ONTARIO SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE COMMERCIAL LIST

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

AND IN THE MATTER OF A PLAN OF COMPROMISE OR ARRANGEMENT OF **JTI-MACDONALD CORP.**

Applicant

MOTION RECORD (Re: Stay Extension) (Returnable on September 27, 2021)

September 17, 2021

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Court File No. 19-CV-615862-00CL Court File No. 19-CV-616077-00CL Court File No. 19-CV-616779-00CL

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

AND IN THE MATTER OF A PLAN OF COMPROMISE OR ARRANGEMENT OF JTI-MACDONALD CORP.

AND IN THE MATTER OF A PLAN OF COMPROMISE OR ARRANGEMENT OF **IMPERIAL TOBACCO CANADA LIMITED** AND **IMPERIAL TOBACCO COMPANY LIMITED**

AND IN THE MATTER OF A PLAN OF COMPROMISE OR ARRANGEMENT OF **ROTHMANS, BENSON & HEDGES INC.**

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ONTARIO SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE COMMERCIAL LIST

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

AND IN THE MATTER OF A PLAN OF COMPROMISE OR ARRANGEMENT OF **JTI-MACDONALD CORP.**

Applicant

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Tab	Document
1	Notice of Motion returnable September 27, 2021
2	Affidavit of William E. Aziz sworn September 17, 2021
3	Draft Stay Extension Order

TAB 1

ONTARIO SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE COMMERCIAL LIST

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

AND IN THE MATTER OF A PLAN OF COMPROMISE OR ARRANGEMENT OF **JTI-MACDONALD CORP.**

Applicant

NOTICE OF MOTION (Re: Stay Extension) (Returnable on September 27, 2021)

The Applicant will make a motion to Justice McEwen of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice (Commercial List) on September 27, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., or as soon after that time as the motion can be heard, by judicial video conference via Zoom at Toronto, Ontario.

PROPOSED METHOD OF HEARING: The motion is to be heard orally.

THE MOTION IS FOR:

- (a) An Order extending the Stay Period (as defined in the Initial Order granted in these proceedings on March 8, 2019 (as amended and restated, the "Initial Order")), which is currently set to expire on September 30, 2021, up to and including March 31, 2022; and
- (b) Such further and other relief as this Court deems just.

THE GROUNDS FOR THE MOTION ARE:

A. Background of CCAA Proceedings

- All capitalized terms not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings set forth in the Initial Order.
- 2. The Applicant is: (i) a defendant in significant healthcare cost recovery litigation commenced by each of the ten provinces, alleging over \$600 billion in claims against JTIM and the other defendants in the HCCR Actions, (ii) subject to the judgment in the Quebec Class Actions up to the approximate amount of \$13.5 billion plus accruing interest, and (iii) a named defendant in certain class actions that have been commenced, but not certified, in six provinces.
- 3. The Applicant sought the protections afforded under the CCAA in order to maintain the *status quo* of its operations, preserve going concern value, and provide the Applicant with a period of stability within which to find a collective resolution to the Tobacco Claims made against the Applicant.
- 4. On March 8, 2019, the Applicant was granted protection from its creditors under the CCAA pursuant to the Initial Order. Deloitte Restructuring Inc. was appointed as monitor of the Applicant (in such capacity, the "Monitor"). On April 5, 2019, pursuant to the Amended and Restated Initial Order, the Honourable Warren K. Winkler, Q.C. (the "Court-Appointed Mediator") was appointed to mediate a global settlement of the Tobacco Claims against the Applicant and the other defendants.

- 5. The Initial Order granted a stay of proceedings until April 5, 2019, which stay of proceedings has been subsequently extended most recently up to and including September 30, 2021.
- Since the date of the Initial Order, Imperial Tobacco Company Limited and Imperial Tobacco Canada Limited (together, "Imperial") and Rothmans, Benson & Hedges Inc. ("RBH") have sought protection from their creditors under the CCAA.

B. Stay Extension

- 7. The Applicant seeks an extension of the Stay Period until March 31, 2022.
- 8. The projected cash flow forecast, as prepared by the Applicant, with the assistance of the Monitor, demonstrates that the Applicant has sufficient liquidity to operate its business and meet its obligations during the proposed extension of the Stay Period.
- 9. Extending the Stay Period is required to enable the Applicant to continue to operate in the ordinary course while participating in the mediation process in an effort to seek a collective resolution of the Tobacco Claims against the Applicant.
- 10. The Applicant also relies on:
 - (a) the provisions of the CCAA and the statutory, inherent and equitable jurisdiction of this Court;
 - (b) Rules 1.04, 1.05, 2.03, 3.02, 16, 37 and 39 of the Ontario *Rules of Civil Procedure*, R.R.O. 1990, Reg 194, as amended and Section 106 of the *Courts of Justice Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. C.43 as amended; and

(c) such further and other grounds as counsel may advise and this Court may permit.

THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE will be used at the hearing of this application:

(a) the Affidavit of William E. Aziz, sworn September 17, 2021;

- (b) the Tenth Report of the Monitor, to be filed; and
- (c) such further and other evidence as counsel may advise and this Court may permit.

September 17, 2021

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TO: THE COMMON SERVICE LIST

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

AND IN THE MATTER OF A PLAN OF COMPROMISE OR ARRANGEMENT OF JTI-MACDONALD CORP.

Court File No.: CV-19-615862-00CL

ONTARIO SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE (COMMERCIAL LIST)

Proceedings commenced at Toronto

NOTICE OF MOTION (Re: Stay Extension) (Returnable on September 27, 2021)

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ONTARIO SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE COMMERCIAL LIST

IN THE MATTER OF THE *COMPANIES' CREDITORS ARRANGEMENT ACT*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36, AS AMENDED AND IN THE MATTER OF A PLAN OF COMPROMISE OR ARRANGEMENT OF **JTI-MACDONALD CORP**.

Applicant

AFFIDAVIT OF WILLIAM E. AZIZ (Sworn September 17, 2021)

I, **WILLIAM E. AZIZ**, of the Town of Oakville, in the Province of Ontario, MAKE OATH AND SAY:

- I am the President of BlueTree Advisors Inc., which has been retained by JTI-Macdonald Corp. (the "Applicant" or "JTIM") to provide my services to JTIM as Chief Restructuring Officer ("CRO") of JTIM.
- 2. My appointment as CRO of JTIM was approved pursuant to the Initial Order (as amended and restated from time to time, the "Initial Order") granted by the Ontario Superior Court of Justice (Commercial List) (the "Court") on March 8, 2019 under the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act* ("CCAA").
- 3. As the CRO of JTIM, I have knowledge of the matters to which I herein depose, except where I have obtained information from others. Where I have obtained information from others, I have stated the source of the information and believe it to be true.
- 4. All capitalized terms used herein and not otherwise defined have the meanings set forth in the Initial Order.

I. INTRODUCTION

- This affidavit is sworn in support of a motion for an Order extending the Stay Period to March 31, 2022.
- 6. The Applicant, through its predecessor corporations and other related business entities, has been a manufacturer and distributor of tobacco products in Canada since 1858. JTIM is a private company, headquartered in Mississauga, Ontario, and is the smallest Canadian tobacco company subject to the Pending Litigation based on volume of sales in Canada.
- 7. As described in previous affidavits sworn in these CCAA proceedings, JTIM is subject to: (i) HCCR Actions by each province in Canada seeking over \$600 billion in total relating to the recovery of alleged health care costs, (ii) the judgment in the Quebec Class Actions (the "QCA Judgment") up to the approximate amount of \$13.5 billion plus accruing interest, on a joint and several basis with Imperial and RBH (each as defined below), and (iii) certain class action proceedings that have been commenced, but not certified, in six provinces in Canada (the "Consumer Class Actions").
- 8. The Applicant sought the protections afforded under the CCAA in order to: (i) maintain the *status quo* of its operations, (ii) preserve going concern value, and (iii) provide the Applicant with a period of stability within which to attempt to find a collective resolution to all of the Tobacco Claims asserted against it. But for the QCA Judgment and the other contingent tobacco-related litigation claims, the Applicant is a profitable and viable corporation.

- 9. On March 8, 2019, the Applicant was granted protection from its creditors under the CCAA pursuant to the Initial Order. Pursuant to the Initial Order, Deloitte Restructuring Inc. was appointed as the monitor (in such capacity, the "**Monitor**") of the Applicant in these CCAA proceedings.
- 10. On April 5, 2019, pursuant to the Initial Order of the Honourable Mr. Justice McEwen, the Honourable Warren K. Winkler, Q.C., was appointed as an officer of the Court and a neutral third party mediator (the "**Court-Appointed Mediator**") to mediate a global settlement of the Tobacco Claims against the Applicant.
- 11. The Initial Order provides for a Court-ordered stay of proceedings, which is currently set to expire on September 30, 2021, pursuant to the Stay Extension Order issued on March 30, 2021 (the "Stay Extension Order").
- 12. On March 12, 2019 and March 22, 2019, Imperial Tobacco Canada Limited and Imperial Tobacco Company Limited (together, "Imperial") and Rothmans, Benson & Hedges Inc. ("RBH") each filed for creditor protection under the CCAA, respectively. Imperial and RBH are defendants under the HCCR Actions, the QCA Judgment and the Consumer Class Actions. I understand that there is currently a similar stay of all proceedings in respect of all three of the tobacco defendants.

II. ACTIVITIES SINCE STAY EXTENSION ORDER

13. Since the Stay Extension Order, the Applicant has continued to operate in the ordinary course and participate in the CCAA proceedings and the mediation process. The following summarizes the Applicant's activities since the Stay Extension Order:

Operational

- (a) the Applicant continued to manage its relationships with customers, suppliers, employees and other stakeholders to ensure there is no disruption to its operations during the CCAA proceedings and to maintain an uninterrupted supply of products and services;
- (b) the Applicant continued to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic in accordance with applicable regulations and bylaws, guidance from Health Canada and the public health guidance in Ontario, Quebec and elsewhere and took steps to minimize disruption to the operation of the manufacturing facility;

Global Transformation Project

(c) as described in my affidavit sworn September 22, 2019, certain of the Applicant's activities in the human resources, finance, information technology and purchasing departments were centralized globally (the "Global Transformation Project"). The purposes of the Global Transformation Project were to reduce duplication and capitalize on economies of scale, improving global competitiveness and efficiencies. The Applicant continued its implementation of the Global Transformation Project whereby the JTI Global Business Services Center in Manila, Philippines ("GBS Manila") began performing certain human resources, finance and purchasing activities for the Applicant as well as taking on the activities that were previously performed by the JTI Manchester Business Service Center ("BSC Manchester"). In alignment with this handover of activities, the Applicant was not charged for any services from the BSC Manchester after December 31, 2020 and certain employees of the Applicant have begun receiving severance

payments. The proposed terms of the intercompany agreement between the Applicant and GBS Manila were reviewed by the Monitor and the Monitor has provided its approval of this agreement pursuant to paragraph 9 of the Initial Order. Following the Monitor's approval, the agreement was fully executed by both parties and payments have been made for services rendered by GBS Manila. The negotiation of terms with JTI's Global Business Service Center in Warsaw, Poland ("GBS Warsaw") remains outstanding, including approval by the Monitor. GBS Warsaw is performing human resources recruitment activities as well as certain legal and regulatory affairs activities that are not available in GBS Manila. The Applicant anticipates finalizing the terms of this agreement, including seeking approval by the Monitor, during the next few months. Once the agreement is fully executed, payments would be made for services performed;

Collective Bargaining Agreement

(d) I have been advised by the Applicant that its collective bargaining agreement with its unionized employees represented by the Syndicat International de Travailleurs et Travailleuses de la Boulangerie, Confiserie, Tabac et Meunerie, Section Local 235T, expired in 2020, however, the parties agreed to a temporary moratorium on negotiations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The labour negotiations resumed in 2021 and the Applicant reached an acceptable collective bargaining agreement in June 2021, which was signed in July 2021. Pursuant to the Initial Order, the Applicant is entitled to pay all wages, salaries, commissions, compensation, bonuses and incentive plan payments incurred in the ordinary course of business or with Monitor approval. I understand that the Applicant is of the view that the collective bargaining agreement is consistent with existing compensation policies and arrangements, however, out of an abundance of caution, the Applicant did seek approval of the Monitor prior to ratifying the agreement, which was provided. The agreement has a six-year term, retroactive to May 1, 2020, and provides salary increases and benefit improvements in line with previous collective bargaining agreements between the parties. The impact of this agreement is reflected in the forecast of projected cash flows noted below in paragraph 15;

Swann Action

(e) further to the Order granted May 14, 2019 lifting the stay of proceedings to permit the continuation of a personal injury matter involving an employee of the Applicant as co-defendant (the "Swann Action"), the continuation of this proceeding resulted in the settlement and dismissal of the Swann Action entirely without liability to JTIM or any payment made by JTIM;

CCAA proceedings

- (f) the Applicant's external counsel and I continued to provide regular updates and information to the Monitor and its counsel of material developments with respect to the business, the CCAA proceedings and the mediation, to the extent that the Monitor was not directly involved in such discussions;
- (g) the Applicant's external counsel and I coordinated with counsel to Imperial and counsel to RBH from time to time in respect of common CCAA issues among the three tobacco companies;

(h) in accordance with the Professional Fee Disclosure Order issued May 14, 2019, the
 Applicant consulted with the Monitor regarding the monthly fee disclosure
 summaries delivered to the stakeholders by the Monitor;

Mediation

- the Applicant's external counsel and I have continued to communicate with and participate in the process established by the Court-Appointed Mediator in an effort to advance the ongoing mediation process;
- (j) the Applicant has complied with the timetable and steps of the mediation process that has been established by the Court-Appointed Mediator;
- (k) in addition to responding to specific information requests, the Applicant continued to compile commercially sensitive and confidential information for inclusion in the VDR created by the Monitor, for the purposes of providing relevant information to certain stakeholders in respect of the Applicant's business, operations, finances and future prospects; and
- the Applicant is participating in the mediation in good faith and as requested by the Mediator.

III. EXTENSION OF THE STAY PERIOD

14. The Applicant seeks an extension of the Stay Period until March 31, 2022. It is my understanding from counsel to JTIM that Imperial and RBH are also seeking an extension of their respective stay periods until the same date. The Applicant believes that continuing to coordinate the stay periods at this stage in the proceedings is efficient, cost-effective and in the best interests of the court-ordered mediation process that continues.

- 15. JTIM, with the assistance of the Monitor, has prepared a forecast of the projected cash flows (the "Cash Flow Statement") of JTIM for the week commencing September 6, 2021 to the week ending April 1, 2022. I understand that the Cash Flow Statement will be appended to the Monitor's Tenth Report to the Court, to be filed. The Cash Flow Statement demonstrates that JTIM has sufficient liquidity to operate its business and meet its obligations during the proposed extension of the Stay Period.
- 16. Extending the Stay Period is required to enable the Applicant to continue to operate in the ordinary course while participating in the mediation process and continuing discussions to seek a collective resolution of the Tobacco Claims. The Applicant has acted in good faith and with due diligence during the course of its CCAA proceedings since the date of the Initial Order.

IV. PURPOSE

 This affidavit is sworn in support of JTIM's motion for the extension of the Stay Period to March 31, 2022 and for no other or improper purpose.

SWORN BEFORE ME BY VIDEO CONFERENCE by William E. Aziz on September 17, 2021 in accordance with *O. Reg. 431/20, Administering Oath or Declaration Remotely.* The affiant was in the Town of Oakville, in the Province of Ontario and the commissioner was in the City of Toronto, in the Province of Ontario.

Mian J.

WILLIAM E. AZIZ

Bengino

Commissioner for Taking Affidavits

IN THE MATTER OF THE *COMPANIES' CREDITORS ARRANGEMENT ACT*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36, AS AMENDED AND IN THE MATTER OF A PLAN OF COMPROMISE OR ARRANGEMENT OF **JTI-MACDONALD CORP**.

Court File No.: CV-19-615862-00CL

ONTARIO SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE (COMMERCIAL LIST)

Proceedings commenced at Toronto

AFFIDAVIT OF WILLIAM E. AZIZ (Sworn September 17, 2021)

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Lawyers for the Applicant

TAB 3

Court File No. CV-19-615862-00CL

ONTARIO SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE (COMMERCIAL LIST)

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THE HONOURABLE

JUSTICE MCEWEN

MONDAY, THE 27TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2021

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

AND IN THE MATTER OF A PLAN OF COMPROMISE OR ARRANGEMENT OF **JTI-MACDONALD CORP.**

STAY EXTENSION ORDER

THIS MOTION, made by JTI-Macdonald Corp. (the "**Applicant**"), pursuant to the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36, as amended (the "**CCAA**") was heard this day by way of judicial video conference in Toronto, Ontario due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

ON READING the affidavit of William E. Aziz sworn September 17, 2021 and the exhibits thereto, and the Tenth Report of the Monitor, as filed by Deloitte Restructuring Inc. in its capacity as Monitor of the Applicant (the "**Monitor**"), and on hearing the submissions of counsel for the Applicant, counsel for the Monitor and such other counsel as were present, no one else appearing although duly served as appears from the affidavit of service of Rachel Bengino sworn on September 17, 2021, filed:

SERVICE

1. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the time for service and filing of the Notice of Motion and the Motion Record is hereby validated so that this Motion was properly returnable on September 27, 2021, and hereby dispenses with further service thereof.

STAY EXTENSION

2. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Stay Period, as ordered and defined in paragraph 18 of the Initial Order granted March 8, 2019 (as amended and restated from time to time) (the "**Initial Order**") is hereby extended until and including March 31, 2022.

GENERAL

3. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that this Order is effective from the date that it is made and is enforceable without any need for entry and filing.

4. **THIS COURT HEREBY REQUESTS** the aid and recognition of any court, tribunal, regulatory or administrative body having jurisdiction in Canada or in the United States to give effect to this Order and to assist the Applicant and the Monitor in carrying out the terms of this Order. All courts, tribunals, regulatory and administrative bodies are hereby respectfully requested to make such orders and to provide such assistance to the Applicant and the Monitor as may be necessary or desirable to give effect to this Order or to assist the Applicant and the Monitor in carrying out the terms of this Order.

IN THE MATTER OF THE *COMPANIES' CREDITORS ARRANGEMENT ACT*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36, AS AMENDED AND IN THE MATTER OF A PLAN OF COMPROMISE OR ARRANGEMENT OF **JTI-MACDONALD CORP**.

Court File No.: CV-19-615862-00CL

ONTARIO SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE (COMMERCIAL LIST)

Proceedings commenced at Toronto

STAY EXTENSION ORDER

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

AND IN THE MATTER OF A PLAN OF COMPROMISE OR ARRANGEMENT OF JTI-MACDONALD CORP.

Court File No.: CV-19-615862-00CL

ONTARIO SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE (COMMERCIAL LIST)

Proceedings commenced at Toronto

MOTION RECORD (Re: Stay Extension)

(Returnable on September 27, 2021)

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