall include in a base shelf prospectus or shelf prospectus supplement pertaining to an at-the-market distribution a statement that no underwriter or dealer involved in the distribution, no affiliate of such an underwriter or dealer and no person or company acting jointly or in concert with such an underwriter or dealer has over-allotted, or will over-allot, securities in connection with the distribution or effect any other transactions that are intended to stabilize or maintain the market price of the securities.

PART 10 TRANSITIONAL SHELF PROCEDURES

10.1 Transitional Shelf Procedures

- (1) A receipt issued for a shelf prospectus filed under National Policy Statement No. 44 is a receipt for the purposes of a base shelf prospectus under this Instrument.
- (2) A preliminary shelf prospectus filed under National Policy Statement No. 44 is a preliminary base shelf prospectus under this Instrument.
- (3) A receipt issued for a shelf prospectus filed under National Policy Statement No. 44 before National Instrument 44-101 came into force shall expire
 - (a) if the issuer relied on section 4.1 or 4.4 of National Policy Statement No. 47 or section 164 or 168 of the Regulation Concerning Securities (Québec) to be qualified to file the shelf prospectus, at the time specified in section 2.2 of this Instrument;
 - (b) if the issuer relied on section 4.2 of National Policy Statement No. 47 or an exemption granted under the Securities Act (Québec) to be qualified to file the shelf prospectus, at the time specified in section 2.3 of this Instrument;
 - (c) if the issuer relied on paragraph 4.3(1)(a) of National Policy Statement No. 47 or section 165 of the Regulation Concerning Securities (Québec) to be qualified to file the shelf prospectus, at the time specified in section 2.4 of this Instrument;
 - (d) if the issuer relied on paragraph 4.3(1)(b) of National Policy Statement No. 47 or section 166 of the Regulation Concerning Securities (Québec) to be qualified to file the shelf prospectus, at the time specified in section 2.5 of this Instrument; and
 - (e) if the issuer relied on subsection 4.3(2) of National Policy Statement No. 47 or an exemption granted under the Securities Act (Québec) to be qualified to file the shelf prospectus, at the time specified in section 2.6 of this Instrument.

PART 11 EXEMPTIONS**11.1 Exemption**

- (1) The regulator or the securities regulatory authority may grant an exemption from this Instrument, in whole or in part, subject to such conditions or restrictions as may be imposed in the exemption.
- (2) Despite subsection (1), in Ontario and Alberta, only the regulator may grant such an exemption.
- (3) An application made to the securities regulatory authority or regulator for an exemption from this Instrument shall include a letter or memorandum describing the matters relating to the exemption, and indicating why consideration should be given to the granting of the exemption.

11.2 Evidence of Exemption

- (1) Subject to subsection (2) and without limiting the manner in which an exemption under this Part may be evidenced, the granting under this Part of an exemption, other than an exemption, in whole or in part from Part 2, may be evidenced by the issuance of a receipt for a base shelf prospectus or an amendment to a base shelf prospectus.
- (2) An exemption under this Part may be evidenced in the manner set out in subsection (1) only if
 - (a) the person or company that sought the exemption
 - (i) sent to the regulator the letter or memorandum referred to in subsection 11.1(3) on or before the date of filing of the preliminary base shelf prospectus, or
 - (ii) sent to the regulator the letter or memorandum referred to in subsection 11.1(3) after the date of filing of the preliminary base shelf prospectus and received a written acknowledgement from the regulator that the exemption may be evidenced in the manner set out in subsection (1); and
 - (b) the regulator has not before, or concurrently with, the issuance of the receipt, sent to the person or company that sought the exemption notice that the exemption sought can not be evidenced in the manner set out in subsection (1).

PART 12 EFFECTIVE DATE

12.1 Effective Date - This Instrument shall come into force on December 31, 2000.

**NATIONAL INSTRUMENT 44-102
SHELF DISTRIBUTIONS
APPENDIX A
METHOD 1 FOR SHELF PROSPECTUS CERTIFICATES**

METHOD 1: FORWARD LOOKING CERTIFICATES TO BE INCLUDED IN BASE SHELF PROSPECTUSES OR SUPPLEMENTS ESTABLISHING AN MTN PROGRAM OR OTHER CONTINUOUS DISTRIBUTION

PART 1 Base Shelf Prospectuses

1.1 Certificate of Issuer and Promoter - If a base shelf prospectus establishes an MTN program or other continuous distribution, or if method 2 has not been elected by an issuer, the preliminary base shelf prospectus and the base shelf prospectus shall contain a certificate in the following form signed by

- (a) the chief executive officer and the chief financial officer of the issuer or, if no such officers have been appointed, a person acting on behalf of the issuer in a capacity similar to that of a chief executive officer and a person acting on behalf of the issuer in a capacity similar to that of a chief financial officer;
- (b) on behalf of the board of directors of the issuer, any two directors of the issuer, other than the persons referred to in paragraph (a), duly authorized to sign; and
- (c) any person or company who is a promoter of the issuer:

"This short form prospectus, together with the documents incorporated in this prospectus by reference, will, as of the date of the last supplement to this prospectus relating to the securities offered by this prospectus and the supplement(s), constitute full, true and plain disclosure of all material facts relating to the securities offered by this prospectus and the supplement(s) as required by the securities legislation of [insert name of each jurisdiction in which qualified] [insert if distribution made in Quebec---"and will not contain any misrepresentation likely to affect the value or the market price of the securities to be distributed"]".

1.2 Underwriters' Certificates - A preliminary base shelf prospectus and a base shelf prospectus shall contain an underwriter's certificate in the following form signed by each underwriter who, at the time of filing, is, or it is known will be, in a contractual relationship with the issuer for the securities to be distributed under the base shelf prospectus, if

- (a) the base shelf prospectus establishes an MTN program or other continuous distribution; or
- (b) method 2 has not been elected by the underwriter:

"To the best of our knowledge, information and belief, this short form prospectus, together with the documents incorporated in this prospectus by reference will, as of the date of the last supplement to this prospectus relating to the securities offered by this prospectus and the supplement(s), constitute full, true and plain disclosure of all material facts relating to the securities offered by this prospectus and the supplement(s) as required by the securities legislation of [insert name of each jurisdiction in which qualified] [insert if distribution made in Quebec---"and will not contain any misrepresentation likely to affect the value or the market price of the securities to be distributed"]".

1.3 Credit Supporter's Certificate - A preliminary base shelf prospectus and a base shelf prospectus shall contain a certificate in the form described in section 1.1 signed by a credit supporter of the securities to be distributed under the base shelf prospectus, if

- (a) National Instrument 44-101 requires a prospectus certificate of the credit supporter; and
- (b) either
 - (i) the base shelf prospectus establishes an MTN program or other continuous distribution, or
 - (ii) method 2 has not been elected by the credit supporter.

1.4 Amendments

- (1) An amendment to a base shelf prospectus or an amended and restated base shelf prospectus shall, subject to subsection (2), contain
 - (a) the certificates required under section 1.1 to be included in a base shelf prospectus, if the base shelf prospectus contains an issuer's certificate in the form described in section 1.1;
 - (b) the certificates required under section 1.2 to be included in a base shelf prospectus, if the base shelf prospectus contains an underwriter's certificate in the form described in section 1.2; and
 - (c) the certificate required under section 1.3 to be included in a base shelf prospectus, if the base shelf prospectus contains a credit supporter's certificate in the form described in section 1.3.
- (2) In each certificate required under subsection (1), the reference to "this short form prospectus" shall be omitted and replaced by

- (a) in the case of an amendment to a base shelf prospectus, "the short form prospectus dated [insert date] as amended by this amendment"; and
- (b) in the case of an amended and restated base shelf prospectus, "this amended and restated short form prospectus".

PART 2 Shelf Prospectus Supplements establishing an MTN Program

2.1 Certificate of Issuer and Promoter - If an issuer's certificate in the form described in section 1.1 was not included in the corresponding base shelf prospectus, a shelf prospectus supplement that establishes an MTN program or other continuous distribution shall contain a certificate in the following form signed by

- (a) the chief executive officer and the chief financial officer of the issuer or, if no such officers have been appointed, a person acting on behalf of the issuer in a capacity similar to that of a chief executive officer and a person acting on behalf of the issuer in a capacity similar to that of a chief financial officer;
- (b) on behalf of the board of directors of the issuer, any two directors of the issuer, other than the persons referred to in paragraph (a), duly authorized to sign; and
- (c) any person or company who is a promoter of the issuer:

"The short form prospectus, together with the documents incorporated in the prospectus by reference, as supplemented by the foregoing, will, as of the date of the last supplement to the prospectus relating to the securities offered by the prospectus and the supplement(s), constitute full, true and plain disclosure of all material facts relating to the securities offered by the prospectus and the supplement(s) as required by the securities legislation of [insert name of each jurisdiction in which qualified] [insert if distribution made in Quebec---"and will not contain any misrepresentation likely to affect the value or the market price of the securities to be distributed"]".

2.2 Underwriters' Certificates - A shelf prospectus supplement that establishes an MTN program or other continuous distribution shall contain a certificate in the following form signed by each underwriter who

- (a) is in a contractual relationship with the issuer for the securities being distributed under the shelf prospectus supplement; and
- (b) did not sign and include in the corresponding base shelf prospectus a certificate in the form described in section 1.2:

"To the best of our knowledge, information and belief, the short form prospectus, together with the documents incorporated in the prospectus by reference, as supplemented by the foregoing, will, as of the date of the last supplement to the prospectus relating to the securities offered by the prospectus and the supplement(s), constitute full, true and plain disclosure of all material facts relating to the securities offered by the prospectus and the supplement as required by the securities legislation of [insert name of jurisdiction in which qualified] [insert if distribution made in Quebec---"and will not contain any misrepresentation likely to affect the value or the market price of the securities to be distributed"]".

2.3 Credit Supporter's Certificate - A shelf prospectus supplement that establishes an MTN program or other continuous distribution shall contain a certificate in the form described in section 2.1 signed by a credit supporter of the securities being distributed under the shelf prospectus supplement, if

- (a) National Instrument 44-101 requires a prospectus certificate of the credit supporter; and
- (b) a prospectus certificate of the credit supporter in the form described in section 1.3 was not included in the corresponding base shelf prospectus.

2.4 Amendments

- (1) An amendment to a shelf prospectus supplement or an amended and restated shelf prospectus supplement that establishes an MTN program or other continuous distribution shall, subject to subsection (2), contain
 - (a) the certificates required under section 2.1 to be included in a shelf prospectus supplement, if the shelf prospectus supplement contains an issuer's certificate in the form described in section 2.1;
 - (b) the certificates required under section 2.2 to be included in a shelf prospectus supplement, if the shelf prospectus supplement contains an underwriter's certificate in the form described in section 2.2; and
 - (c) the certificate required under section 2.3 to be included in a shelf prospectus supplement, if the shelf prospectus supplement contains a credit supporter's certificate in the form described in section 2.3.
- (2) In each certificate required under subsection (1), the reference to "this shelf prospectus supplement" shall be omitted and replaced by
 - (a) in the case of an amendment to a shelf prospectus supplement, "the shelf prospectus supplement dated [insert date] as amended by this amendment"; and
 - (b) in the case of an amended and restated shelf prospectus supplement, "this amended and restated shelf prospectus supplement".

**NATIONAL INSTRUMENT 44-102
SHELF DISTRIBUTIONS
APPENDIX B
METHOD 2 FOR SHELF PROSPECTUS CERTIFICATES**

METHOD 2: NON-FORWARD LOOKING PROSPECTUS CERTIFICATES TO BE INCLUDED IN BOTH BASE SHELF PROSPECTUSES AND SUPPLEMENTS

PART 1 Base Shelf Prospectus

1.1 Certificate of Issuer and Promoter - If method 2 is elected by an issuer, a preliminary base shelf prospectus and a base shelf prospectus shall contain a certificate in the following form signed by

- (a) the chief executive officer and the chief financial officer of the issuer or, if no such officers have been appointed, a person acting on behalf of the issuer in a capacity similar to that of a chief executive officer and a person acting on behalf of the issuer in a capacity similar to that of a chief financial officer;
- (b) on behalf of the board of directors of the issuer, any two directors of the issuer, other than the persons referred to in paragraph (a), duly authorized to sign; and
- (c) any person or company who is a promoter of the issuer:

"This short form prospectus, together with the documents incorporated in this prospectus by reference, constitutes full, true and plain disclosure of all material facts relating to the securities offered by this prospectus as required by the securities legislation of [insert name of each jurisdiction in which qualified] [insert if distribution made in Quebec---"and does not contain any misrepresentation likely to affect the value or the market price of the securities to be distributed"]".

1.2 Underwriters' Certificates - A preliminary base shelf prospectus and a base shelf prospectus shall contain an underwriter's certificate in the following form signed by each underwriter who

- (a) at the time of filing, is, or it is known will be, in a contractual relationship with the issuer for the securities to be distributed under the base shelf prospectus; and
- (b) elects method 2:

"To the best of our knowledge, information and belief, the short form prospectus, together with the documents incorporated in the prospectus by reference, constitutes full, true and plain disclosure of all material facts relating to the securities offered by this prospectus as required by the securities legislation of [insert name of each jurisdiction in which qualified] [insert if distribution made in Quebec---"and does not contain any misrepresentation likely to affect the value or the market price of the securities to be distributed"]".

1.3 Credit Supporter's Certificate - A base shelf prospectus shall contain a certificate in the form described in section 1.1 signed by a credit supporter of the securities to be distributed under the base shelf prospectus, if

- (a) National Instrument 44-101 requires a prospectus certificate of the credit supporter; and
- (b) method 2 is elected by the credit supporter.

1.4 Amendments

- (1) An amendment to a base shelf prospectus or an amended and restated base shelf prospectus shall, subject to subsection (2), contain
 - (a) the certificates required under section 1.1 to be included in a base shelf prospectus, if the issuer has elected method 2;
 - (b) the certificate described in section 1.2 signed by each underwriter who
 - (i) at the time of filing the amendment or the amended and restated base shelf prospectus, is, or it is known will be, in a contractual relationship with the issuer for the securities to be distributed under the base shelf prospectus, and
 - (ii) has elected method 2; and
 - (c) the certificate required under section 1.3 to be included in a base shelf prospectus, if the base shelf prospectus contains a credit supporter's certificate in the form described in section 1.3.
- (2) In each certificate required under subsection (1), the reference to "this short form prospectus" shall be omitted and replaced by
 - (a) in the case of an amendment to a base shelf prospectus, "the short form prospectus dated [insert date] as amended by this amendment"; and

- (b) in the case of an amended and restated base shelf prospectus, "this amended and restated short form prospectus".

PART 2 Shelf Prospectus Supplement

2.1 Certificate of Issuer and Promoter - If method 2 is elected by an issuer, each shelf prospectus supplement shall contain a certificate in the following form signed by

- (a) the chief executive officer and the chief financial officer of the issuer or, if no such officers have been appointed, a person acting on behalf of the issuer in a capacity similar to that of a chief executive officer and a person acting in a capacity similar to that of a chief financial officer;
- (b) on behalf of the board of directors of the issuer, any two directors of the issuer, other than the persons referred to in paragraph (a) duly authorized to sign; and
- (c) any person or company who is a promoter of the issuer:

"The short form prospectus, together with the documents incorporated in the prospectus by reference, as supplemented by the foregoing, constitutes full, true and plain disclosure of all material facts relating to the securities offered by the prospectus and this supplement as required by the securities legislation of [insert name of each jurisdiction in which qualified] [insert if distribution made in Quebec---"and does not contain any misrepresentation likely to affect the value or the market price of the securities to be distributed"]."

2.2 Underwriters' Certificates - Each shelf prospectus supplement shall contain a certificate in the following form signed by each underwriter who

- (a) is in a contractual relationship with the issuer for the securities being distributed under the supplement; and
- (b) has elected method 2:

"To the best of our knowledge, information and belief, the short form prospectus, together with the documents incorporated in the prospectus by reference, as supplemented by the foregoing, constitutes full, true and plain disclosure of all material facts relating to the securities offered by the prospectus and this supplement as required by the securities legislation of [insert name of each jurisdiction in which qualified] [insert if distribution made in Quebec---"and does not contain any misrepresentation likely to affect the value or the market price of the securities to be distributed"]."

2.3 Credit Supporter's Certificate - Each shelf prospectus supplement shall contain a certificate in the form described in section 2.1 signed by a credit supporter of the securities being distributed under the shelf prospectus supplement, if

- (a) National Instrument 44-101 requires a prospectus certificate of the credit supporter; and
- (b) method 2 is elected by the credit supporter.

2.4 Amendments

(1) An amendment to a shelf prospectus supplement or an amended and restated shelf prospectus supplement shall, subject to subsection (2), contain

- (a) the certificates required under section 2.1 to be included in a shelf prospectus supplement, if the shelf prospectus supplement contains an issuer's certificate in the form described in section 2.1;
- (b) the certificate described in section 2.2 signed by each underwriter who
 - (i) at the time of filing the amendment or the amended and restated shelf prospectus supplement, is in a contractual relationship with the issuer for the securities being distributed under the shelf prospectus supplement, and
 - (ii) has elected method 2; and
- (c) the certificate required under section 2.3 to be included in a shelf prospectus supplement, if the shelf prospectus supplement contains a credit supporter's certificate in the form described in section 2.3.

(2) In each certificate required under subsection (1), the reference to "this shelf prospectus supplement" shall be omitted and replaced by

- (a) in the case of an amendment to a shelf prospectus supplement, "the shelf prospectus supplement dated [insert date] as amended by this amendment"; and
- (b) in the case of an amended and restated shelf prospectus supplement, "this amended and restated shelf prospectus supplement".

Companion Policy 44-102CP

Shelf Distributions

This page intentionally left blank.

**COMPANION POLICY 44-102CP TO NATIONAL INSTRUMENT 44-102
SHELF DISTRIBUTIONS**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART **TITLE**

PART 1 **GENERAL**

- 1.1 Relationship of the National Instrument to Securities Legislation
- 1.2 Liability
- 1.3 Draft Supplements

PART 2 **SHELF PROCEDURES**

- 2.1 Shelf Qualification
- 2.2 Period of Receipt Effectiveness
- 2.3 Unallocated Shelf
- 2.4 Distributions of Derivatives and Asset-Backed Securities using the Shelf Procedures
- 2.5 Information that may be Omitted from a Base Shelf Prospectus
- 2.6 Shelf Prospectus Supplements
- 2.7 Firm Commitment Distributions
- 2.8 Best Efforts Distributions
- 2.9 Delivery Obligations

PART 3 **SHELF PROSPECTUS AMENDMENTS**

- 3.1 Shelf Prospectus Amendments

PART 4 **PROSPECTUS CERTIFICATES**

- 4.1 Prospectus Certificates

**COMPANION POLICY 44-102CP TO NATIONAL INSTRUMENT 44-102
SHELF DISTRIBUTIONS**

PART 1 GENERAL

1.1 Relationship of the National Instrument to Securities Legislation

- (1) Issuers are reminded that the rules and procedures contained in National Instrument 44-102 for distributions made under the shelf procedures should be read in conjunction with other provisions of securities legislation in each jurisdiction in which a distribution is being made.
- (2) A distribution under a short form prospectus using the shelf procedures is subject to all the requirements of National Instrument 44-101 Short Form Prospectus Distributions and other provisions of securities legislation, as supplemented or varied by National Instrument 44-102 and the implementing law of the jurisdiction. Reference is made to section 1.5 of the Companion Policy to National Instrument 44-101 for a discussion of the relationship between National Instrument 44-101 and National Instrument 44-102.

1.2 Liability

- (1) The securities regulatory authorities are of the view that an issuer's prospectus certificate contained in an amendment to a base shelf prospectus filed under the shelf procedures supersedes and replaces the issuer's certificate contained in the base shelf prospectus. Accordingly, an officer who signed the later dated certificate and the directors at the time the amendment was filed would be subject to statutory civil liability to purchasers of securities under the amended base shelf prospectus.
- (2) The securities regulatory authorities are of the view that an issuer's prospectus certificate contained in a shelf prospectus supplement filed under the shelf procedures supersedes and replaces the issuer's certificate contained in the base shelf prospectus for purposes of the distribution of securities under the shelf prospectus supplement. Accordingly, an officer who signed the later dated certificate and the directors at the time the supplement was filed would be subject to statutory civil liability to purchasers of securities under the shelf prospectus supplement.

1.3 Draft Supplements - A preliminary form of shelf prospectus supplement describing a tranche of securities may be used in marketing the securities before the public offering price is determined. Issuers are reminded that the ability to use a preliminary form of shelf prospectus supplement in this manner for a distribution of equity securities under an unallocated base shelf prospectus is subject to the requirement contained in section 3.2 of National Instrument 44-102 to issue a news release once the issuer or the selling security holder has formed a reasonable expectation that the distribution will proceed.

PART 2 SHELF PROCEDURES

2.1 Shelf Qualification

- (1) The principle guiding the qualification provisions of National Instrument 44-102 is that any distribution under a short form prospectus, other than rights offerings, may be effected using the shelf procedures.
- (2) A distribution using the shelf procedures is necessarily a distribution under a short form prospectus. Therefore, issuers must be qualified to file a prospectus in the form of a short form prospectus under National Instrument 44-101 and must satisfy the additional qualification criteria under Part 2 of National Instrument 44-102.

2.2 Period of Receipt Effectiveness

- (1) National Instrument 44-102 provides that a receipt for a base shelf prospectus is effective until the earliest of the following three events: (i) the date 25 months from the date of the issuance of a receipt for the base shelf prospectus, (ii) immediately before selling the securities, if certain prescribed conditions relating to the issuer's qualification to file a prospectus in the form of a short form prospectus are not satisfied, and (iii) the lapse date of the receipt, if any, prescribed by securities legislation, if no relief has been granted to the issuer through a blanket ruling or upon application by the issuer. This receipt expiry mechanism is designed to impose a limit of, essentially, two years on shelf distributions under the same base shelf prospectus and to prevent distributions of securities under a base shelf prospectus if the issuer would no longer be qualified under National Instrument 44-101.
- (2) The securities legislation in some jurisdictions provides that a prospectus receipt does not continue to be effective for more than one year absent relief granted by the securities regulatory authority in that jurisdiction. Some of these jurisdictions have provided blanket relief for receipts issued for base shelf prospectuses. At the time of the coming into force of this Policy New Brunswick has a lapse date provision in its securities legislation and has not provided blanket relief for shelf distributions.
- (3) In New Brunswick issuers must apply for and obtain relief from securities legislation in order for a receipt for a base shelf prospectus to be effective for more than one year. An application for relief may consist of a covering letter accompanying the filing of the preliminary base shelf prospectus or the base shelf prospectus containing the following statement:

"The [issuer] hereby applies for an extension of the lapse date of this base shelf prospectus to 24 months."

Where application for relief is made, the issuance of a receipt for the base shelf prospectus is evidence of the granting of the relief.

2.3 Unallocated Shelf

- (1) Section 3.1 of National Instrument 44-102 provides that a base shelf prospectus may pertain to different types of securities. This allows a base shelf prospectus to be used to distribute any combination of debt securities, preferred shares, derivatives, asset-backed securities and equity securities, for which the issuer is eligible to participate in the POP system.
- (2) In the case of an unallocated base shelf prospectus, section 3.2 of National Instrument 44-102 requires an issuer or a selling security holder to issue a news release immediately upon having formed a reasonable expectation that a distribution of equity securities under the unallocated shelf prospectus will proceed. An issuer or selling security holder will generally only have formed such a reasonable expectation upon having discussions with an underwriter concerning the distribution of some specificity and certainty.

2.4 Distributions of Derivatives and Asset-Backed Securities using the Shelf Procedures

- (1) The securities regulatory authorities recognize the utility of the shelf procedures for distributions of derivatives and asset-backed securities in order to permit tranches of these products to be priced and distributed expeditiously to take advantage of market opportunities, without the need for regulatory approval.
- (2) However, the securities regulatory authorities are also aware of the complexities that may be associated with distributions of specified derivatives and asset-backed securities. Particularly in the area of distributions of novel specified derivatives and asset-backed securities, the securities regulatory authorities wish to encourage adequate prospectus disclosure, either in the base shelf prospectus or the shelf prospectus supplement, of the attributes of and the risks associated with these products. The securities regulatory authorities have attempted to balance these objectives in formulating National Instrument 44-102.
- (3) The requirements relating to the clearance of issues of derivatives or asset-backed securities make a distinction between "novel" and "non-novel" products. If a base shelf prospectus pertains to specified derivatives or asset-backed securities, the issuer or selling security holder, as the case may be, must file an undertaking under section 4.1 with its base shelf prospectus. The undertaking must state that the issuer or the selling security holder, as the case may be, will not distribute under the base shelf prospectus specified derivatives or asset-backed securities that at the time of distribution are novel without pre-clearing the disclosure in shelf prospectus supplements with the regulator.
- (4) The securities regulatory authorities are of the view that the definition of the term "novel" should be read relatively restrictively. The term is intended to apply to a distribution of derivatives or asset-backed securities that is structured in a manner that differs materially from the manner in which any public distribution that has previously taken place in a jurisdiction was structured. A security would not be novel merely because a new underlying interest was used.
- (5) If the product is not novel, then the shelf prospectus supplements concerning the product need not be reviewed by the securities regulatory authorities. The securities regulatory authorities are of the view that the disclosure in shelf prospectus supplements in such circumstances should be no less comprehensive than the disclosure that has previously been reviewed by a securities regulatory authority in a jurisdiction.

2.5 Information that may be Omitted from a Base Shelf Prospectus

- (1) Paragraph 1 of section 5.6 of National Instrument 44-102 provides that a base shelf prospectus may omit the variable terms, if not known, of the securities that may be distributed under it. The types of variable information that may be omitted from the base shelf prospectus include
 - (a) the designation of the tranche;
 - (b) maturities;
 - (c) denominations;
 - (d) interest or dividend provisions;
 - (e) purchase, redemption and retraction provisions;
 - (f) conversion or exchange provisions;
 - (g) the terms for extension or early repayment;
 - (h) the currencies in which the securities are issued or payable;
 - (i) sinking fund provisions; and
 - (j) any special covenants or other terms applicable to the securities of the tranche.

- (2) Paragraph 3 of section 5.6 of National Instrument 44-102 provides that a base shelf prospectus may omit information, if not known, relating to the variable terms of the plans of distribution for the securities that may be distributed under the base shelf prospectus. These variable terms may include
 - (a) if the shelf prospectus sets forth alternative methods of distribution, the method that will be applicable to each tranche of securities distributed under the shelf prospectus; and
 - (b) for each tranche of securities distributed under the shelf prospectus, the specific terms not included in the description of the applicable method of distribution in the shelf prospectus, including, if applicable
 - (i) the names of any underwriters, and
 - (ii) the distribution spread and underwriting fees, discounts and commissions.
- (3) Paragraph 7 of section 5.6 of National Instrument 44-102 provides that a base shelf prospectus may omit other information, if not known, that pertains only to a specific distribution of securities under the base shelf prospectus. These terms may include
 - (a) the public offering price;
 - (b) delivery dates;
 - (c) legal opinions regarding the eligibility for investment of the securities and tax matters;
 - (d) statements regarding listing of the securities;
 - (e) actual amount of proceeds on the distribution; and
 - (f) information about the use of proceeds.

2.6 Shelf Prospectus Supplements

- (1) The ability to file a shelf prospectus supplement does not prevent the filing of a shelf prospectus amendment to supply some or all of the information that is permitted to be included in a prospectus supplement.
- (2) Under subsection 6.3(2) of National Instrument 44-102, the shelf prospectus supplements used in a distribution must contain all omitted shelf information as well as all information necessary for the base shelf prospectus to comply with the disclosure requirements for a short form prospectus. For example, if the securities being distributed using the shelf procedures are rated, that rating must be disclosed in a shelf prospectus supplement because National Instrument 44-101 requires all ratings, including provisional ratings, received from one or more approved rating organizations for the securities to be distributed and continuing in effect, to be disclosed in a short form prospectus.
- (3) Section 6.7 of National Instrument 44-102 provides that all shelf prospectus supplements pertaining to the securities being distributed under a base shelf prospectus shall be sent by prepaid mail or delivered to purchasers of the securities concurrently with the base shelf prospectus. A shelf prospectus supplement may take the form of a "sticker", a "wrap-around" or a one or more page supplement to a base shelf prospectus.

2.7 Firm Commitment Distributions - Paragraph 5 of section 5.6 of National Instrument 44-102 provides that a base shelf prospectus for securities to be distributed by one or more underwriters that have agreed to purchase the securities at a specified price may omit the statement that the securities are to be taken up by the underwriters, if at all, on or before a specified date. This paragraph provides an exemption from the requirement of securities legislation that this disclosure be contained in a prospectus. Issuers are reminded that paragraph 1 of subsection 6.3(2) of National Instrument 44-102 requires all information that was omitted from the base shelf prospectus to be included in a shelf prospectus supplement. Therefore, it is necessary to include in a shelf prospectus supplement the disclosure required under securities legislation relating to specific distributions that are being effected on a firm commitment basis.

2.8 Best Efforts Distributions - Paragraph 6 of section 5.6 of National Instrument 44-102 similarly provides that a base shelf prospectus for a distribution of securities underwritten on a best efforts basis for which a minimum amount of funds are required by an issuer may omit disclosure required under securities legislation concerning the maximum length of time for which the distribution can continue and concerning the disposition of subscription funds. Issuers are reminded that paragraph 1 of subsection 6.3(2) of National Instrument 44-102 requires all information that was omitted from the base shelf prospectus to be included in a shelf prospectus supplement. Therefore, it is necessary to include in a shelf prospectus supplement the disclosure required under securities legislation relating to specific distributions that are being effected on a best efforts basis.

2.9 Delivery Obligations - The securities regulatory authorities are of the view that statutory rights of rescission or withdrawal commence from the time of the purchaser's receipt of all relevant shelf prospectus supplements. It is only at this time that the entire prospectus has been delivered.

PART 3 SHELF PROSPECTUS AMENDMENTS**3.1 Shelf Prospectus Amendments**

- (1) Securities legislation in a number of jurisdictions requires that an amendment to a prospectus be filed if a material change occurs after the receipt for the prospectus is obtained but before the completion of the distribution under that prospectus. These requirements apply to base shelf prospectuses.
- (2) Subsection 5.8(1) of National Instrument 44-102 permits, in limited circumstances, the requirement in Canadian securities legislation to file an amendment to be satisfied by the incorporation by reference of material change reports filed after the base shelf prospectus has been received. This is an exception to the general principle set out in section 6.5 of Companion Policy 44-101CP. That section provides that the requirement in securities legislation to file an amendment is not satisfied by the incorporation by reference of material change reports filed after the short form prospectus has been received. The exception in subsection 5.8(1) of the National Instrument is limited to periods in which no securities are being distributed under the base shelf prospectus.
- (3) If securities are being distributed under a base shelf prospectus, the general principle referred in subsection (2) applies. The requirement of securities legislation to file an amendment to a prospectus if a material change occurs may be satisfied by filing an amendment which is also a material change report. In these circumstances, the material change report would:
 - (a) state that the base shelf prospectus is amended and supplemented by the contents of the material change report; and
 - (b) contain the certificates required to be contained in an amendment.

PART 4 PROSPECTUS CERTIFICATES**4.1 Prospectus Certificates**

- (1) Appendix A and Appendix B of National Instrument 44-102 provide for two alternate methods of executing prospectus certificates. Unless a particular method is prescribed, the choice of method may be changed between the date of filing of the preliminary base shelf prospectus and the date of filing of the base shelf prospectus. Furthermore, the method elected by an issuer, credit supporter and underwriter need not be the same. The method elected by an issuer applies to a promoter.
- (2) Method 1 requires that a forward looking prospectus certificate be included in a base shelf prospectus. Doing so allows the use of shelf prospectus supplements that do not contain prospectus certificates. Method 2 requires prospectus certificates that speak only to the present to be included in both the base shelf prospectus and each shelf prospectus supplement.
- (3) Method 1 is mandatory for a base shelf prospectus that establishes an MTN program. If an MTN program is established in a shelf prospectus supplement, method 1 is mandatory and prescribes that forward looking certificates be included, unless they were already included in the base shelf prospectus.

This page intentionally left blank.