



Charters of committees of Board of Directors of Royal Bank of Canada

Excerpted from ROYAL BANK OF CANADA ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ROYAL BANK OF CANADA (hereinafter referred to as the "Bank")

Audit Committee (as at December 4, 2009)

2.1 Audit Committee

2.1.1 Establishment of Committee and Procedures

- a) Establishment of Committee
A committee of the directors to be known as the "Audit Committee" (hereinafter the "Committee") is hereby established.
- b) Composition of Committee
The Committee shall be composed of not less than five directors. Each member shall be financially literate, as the Board of Directors interprets such qualification in its business judgment, or must become financially literate within a reasonable period of time after appointment to the Committee. At least one member shall have accounting or related financial management expertise, as the Board of Directors interprets such qualification in its business judgment and in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements. No member of the Committee may serve on the audit committees of more than two other public companies, unless the Board of Directors determines that this simultaneous service would not impair the ability of the member to serve effectively on the Committee.
- c) Independence of Committee Members
As required by the *Bank Act*, none of the members of the Committee shall be an officer or employee of the Bank or of an affiliate of the Bank. All of the members of the Committee shall be "unaffiliated", as determined by regulations made under the *Bank Act*. All of the members of the Committee shall be independent, as determined by director independence standards adopted by the Board in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements.
- d) Appointment of Committee Members
Members shall be appointed or reappointed at the annual organizational meeting of the directors and in the normal course will serve a minimum of three years. Each member shall continue to be a member until a successor is appointed, unless the member resigns, is removed or ceases to be a director. The Board of Directors may fill a vacancy that occurs in the Committee at any time.
- e) Committee Chairman and Secretary
The Board of Directors or, in the event of its failure to do so, the members of the Committee, shall appoint or reappoint, at the annual organizational meeting of the directors, a Chairman from among their number. The Chairman shall not be a former employee of the Bank or of an affiliate. The Committee shall also appoint a Secretary who need not be a director.
- f) Time and Place of Meetings
Meetings may be called by any member of the Committee, or by the external auditors. The time and place of and the procedure at meetings shall be determined from time to time by the members, provided that:
 - i) a quorum for meetings shall be three members, a majority of whom must be "resident Canadian" except as otherwise provided by the *Bank Act*;
 - ii) the Committee shall meet at least quarterly;
 - iii) the Committee may request any officer or employee of the Bank or the Bank's outside counsel or external auditors to attend a meeting of the Committee or to meet with any members of, or consultants to, the Committee;
 - iv) notice of the time and place of every meeting shall be given in writing or by telephone, facsimile, email or other electronic communication to each member of the Committee and to the external auditors at least 24 hours prior to the time fixed for such meeting, provided, however, that business referred to in paragraph 2.1.3.e)(iv) below may be transacted at a meeting of which at least one hour prior notice is given as aforesaid, and that a member may in any manner waive notice of a meeting; and attendance of a member at a meeting is a waiver of notice of the meeting, except where a member attends a meeting for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business on the grounds that the meeting is not lawfully called; and
 - v) a resolution in writing signed by all the members entitled to vote on that resolution at a Committee meeting, other than a resolution of the Committee carrying out its duties under subsection 194(3) of the *Bank Act*, shall be as valid as if it had been passed at a meeting of the Committee.

- g) Reporting to the Board of Directors
 - i) The Committee shall report to the Board of Directors following each meeting with respect to its activities and with such recommendations as are deemed desirable in the circumstances.
 - ii) Prior to approval by the directors, the Committee will also report to the Board on the annual statement and returns that must be approved by the directors under the *Bank Act*.
- h) Access to Management and External Advisors
 - i) In fulfilling its responsibilities, the Committee shall have unrestricted access to management and employees of the Bank. The Committee is also empowered to investigate any matter with full access to all books, records, facilities, management and employees of the Bank and the authority to select, retain, terminate and approve the fees of outside counsel or other experts for this purpose.
 - ii) The Committee shall, as it deems necessary to carry out its duties, select, retain, terminate and approve the fees of any independent legal, accounting or other advisor or consultant.
- i) Private Meetings
At least quarterly, the Committee shall have separate private meetings with the external auditors, the chief internal auditor, the general counsel, the chief compliance officer and management to discuss any matters that the Committee or these groups believe should be discussed.
- j) Evaluation of Effectiveness and Review of Mandate
The Committee shall annually review and assess the adequacy of its mandate and evaluate its effectiveness in fulfilling its mandate.

2.1.2 General Scope of Responsibilities and Purpose of the Committee

Management is responsible for the preparation, presentation and integrity of the Bank's financial statements and for maintaining appropriate accounting and financial reporting principles and policies and internal controls and procedures designed to ensure compliance with accounting standards and applicable laws and regulations.

The external auditors are responsible for planning and carrying out, in accordance with professional standards, an audit of the Bank's annual financial statements and internal control over financial reporting, and reviews of the Bank's quarterly financial information.

The Committee's purpose is to review the adequacy and effectiveness of these activities and to assist the Board in its oversight of:

- (i) the integrity of the Bank's financial statements;
- (ii) the external auditors' qualifications and independence;
- (iii) the performance of the Bank's internal audit function and external auditors;
- (iv) the adequacy and effectiveness of internal controls; and
- (v) the Bank's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements.

The Committee is also responsible for preparing any report from the Committee that may be required to be included in the Bank's annual proxy statement or that the Board elects to include on a voluntary basis.

The Committee shall meet every fiscal quarter, or more frequently at the discretion of the Committee if circumstances dictate, to discuss with management the annual audited financial statements and quarterly financial statements.

2.1.3 Specific Responsibilities

a) Documents and Reports

The Committee shall review:

- i) prior to review and approval by the Board and public disclosure: the annual statement of the Bank, which includes the annual audited financial statements; the quarterly financial statements of the Bank; the annual information form; the quarterly and annual management's discussion and analysis; and earnings press releases;
- ii) the types of financial information and earnings guidance provided and types of presentations made to analysts and rating agencies, and shall be satisfied that adequate procedures are in place for the review of the Bank's public disclosure of financial information extracted or derived from the Bank's financial statements and shall periodically assess the adequacy of these procedures;
- iii) such returns as the Superintendent of Financial Institutions may specify and other periodic disclosure documentation and reports as may be required under applicable law;
- iv) such investments and transactions that could adversely affect the well-being of the Bank as the external auditors or any officer of the Bank may bring to the attention of the Committee;
- v) prospectuses relating to the issuance of securities of the Bank;
- vi) an annual report on any litigation matters which could significantly affect the financial statements; and
- vii) an annual report from the chief compliance officer on regulatory compliance matters.

b) Internal Control

The Committee shall:

- i) require management to implement and maintain appropriate systems of internal control, including internal controls over financial reporting and for the prevention and detection of fraud and error;
- ii) review, evaluate and approve systems of internal control and meet with the chief internal auditor and with management to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of these systems of internal control and to obtain on a regular basis reasonable assurance that the organization is in control;
- iii) receive reports from the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer as to the existence of any significant deficiency or material weakness in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the Bank's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information and as to the existence of any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the Bank's internal control over financial reporting;
- iv) review and approve the Bank's disclosure policy and review reports on the effectiveness of the Bank's disclosure controls and procedures; and
- v) review the process relating to and the certifications of the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer, including certifications on the design and effectiveness of the Bank's disclosure controls and procedures and internal control over financial reporting, and the integrity of the Bank's quarterly and annual financial statements.

c) Internal Auditor

The Committee shall:

- i) review and concur in the appointment, replacement, reassignment or dismissal of the chief internal auditor and review the mandate, annual audit plan, and resources of the internal audit function;
- ii) meet with the chief internal auditor to review the results of internal audit activities, including any significant issues reported to management by the internal audit function and management's responses and/or corrective actions;
- iii) meet with the chief internal auditor to review the status of identified control weaknesses;
- iv) review representations from the chief internal auditor, based on audit work done, on the adequacy and degree of compliance with the Bank's systems of internal control;
- v) review the performance, degree of independence and objectivity of the internal audit function and adequacy of the internal audit process; and
- vi) review with the chief internal auditor any issues that may be brought forward by the chief internal auditor, including any difficulties encountered by the internal audit function, such as audit scope, information access, or staffing restrictions.

d) External Auditors

The Committee shall have the authority and responsibility to recommend the appointment and the revocation of the appointment of any registered public accounting firm (including the external auditors) engaged for the purpose of preparing or issuing an audit report or performing other audit, review or attest services, and to fix their remuneration, subject to the powers conferred on the shareholders by the *Bank Act*. The Committee shall be responsible for the oversight of the work of each such accounting firm, including resolution of disagreements between management and the accounting firm regarding financial reporting, and each such firm shall report directly to the Committee. The Committee shall:

- i) meet with the external auditors to review and discuss the annual audit plan, the results of the audit, their report with respect to the annual statement and the returns and transactions referred to in subsection 194(3) of the *Bank Act*, and the report required to be provided to the Committee by the external auditors pursuant to Rule 2-07 of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission's Regulation S-X;
- ii) have the sole authority to approve all audit engagement fees and terms, as well as the provision and the terms of any legally permissible non-audit services to be provided by the external auditors to the Bank, with such approval to be given either specifically or pursuant to preapproval policies and procedures adopted by the committee;
- iii) review with the external auditors any issues that may be brought forward by the external auditors, including any audit problems or difficulties, such as restrictions on their audit activities or access to requested information, and management's response;
- iv) annually review with the external auditors their qualifications, independence and objectivity, including formal written statements delineating all relationships between the external auditors and the Bank that may impact such independence and objectivity;
- v) discuss with the external auditors and with management the annual audited financial statements and quarterly financial statements, including the disclosures contained in the annual and quarterly management's discussion and analysis;
- vi) review hiring policies concerning partners, employees and former partners and employees of the present and former external auditors;
- vii) review and evaluate the qualifications, performance and independence of the lead partner of the external auditors and discuss the timing and process for implementing the rotation of the lead audit partner, the concurring audit partners and any other active audit engagement team partner;
- viii) at least annually, obtain and review a report by the external auditors describing: the external auditors' internal quality-control procedures; to the extent permitted under the relevant review process, any material issues raised by the most recent internal quality-control review, or peer review, of the external auditors, or by any inquiry or investigation by governmental or professional authorities, within the preceding five years, respecting one or more independent audits carried out by the external auditors, and any steps taken to deal with any such issues; and

- ix) take into account the opinions of management and the Bank's internal auditors in assessing the qualifications, performance and independence of the external auditors.

e) Liquidity, Funding and Capital Management

The Committee:

- i) shall review and approve at least once a year the liquidity and funding management policies including contingency plans as well as capital management policies recommended by management;
- ii) shall review on a regular basis the liquidity, funding and capital position and liquidity, funding and capital management processes;
- iii) shall obtain on a regular basis reasonable assurance that the Bank's liquidity and funding management policies and capital management policies are being adhered to;
- iv) as provided in the relevant standing resolutions of the Board of Directors, may designate and authorize the issue of First Preferred Shares and the issue of securities qualifying as Tier 2A capital under capital adequacy guidelines issued by the Superintendent of Financial Institutions; and
- v) in connection with the exercise of the power delegated to senior management to authorize and approve issues of subordinated indebtedness of the Bank, shall review and approve the Draft Securities Disclosure Document as provided in the relevant standing resolution of the Board of Directors.

f) Other

- i) The Committee shall discuss major issues regarding accounting principles and financial statement presentations, including significant changes in the Bank's selection or application of accounting principles, analyses prepared by management or the external auditors setting forth significant financial reporting issues and judgments made in connection with the preparation of the financial statements, including analyses of the effect on the financial statements of alternative methods of applying Canadian or U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, of regulatory and accounting initiatives and of off-balance sheet structures.
- ii) The Committee shall establish procedures for the receipt, retention, treatment and resolution of complaints received by the Bank regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters, as well as procedures for the confidential and anonymous submission by employees of concerns regarding accounting or auditing matters.
- iii) The Committee shall review and discuss any reports concerning material violations submitted to it by Bank attorneys or counsel pursuant to the attorney professional responsibility rules of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, the Bank's attorney reporting policy, or otherwise.
- iv) The Committee shall discuss the major financial risk exposures of the Bank and the steps management has taken to monitor and control such exposures.
- v) Subject to the laws applicable to the subsidiary, the Committee may perform for and on behalf of a subsidiary the functions of an audit committee of the subsidiary.