Deloitte.

COURT FILE NUMBER 1701-08644

COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH OF ALBERTA

JUDICIAL CENTRE CALGARY

PLAINTIFF CENTURION MORTGAGE CAPITAL CORPORATION

DEFENDANTS THE BRIDGES STEPS LIMITED PARNTERSHIP, by it general

partner, GIUSTINI BRIDGES INC., GIUSTINI BRIDGES INC., ASSURED DEVELOPMENTS LTD., GIUSTINI DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, SBG INVESTMENT CORP., 1670749 ALBERTA LTD., 1670759 ALBERTA LTD., CANTERRA CUSTOM HOMES INC.,

and JORDAN GIUSTINI

DOCUMENT THIRD AND FINAL REPORT OF THE COURT APPOINTED

RECEIVER AND MANAGER OF THE BRIDGES STEPS LIMITED PARTNERSHIP AND GIUSTINI BRIDGES INC.

DATED JANUARY 5, 2021

PREPARED BY DELOITTE RESTRUCTURING INC.

ADDRESS FOR SERVICE AND CONTACT INFORMATION OF PARTY FILING THIS

DOCUMENT

Counsel

Dentons Canada LLP Bankers Court

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Receiver and Manager

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INTRODUCTION

- 1) Pursuant to an Order (the "Receivership Order") of the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta (the "Court") granted on July 25, 2017 (the "Date of Receivership"), Deloitte Restructuring Inc. ("Deloitte") was appointed receiver and manager (the "Receiver") of the land described as Plan 0512930 Block 7 Lot 1 (the "Mortgaged Lands") and of all the undertakings, property and assets of The Bridges Steps Limited Partnership ("BSLP") and Giustini Bridges Inc. ("GBI") (collectively the "Debtors") situated upon or relating to the Mortgaged Lands.
- 2) The Receivership Order was granted as a result of an application by Centurion Mortgage Capital Corporation ("Centurion"), who holds registered security over all of the Debtors' present and after-acquired real and personal property and by consent of counsel for the Defendants.
- 3) Following the issuance of the Receivership Order, the Receiver, on August 3, 2017, mailed to all known creditors of the Debtors, the Notice and Statement of the Receiver (the "**Notice to Creditors**") pursuant to subsections 245(1) and 246(1) of the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act (Canada).
- 4) On the Mortgaged Lands, the Debtors intended to develop a 122-unit multi-family real estate condominium development project to be called The Steps Bridges (the "Project"). As at the Date of Receivership, 81 purchase and sale contracts and one (1) conditional sale contract had been executed (the "Purchaser Contracts"). Purchasers ("Purchasers") were required to provide a minimum deposit of five percent (5%) of the total purchase price upon execution of a Purchase Contract, comprising either cash or bond (the "Deposits"). The Deposits were initially held in trust with the Debtors' former solicitors, McLeod Law LLP ("McLeod"). Deposits totalled \$2.6 million and the Receiver understands the Deposits are insured by an Alberta Condominium Deposit Protection Insurance Policy through Aviva Insurance Company of Canada ("Aviva").
- On November 27, 2017, the Court granted a Redemption Order as subsequently amended by the Consent Order granted on January 5, 2018 (collectively the "Judicial Listing Order") which set out certain terms and conditions including a listing price for the Mortgaged Lands and a minimum listing period in connection to the sale process of the Mortgaged Lands by a realtor (the "Judicial Sales Process").
- On April 10, 2018, the First Report of the Receiver (the "First Report") was filed in support of the Order pronounced on April 24, 2018 (the "April 24 Order"), approving a 90-day extension of the Judicial Sales Process, along with approving the actions of the Receiver.
- On July 5, 2018, Centurion filed an affidavit in support of the Order pronounced on July 19, 2018 (the "**July 19 Order**"), approving the second 90-day extension of the Judicial Sales Process.
- 8) On November 19, 2018, Centurion filed two (2) affidavits in support of the application brought before this Honourable Court on November 27, 2018 seeking, among other relief, the approval of the sale of the Mortgaged Lands and vesting order, and the assignment of the Purchase Contracts. The Second Report of the Receiver (the "Second Report") was also filed in support of the application seeking approval for an increase in the Receiver's Borrowing Facility and the Receiver's discharge.

- 9) On November 27, 2018, this Honourable Court pronounced the Order approving the increase in the Receiver's Borrowing Facility from \$375,000 to \$500,000.
- 10) As the Court and Debtors counsel requested certain adjustments to the draft sale and vesting order it was not until December 13, 2018 that this Honourable Court pronounced the Oder approving the sale of the Mortgaged Lands to Centurion. The Purchase Contracts were not assigned with the sale of the Mortgaged Lands.
- On April 18, 2019, the Decision of the Honourable Madame Justice B.E. Romaine (the "April 18 Decision") was issued with respect to the deposits in connection with the Purchase Contracts. The April 18 Decision stated that the Purchasers who had obtained legal counsel and were represented in Court were entitled to have their Purchase Contracts considered terminated and all remaining Purchasers may choose to terminate their contracts by notice to the Debtor, the Receiver, and to Aviva. On April 18, 2019, the Court also pronounced an Order (the "April 18 Order") regarding the same. A copy of the April 18 Decision and the April 18 Order are attached as Appendix "A" and Appendix "B", respectively.
- 12) On April 25, 2019, the Receiver provided correspondence to the Purchasers that all purchase contracts would be considered terminated unless otherwise advised by the Purchaser. As at the date of this Third Report no Purchaser has contacted the Receiver indicating any intention to continue with their respective purchase contract.
- On April 29, 2019, the Debtors filed a Civil Notice of Appeal with respect to the April 18 Decision. The Appeal scheduled to be heard on October 13, 2020 was withdrawn on October 6, 2020. Accordingly, the Receiver considers all purchase contracts have been effectively terminated.
- 14) The Receivership Order, the Judicial Listing Order, related supplementary documents, the Notice to Creditors, the First Report, the Second Report, and this third and final report of the Receiver (this "**Third Report**") are posted on the Receiver's website at http://www.insolvencies.deloitte.ca/en-ca/Pages/Bridges.aspx
- 15) Unless otherwise stated, all capitalized terms not defined in this Report are as defined in the Receivership Order, the Judicial Listing Order, and in the Receiver's First Report and Second Report.

Purpose

- 16) The purpose of this Third Report is to:
 - a) Provide the Court with an update of the Receiver's activities since the date of the Second Report; and
 - b) Respectfully recommend that this Honourable Court:
 - Approve the actions of the Receiver as outlined in this Third Report;
 - ii. Approve the Receiver's Statement of Receipts and Disbursements for the period from July 25, 2017 to January 4, 2021 (the "**SRD**");
 - iii. Approve the professional fees and disbursements of the Receiver over the course of the receivership, including the payment of estimated fees to the completion of the administration of the estate, as set out herein;

- iv. Approve the discharge of the Receiver after disbursement of all funds held and concluding all administrative matters; and
- v. Provide such further and other relief that the Court considers just and warranted in the circumstances.

Terms of Reference

17) In developing this Third Report, the Receiver has relied upon unaudited financial information prepared by the Debtors' management, the Debtors' books and records and discussions with its management. The Receiver has not audited, reviewed or otherwise attempted to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information in a manner that would wholly or partially comply with Generally Accepted Assurance Standards pursuant to the *Chartered Professional Accountants Canada Handbook* and, accordingly, the Receiver expresses no opinion or other form of assurance in respect of the information.

Currency

18) All dollar amounts in this Third Report are in Canadian dollars, unless otherwise indicated.

RECEIVER'S ACTIVITIES

- 19) The Receiver has undertaken the following activities since the date of the Second Report:
 - a) Continued to monitor and maintain the Mortgage Lands until the Mortgaged Lands were transferred to Centurion pursuant to the Court Order granted on December 13, 2018;
 - b) Corresponded with various parties on the status of the receivership mainly in connection with the Purchaser's deposits;
 - c) Addressed GST matters;
 - d) Prepared, reviewed, and finalized this Third Report including the Final SRD; and
 - e) Addressed various additional matters as they arose from time to time.

PURCHASER'S CONTRACTS AND DEPOSITS

- 20) McLeod previously held total deposits of approximately \$2.6M in trust in respect of the Purchaser Contracts. Prior to the Date of Receivership, Aviva authorized the release of approximately \$2.3 million of the held deposits for Project purposes. Aviva provided deposit protection to the Debtors to ensure that any deposits Aviva authorized to be released from trust are insured.
- 21) A deposit of approximately \$30,000 was paid into Court as a result of litigation proceedings commenced against the Debtors by a Purchaser prior to the Date of Receivership. The Receiver understands that the deposit is being held by the Court

- and accordingly, the Purchaser would have no claim against Aviva as the deposit remains with the Court.
- 22) McLeod continues to hold the remaining deposits of approximately \$239,000. A summary of the deposits held in trust are attached as Appendix "C".
- As noted previously herein at paragraphs 12 and 13, as a result of the April 18 Decision, the April 25, 2019 communication by the Receiver to the Purchasers and the withdrawal of the Debtors appeal of the April 18 Decision on October 6, 2020, it is the Receiver's view that all Purchase Contracts have been effectively terminated.
- 24) The Receiver has been advised that Aviva is establishing and will administer a claims process with respect to the Purchaser Contracts such that each Purchaser will likely be required to file a claim with Aviva with respect to the amount of their Deposit. The Receiver also understands that Aviva will correspond with the Court agreeing to the release of the one Deposit held by the Court. The Receiver expects that correspondence regarding the claims process will be provided to the Purchasers by Aviva.
- 25) The Receiver further expects that Aviva will deal directly with McLeod in order to determine how to deal with the deposits held by McLeod.
- The Receiver confirms that it does not hold any deposits and will not be administering the claims process regarding the Purchasers deposits.

FEES AND DISBURSEMENTS OF THE RECEIVER

- 27) The Receiver's professional fees are calculated based on hours spent at rates established by each professional based on their respective qualifications and experience.
- The Receiver's professional fees for administration of the receivership to date total approximately \$99,790 (excluding GST). This total includes interim invoices rendered for the Receiver's professional fees from July 25, 2017 to July 22, 2019 totalling approximately \$83,284 (excluding GST), work-in-progress for the period July 23, 2019 to January 4, 2021 in the amount of approximately \$14,006 (excluding GST), and estimates it will incur approximately \$2,500 (excluding GST) in connection with attending Court to obtain the Receiver's discharge and subsequently winding up all administrative matters.
- 29) In the Receiver's opinion, the services rendered in respect of these fees and disbursements have been duly rendered in response to required and necessary duties of the Receiver hereunder and are reasonable in the circumstances. Detailed time records supporting the invoices and unbilled work in progress are available in the office of the Receiver.
- 30) The Receiver did not retain independent legal counsel during the receivership proceedings, and accordingly, has incurred no legal fees.
- 31) The Receiver's final account will be paid from the Receiver's Borrowing Facility with the balance remaining, if any, to be returned to Centurion.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

The Receiver has prepared the SRD for the period of July 25, 2017 to January 4, 2021, attached as Appendix "**D**" which outlines the administration of the receivership.

REMAINING ACTIVITIES AND DISCHARGE OF RECEIVER

- The Receiver has concluded the majority of its administration of the receivership. The remaining tasks to conclude the receivership proceedings are as follows:
 - a) Completion of remaining GST tax reporting, and closing of the receivership period tax accounts;
 - b) Payment of its professional fees from the remaining balance of the Fifth Receiver's Certificate dated December 27, 2018;
 - c) Prepare a final statutory report and file same with the Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy in accordance with subsection 246(3) of the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act; and
 - d) Closing of the Receiver's trust accounts.
- Other than the matters addressed in this Third Report, the Receiver has completed its administration of the estate in accordance with the terms of the Receivership Order and the various other orders rendered by the Court in the course of these proceedings. The Receiver is not aware of its services being required for any further purpose other than as set out herein. Accordingly, the Receiver recommends that it be discharged.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

35) Based on the foregoing, the Receiver respectfully recommends that this Honourable Court grant the relief detailed in Section 16 b) of this Third Report and such further and other relief, as this Honourable Court deems appropriate in the circumstances.

All of which is respectfully submitted at Calgary, Alberta this 5th day of January 2021

DELOITTE RESTRUCTURING INC.

Solely in its capacity as Court appointed Receiver and Manager of The Project (as defined herein) And not in its personal or corporate capacity

Robert J. Taylor, FCA, FCPA, CIRP, LIT, CFE Senior Vice-President

APPENDIX "A"

CLERK OF THE COURT APR 18 2019

Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta

Citation: Centurion Mortgage Capital Corporation v The Bridges Steps Line GARY, ALBERTA Partnership (Giustini Bridges Inc), 2019 ABQB 276

> Date: **Docket: 1701 08644** Registry: Calgary

Between:

Centurion Mortgage Capital Corporation

Plaintiff

- and -

The Bridges Steps Limited Partnership, by its general partner, Giustini Bridges Inc., Giustini Bridges Inc., Assured Developments Ltd., Giustini Development Corporation, SBG Investment Corp., 1670749 Alberta Ltd., 1670759 Alberta Ltd., Canterra Custom Homes Inc., and Jordan Giustini

Defendants

Decision of the Honourable Madam Justice B.E. Romaine

I. Introduction

This was an application by the plaintiff secured creditor, Centurion Mortgage Capital Corporation, in insolvency proceedings involving The Bridges Steps Limited Partnership and Giustini Bridges Inc together with other related defendants (the Debtors). Centurion holds a mortgage on certain lands on which the Debtors intended to develop a 122 unit condominium project. At the time of the application, only a below-grade parking structure had been constructed.

- [2] The matter started with Centurion's application seeking, among other relief:
 - a) an order approving and accepting Centurion's offer to purchase the land from the Debtors for its appraised value;
 - b) a direction that Centurion was not required to pay the purchase price, but could set it off against the amount outstanding under its mortgage;
 - c) a vesting order; and
 - d) an order assigning certain purchase contracts for condominium units to Centurion.
- [3] The application also sought approval of the Receiver's activities and its fees and disbursements and an order discharging the Receiver.
- [4] The application for the order assigning the purchase contracts to Centurion was vigorously opposed by a number of purchase contract holders (the Holders), on the basis that the Debtors' failure to perform its obligation to complete the project in a timely manner constituted a repudiatory breach that entitled them to terminate the contracts. They thus submit that the terminated contracts could not be assigned to Centurion, and applied for an order declaring that:
 - a) the purchase contracts have been repudiated and voided by the Debtors and are not enforceable against the Holders;
 - b) the purchase contracts are not assignable to Centurion;
 - c) the Debtors have failed to complete construction of the project; and
 - d) the Holders are entitled to the immediate return of their deposits.
- [5] After the first hearing, I allowed the parties to make further written submissions, as counsel for Centurion indicated that it had not had sufficient time to respond to the submissions of the Holders. The Holders had a very short time before the application was heard to file their submissions.
- [6] By the time of the second hearing, Centurion had amended the form of order that it was seeking. The application still sought an order assigning the purchase contracts to Centurion. However, the amended application sought a declaration stating that the purchase contracts were not in default or in breach as a result of a) the insolvency of the Debtors; b) the appointment of the Receiver over the mortgaged lands; c) the "effluxion of time from the proposed occupancy date in each respective Purchase Contract to the date three (3) years hereof or such other date as may be directed by the Court"; and d) "the relief of any forfeiture arising from such event".
- [7] Since there was no opposition to the application to transfer the mortgaged lands to Centurion or to the proposed set off, and since the proposed transfer without the inclusion of the purchase contracts met the oft-cited factors to be considered by the Court when a sale within a receivership is proposed as set out in *Royal Bank v Soundair Corp*, (1991) 1 CBR (3d), I approved the transfer and set-off.
- [8] On that issue, Centurion submitted that the receivership was limited to the preservation of the property, but it does not appear to be limited in that manner in the order. Centurion also submitted that since the receivership was granted in the context of a concurrent foreclosure action, the Soundair principles do not apply, and that I do not require a recommendation from the Receiver to approve this sale. I do not accept this submission. It was clear that I was asked to

approve the sale under the authority of the receivership proceedings. However, in the unique circumstances of this case, I did not require the Receiver's recommendation.

- [9] However, I dismissed the application to assign the purchase contracts to Centurion, on the basis that the vendor, Giustini Bridges Inc as General Partner for and on behalf of Bridges Steps Limited Partnership, has breached the purchase contracts by failing to complete the units by the occupancy date stipulated in the contracts, or any properly extended occupancy date within a reasonable period of time. Breach of this condition, which goes to the root of the contracts and deprives the Holders of their entire benefit, is a repudiatory breach that entitles the Holders to terminate the contracts.
- [10] I allowed counsel for Centurion and the Debtors to seek instructions on whether they wished to proceed with the purchase and sale, given my decision on the purchase contracts. Counsel later confirmed that the sale would proceed.

II. Relevant Facts

A. Procedural Issues

- [11] There were a number of complexities with respect to the application. Centurion applied for and obtained an order appointing a Receiver with respect to the mortgaged lands on July 25, 2017. The application was made pursuant to section 49 of the Law of Property Act, RSA 2000, c L-7, section 13(2) of the Judicature Act, RSA 2000, c J-2 and section 54 of the Builders' Lien Act, RSA 2000, c B-7. The Receiver was granted the powers necessary to preserve the property and assets of the Debtors and to manage and operate the lands and the construction of the project, including the power to terminate the purchase contracts.
- [12] The receivership order included a stay of all proceedings except with the consent of the Receiver or with leave of the Court, except with respect to the action itself. The Court was advised that the application had been made further to a commercial foreclosure procedure.
- [13] Under the same action number, Centurion obtained a redemption and listing order from a Master on November 27, 2017. This order was amended by consent on January 5, 2018, and the property was listed for sale commencing January 20, 2018 by an agent retained by Centurion. The sales process was extended from time to time, with the listing order finally expiring on about October 21, 2018. None of the offers received were considered to be commercially reasonable by the listing agent and Centurion.
- [14] This led to the application under the receivership to have Centurion purchase the lands in a form of credit bid, setting off the purchase price against the amount it is owed.
- [15] The updated appraisal that informs the purchase price of the land indicates that the appraised value of the property, which is the purchase price offered by Centurion, does not take into account any value relating to the purchase contracts. The appraiser assumed that there would be a new marketing period for the condominiums, thus giving no value to the existing purchase contracts. The appraiser commented that "the enforceability of the [purchase] contracts is in doubt, given the length of time that has passed between the signing of those contracts, the initial intended occupancy date and the current status of the project".
- [16] Eighty-one purchase contracts and one conditional sale contract have been entered into with respect to the condominium project. Most of these contracts were signed in 2013. The

purchasers were required to provide a minimum deposit of 5% of the total purchase price of the unit on execution of the contract, either by cash or bond. Deposits of \$2.6 million were originally held by a law firm, and were insured by an Alberta Condominium Deposit Protection Insurance Policy through Aviva Insurance Company of Canada. Deposits of \$2.3 million were paid to the Debtors when the project reached a stage where the funds were releasable under the terms of the policy. Under the policy, the insurer has indemnified the Holders against the loss of their deposits where the loss is incurred as a result of the failure of the Debtors to complete the construction of the units and to repay the deposits.

- [17] The Receiver in its First Report dated April 10, 2018 noted the following with respect to the purchase contracts:
 - a) Following the issuance of the receivership order, multiple purchasers contacted the Receiver and indicated that they did not intend to close on their respective purchase contracts.
 - b) The Receiver advised the purchasers that the purchase contracts "remain valid contracts despite the receivership and the Receiver is not in a position to address the Purchaser Contracts until the Judicial Sales Process…has concluded".
 - c) A deposit of approximately \$30,000 was paid into court as a result of litigation proceedings commenced against the Debtors by a purchaser prior to the date of receivership. The Receiver understood that the deposit was being held by the court and accordingly, the purchaser would have no claim against Aviva.
 - d) The law firm continues to hold the remaining deposits of approximately \$239,000 until further direction is provided by the Receiver and/or the Court.
- [18] At the hearing, the Receiver commented that it had not obtained a legal opinion with respect to the validity of the purchase contracts, but had assumed that they were valid, as they had been characterized as part of the property of the Debtors at the time of the receivership.
- [19] At the first hearing, thirteen Holders represented by counsel filed a brief opposing the assignment of the purchase contracts to Centurion. In addition, ten or more Holders appeared without counsel, some of whom spoke opposing the application. At the second hearing, the group presented by counsel had expanded to nineteen Holders, and a number of self-represented Holders were also in attendance.
- [20] While the action proceeded as both foreclosure proceedings and a receivership, it is clear that the application before the Court for approval of the offer was under the aegis of the receivership proceedings, as the judicial listing authorized by the redemption order had expired.
- [21] Centurion conceded that the application to assign the purchase contracts must also be considered to be made pursuant to the receivership proceedings, as this relief would not be possible to obtain in a commercial foreclosure action.

B. The Purchase Contracts

[22] As noted, most of the purchase contracts at issue were executed in 2013. They provide that the units will be substantially completed "on or about December 31, 2015", defined as the "Occupancy Date", provided that the vendor "shall be at liberty to....extend or postpone the Occupancy Date to another date so specified by the Vendor".

- [23] The purchase contracts further provide at para 7 that:
 - (a) the vendor shall give written *confirmation* of the Occupancy Date to the purchaser not less than 35 days prior to the Occupancy Date, but that on seven days' notice to the purchaser, the vendor "shall be at liberty to extend the Occupancy Date for up to sixty (60) days or any portion thereof;" and
 - (b) "...if for any reason beyond the Vendor's reasonable control (and not for financial reasons)", the vendor is not able to substantially complete the unit by the Occupancy Date or the extended date as set out under a), the vendor may extend or postpone the Occupancy Date "for such reasonable period to allow the Vendor to obtain such Permit or approval or substantially complete the Unit." (emphasis added)
- [24] The purchase contracts provide that time shall be of the essence. They also provide that the vendor may assign the contract before closing "in its sole discretion".
- [25] On November 24, 2015, the Debtors wrote to the Holders, advising as follows: When will the project be completed? We expect a 14-16 month build time. The project should be completed by late Spring/Summer 2017.
- [26] In 2016, the Debtors required some of the Holders to be re-approved for financing and to provide an additional deposit.
- [27] On February 23, 2017, the Debtors advised the Holders that:
 - ...the STEPS Bridgeland Management team has decided to remove and replace [x] Construction as General Contractor...
 - We are happy to report that ITC Construction has taken over control of the site now, and will recommence construction on or about March 1, 2017...We will provide a more detailed schedule to completion after ITC resumes construction [emphasis added].
- [28] On April 12, 2017, the Debtors advised the Holders that:
 - ...recommencement of construction on the STEPS Bridgeland project had been delayed due to regulatory approval of the construction contract from the project's lender and its syndicated partners.
 - It is expected that the constructions will recommence within the next 30 days. We will be sending out a letter to each of you as soon as the construction recommences with adjusted possession dates. (emphasis added)
- [29] The Debtors did not pay interest on the mortgage to Centurion in March or April, 2017. Ultimately, the Debtors failed to make these interest payments from March through July, 2017. They failed to remedy this default and Centurion took steps to have the Receiver appointed in July 2017.
- [30] On November 22, 2018, counsel for some of the Holders advised the Debtors, Centurion and Aviva that the Debtors, through their failures, had repudiated the purchase contracts and had therefore failed to complete the project. They demanded a return of their deposits.

- [31] With respect to whether these Debtors extended or postponed the Occupancy Date in accordance with the contracts, their right to do so was governed by section 4, which enabled them to do so "to another date as specified". No such specific date was ever provided prior to the repudiation of the contracts. The correspondence in 2015 and 2017 did not provide a specified Occupancy Date.
- [32] Section 7 of the purchase contracts does not aid the Debtors. It allows a postponement of the Occupancy Date but not for financial reasons, and thus was not available to the Debtors. No new Occupancy Date can now be set, since, by reason of the Debtor's circumstances it could only be postponed for financial reasons, which would not be allowed by the contracts. Any new Occupancy Date would be unreasonable, in any event, given the passage of time.
- [33] Although the purchase contracts do not include a provision specifically allowing the Holders to terminate the contracts for delay, it is commercially unreasonable to interpret the contracts in such a way that would allow the Debtors to extend or postpone a specified Occupancy Date indefinitely, particularly after the expiration of the original date. These were contracts of adhesion, and most be construed in case of doubt against the grantor: *Shaw GMC Pontiac Hummer Ltd v Polaris Explorer Ltd*, 2009 ABCA 390. Commercial contracts of this type should be construed in accordance with sound commercial principles and good business sense: *Scanlon v Castlepoint Development Corp*, (1992) 11 OR (3d) 744.
- [34] Read in the context of the contract as a whole, including the provision that time is of the essence, section 7 of the purchase contracts must be interpreted to mean that the vendor is allowed a reasonable period of time to complete the units only if it is unable to complete the units by the Occupancy Date or a properly specified extended date for reasons that do not include financial reasons. It is clear that the failure to complete the units, at least between April 2017 and the present, was caused by financial reasons, given the affidavit evidence of the Debtors, the failure to pay interest to Centurion, the numerous liens on the project, and the appointment of the Receiver.
- [35] The deposits of the Holders who signed up in 2013 have been tied up for approximately five years with no benefit to purchasers and no indication of when the project will be completed. The Occupancy Date specified under the contracts expired more than 3 years ago. There is evidence of prejudice to many of these Holders: some have had to purchase alternate accommodations, some no longer qualify for financing under the new mortgage rules or because of changes in their employment or financial condition.
- [36] While what constitutes a reasonable period of time is not fixed, but dependent upon the factual matrix within which a dispute arises (*Roberige v 1102940 Alberta Ltd*, 2012 ABQB 717 at para 56), this is clearly a case of unreasonable breach. The law will imply completion within a reasonable time: *Hagg v Steininger*, [1975] BCJ No 703.
- [37] It is therefore apparent that the inability of the Debtors to complete the construction of the units within a reasonable time would allow the Holders of the purchase contracts to terminate them as a consequence of a repudiatory breach by the Debtors: *The Law of Contracts*, Second Edition, John D. McCamus, Irwin Law Inc, 2012 at page 676. The contracts are not enforceable against the Holders.
- [38] The Debtors submit that, even if the contracts have been terminated, they may still be assigned, relying on *Fredrickson v Insurance Corp of British Columbia*, 1986 CanLii 1066 at

- para 45. However, that case is not authority for the proposition that a terminated contract can be assigned, merely because terminated contracts are not listed among the types of contracts that cannot be assigned. Although under the contracts, the purchasers agreed to an assignment by the vendor, the contracts have been terminated and the purchaser can no longer be said to have consented to their assignment. Therefore, no right of assignment exists: HG Beale, ed, *Chitty on Contracts*, vol. 1, 29th ed (London: Sweet & Maxwell, 2015).
- [39] The Debtors also submit that the Holders lack standing to seek final relief in the receivership action as they are not parties to the action and that relief of the kind sought by the Holders requires "a fulsome court process", including pleadings, discovery and trial.
- [40] This is disingenuous. Centurion in its amended application supported by the Debtors applied for declarations that would ensure that the contracts were valid and enforceable against the purchasers. These declarations, if granted, would have been a form of final relief without trial.
- [41] As the parties are not at odds over the key facts in this matter, and as the Court has all of the necessary information before it to determine the validity of the contracts, there is no need to for this issue to be deferred. Declarations of this kind relating to the enforceability and priority of claims against debtors and other issues relevant to the determination of assets in an estate are often made in receivership actions in a summary fashion when the evidence is sufficient to allow such a determination to be made. As noted by Centurion, this dispute is between the secured lender, Centurion and the Holders, the resolution of which is purely a matter of law and interpretation of the purchase contracts.
- [42] With respect to the standing of the Holders, they have been joined as respondents in this application and they are certainly interested parties whose rights have been directly put in issue.
- [43] Section 8 of the *Judicature Act* directs that the Court has a general jurisdiction to grant any remedy so as to avoid, if at all possible, multiple proceedings and to ensure that all matters between the parties are completely determined. *Gramaglia v Alberta (Government Services Minister)*, 2007 ABCA 93 at para 39. It is therefore appropriate to decide this issue within the receivership
- [44] The Debtors also submit that the purchase contracts are not void because they are not unconscionable.
- [45] I agree with the Holders that the appropriate test is not unconscionability. The Holders submit that the contracts are void under the *Consumer Protection Act*, RSA 2000, c C-26.3 and the *Condominium Property Act*, RSA 2000, c C-22. Neither of these statutes require that a contract be unconscionable in order for it to be voided.
- [46] The Holders rely on section 6(3)(c) of the Consumer Protection Act, which states that it is an unfair practice for a supplier to include in a commercial transaction terms or conditions that are harsh, oppressive or excessively one-sided, and section 7(2), which allows a consumer who has entered a contract containing a term that constitutes unfair practice to cancel the transaction.
- [47] The Holders submit that the purchase contracts are harsh, oppressive and excessively one-sided as they permit the developer to assign them with no corresponding right to the purchasers. By doing so, they lock the purchasers into an agreement whereby they can be forced to close on the units at some unknown future date that could be years or possibly decades away

regardless of their financial situation at closing and regardless of the time that has passed since the contracts were executed.

- [48] Given my decision on the interpretation of the purchase contracts, it is not necessary that I consider whether the contracts contain terms that constitute unfair practice. If, however, I am incorrect in that interpretation, I would find that the Holders are entitled to cancel them pursuant to the *Consumer Protection Act*, or, alternatively, as a breach of the duty of fair dealing set out under section 11 of the *Condominium Property Act*.
- [49] Those Holders represented by counsel at the hearing and those in attendance who opposed the relief sought by Centurion are entitled to have their purchase contracts considered terminated by the Debtors, the Receiver and Aviva. Other Holders may choose to terminate their contracts by notice to the Debtors, the Receiver and Aviva.
- [50] Given that this decision may require further assistance by the Receiver, I adjourn the application to approve the Receiver's activities and fees and disbursements and to discharge the Receiver sine die.

Heard on the 13th day of December, 2018. **Dated** at the City of Calgary, Alberta this 18th day of April, 2019.

B.E. Romaine J.C.Q.B.A.

Appearances:

Ms Afshan Naveed for the Applicant

Mr Josh Dial

for the all Respondents except Assured Developments Ltd

Mr Blair Carbert and Mr. Kevin Stenner for the 19 Purchasers

Mr Harman Toor

for Brien and Diane Nguyen

Mr. Jonathan Selnes and Mr. Kelly Hannan for Aviva Insurance Company of Canada

Luke Ratzlaff
Self Represented

Alexander HB Lam and Hiroko Kadowaki Self Represented

Fatsum Woldobeghi Self Represented

Doris Kwan Self Represented

Andrea Lamond Self Represented

Susan Colley Self Represented

Hong Chen Self Represented

Kelly Falconi Self Represented

Mario Falconi Self Represented

Terence Lee Self Represented

Ron and Tracey Blow Self Represented

APPENDIX "B"

I hereby certify this to be a true copy of

the original ____/

Dated this / day of

une 2019



COURT FILE NUMBER

Clerk of the Court

1701-08644

COURT

COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH OF ALBER

JUDICIAL CENTRE

CALGARY

PLAINTIFF

CENTURION MORTGAGE CAPITAL

CORPORATION

DEFENDANTS

THE BRIDGES STEPS LIMITED PARTNERSHIP, by its general partner, GIUSTINI BRIDGES INC.,

GIUSTINI BRIDGES INC., ASSURED

DEVELOPMENTS LTD., GIUSTINI DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, SBG INVESTMENT CORP., 1670749 ALBERTA LTD., 1670759 ALBERTA LTD., CANTERRA CUSTOM HOMES INC., and

JORDAN GIUSTINI

DOCUMENT

ORDER

ADDRESS FOR SERVICE AND CONTACT INFORMATION OF PARTY FILING THIS DOCUMENT

Dentons Canada LLP Bankers Court 15th Floor, 850 - 2nd Street S.W. Calgary, Alberta T2P 0R8

Attention: David W. Mann/Afshan Naveed Ph. (403) 268-7097/7015 Fx. (403) 268-3100

File No.: 570945-1

DATE ON WHICH ORDER WAS PRONOUNCED:

April 18, 2019

LOCATION WHERE ORDER WAS PRONOUNCED:

Calgary, Alberta

NAME OF JUDGE WHO MADE THIS ORDER:

The Honourable Madam Justice B.E.C. Romaine

ORDER

UPON the application of the Plaintiff, Centurion Mortgage Capital Corporation ("Centurion") filed November 19, 2018 (the "Application"); AND UPON reading the Affidavit of Stephen Stewart, sworn November 19, filed; AND UPON reading the Order for Receiver Manager, granted by Justice M.H. Hollins on July 25, 2017 (the "Receivership Order"); AND UPON reading the Second and Final Report of Deloitte Restructuring Inc. (the "Receiver"), dated November 19, 2018 (the "Final Report"), filed; AND UPON reading the Affidavit of Gail Wheatley, sworn November 26, 2018 (the "Service Affidavit"); AND UPON reading the Bench Brief of Centurion, filed November 19, 2018; AND UPON reading the Written Submissions of certain purchase contract holders, filed November 22, 2018; AND UPON reading the Supplemental Bench Brief of Centurion, filed December 7, 2018; AND UPON reading the Bench Brief of

The Defendants, except Assured Developments Ltd. (collectively the "Bridges Defendants"), filed December 7, 2018; AND UPON reading the Supplemental Written Submissions of certain purchase contract holders; AND UPON hearing from counsel for Centurion; AND UPON hearing from counsel for the Bridges Defendants; AND UPON hearing from counsel for certain purchase contract holders; AND UPON hearing from counsel for interested parties present; AND UPON hearing from certain self-represented parties present; AND UPON issuing an Order for Sale to Plaintiff on December 13, 2018; AND UPON issuing a written decision on April 18, 2019 (the "Written Decision");

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

 The time for service of notice of the Application was abridged to the time actually given and service of the Application and supporting material as described in the Service Affidavit is good and sufficient.

Definitions

- Capitalized terms not otherwise defined in the preamble shall have the following meanings:
 - (a) "Aviva" shall mean Aviva Insurance Company of Canada;
 - (b) "Certain Purchasers" shall mean those 19 Purchasers represented by Carbert Waite LLP and the One Purchaser represented by the firm Badyal Toor;
 - (c) "Contracts" shall mean the various offers to purchase and real estate purchase contracts entered into between the Purchasers, as purchasers, and the Debtors, as the vendors, with respect to units in the Steps Bridgeland Project located at 918 McPherson Square NE;
 - (d) "Debtors" shall mean Giustini Bridges Inc., as general partner for and on behalf of, Bridges Steps Limited Partnership; and
 - (e) "Purchasers" shall mean the individual or corporate parties which executed Contracts with the Debtors;

<u>Assignment</u>

3. The portion of the Application seeking to assign the Contracts was dismissed on December 13, 2018, with the Written Decision to follow.

Purchase Contracts

- 4. The Purchasers are entitled to cancel the Contracts.
- 5. The Certain Purchasers are entitled to have their Contracts considered terminated.
- 6. Those Purchasers who specifically opposed the relief sought at the Application are entitled to have their Contracts considered terminated and they include: Luke Ratzlaff, Alexander HB Lam, Hiroko Kadowaki, Fatsum Woldobeghi, Doris Kwan, Andrea Lamond, Susan Colley, Hong Chen, Kelly Falconi, Mario Falconi, Ron Blow and Tracy Blow.

- 7. Any other Purchasers may choose to have their Contracts terminated by giving notice to the Debtors, the Receiver and Aviva as follows:
 - to the Debtors by their counsel, MLT Aikins LLP, by email addressed to the attention of Jonathan Bourchier and Catrina Webster at jbourchier@mltaikins.com and cwebster@mltaikins.com;
 - (b) to the Receiver by email addressed to the Receiver, Attention: Naomi McGregor at naomcgregor@deloitte.ca; and
 - (c) to Aviva through Lawson Lundell LLP, by email addressed to Lawson Lundell LLP, Attention: Eunice McDonald at emcdonald@lawsonlundell.com.

Receiver

8. The portion of the Application relating to the Receiver's fees and discharge is adjourned sine die.

Other

- 9. The Court will receiver further submissions and make further decisions on the matter of costs.
- 10. Pursuant to Rule 9.4(2)(c) approval by the self-represented parties as to the form of this Order is hereby waived.
- 11. This Order must be served on the Service List and service may be effected by facsimile, electronic mail, personal delivery or courier. Service is deemed to be effected the next business day following the transmission or delivery of such documents.

Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta

Approved as to form and content of the Order granted this 11 day of June, 2019 by Dentons Canada LLP, counsel to the

Plaintiff/Applicants,

Per:

Afshan Na

Approved as to form and content of the Order granted this ____ day of June, 2019 by MLT Aikins, counsel for the Defendants, except Assured Developments Ltd.

Per

Jonathan J. Bourchier Leatrina

Webster

Approved as to form and content of the Order granted this 1 day of June, 2019 by Carbert Waite LLP, counsel for 19 of the Certain Purchasers	Approved as to form and content of the Order granted this day of June, 2019 by Lawson Lundell LLP, counsel for Aviva Insurance Company of Canada					
Per: Blair Carbert / Kevin Stenner	Per: William Roberts / Kelly Hannan					
Approved as to form and content of the Order granted this day of June, 2019 by Badyal Toor, counsel for Brien and Diane Nguyen						
Per: Harman Toor						

Approved as to form and content of the Order granted this day of June, 2019 by Carbert Waite LLP, counsel for 19 of the Certain Purchasers	Approved as to form and content of the Order granted this 2019 day of June, 2019 by Lawson Lundell LLP, counsel for Aviva Insurance Company of Canada				
Per: Blair Carbert / Kevin Stenner	Per: William Roberts / Kelly Hannan				
Approved as to form and content of the Order granted this day of June, 2019 by Badyal Toor, counsel for Brien and Diane Nguyen					
Per: Harman Toor					

Approved as to form and content of the Order granted this day of June, 2019 by Carbert Waite LLP, counsel for 19 of the Certain Purchasers	Approved as to form and content of the Order granted this day of June, 2019 by Lawson Lundell LLP, counsel for Aviva Insurance Company of Canada				
Per: Blair Carbert / Kevin Stenner	Per: William Roberts / Kelly Hannan				
Approved as to form and content of the Order granted this					

APPENDIX "C"

	Legal	Total Purchase	Total Deposit	Deposit Payout	Deposit Release		Balance in				
	Unit#	Price McLeod	McLeod	McLeod	Aviva	Difference	Trust McLeod	Gift	Bond	Cash	смнс
1	1	648,505.20	64,850.36	64,850.36	64,850.36	-	-			1	
2	2	313,624.80	31,362.48	31,362.48	31,362.48	-	-				
3	3	644,900.00	64,490.00	64,490.00	64,490.00	-	-			1	
4	5	644,900.00	64,490.00	64,490.00	64,490.00	-	-			1	
5	9	427,868.70	42,786.88	42,786.88	42,786.88	-	-				
6	10	422,303.70	42,230.37	42,230.37	42,230.37	-	-				
7	11	434,546.70	43,454.67	43,454.67	43,454.67	-	-				
8	13	681,450.00	68,145.00	68,145.00	68,145.00	-	-			1	4
9	18 22	412,286.70	20,614.34	20,614.34	20,614.34	-	-			1	1
10 11	25	650,900.00 523,845.00	65,090.00 52,384.50	65,090.00 52,384.50	65,090.00 52,384.50	_	-			1	
12	26	456,900.00	45,690.00	45,690.00	45,690.00	_	_				
13	27	350,776.80	17,538.84	17,538.84	17,538.84	-	_				1
14	28	190,816.80	19,081.66	19,081.66	19,081.66	-	-				
15	30	207,328.80	20,732.88	20,732.88	20,732.88	-	-				
16	31	237,256.80	23,725.68	23,725.68	23,725.68	-	-			1	
17	32	237,256.80	23,725.68	23,725.68	23,725.68	-	-			1	
18	36	427,470.25	42,901.94			-	42,901.94				
19	37	298,144.80	29,814.48	29,814.48	29,814.48	-	-				
20	39	268,216.80	26,821.68	26,821.68	26,821.68	-	-				
21	41	271,312.80	13,565.64	13,565.64	13,565.64	-	-			1	
22	43	276,045.00	27,604.50	27,604.50	27,604.50	-	-				4
23 24	44 45	355,936.80 308,052.00	17,796.84 30,805.20	17,796.84 30,805.20	17,796.84	(30,805.20)	-			Paid to Court	1
25	46	395,745.00	19,787.25	19,787.25	19,787.25	(50,005.20)	-			r alu to court	1
26	47	396,704.70	39,670.48	39,670.48	39,670.48	_	_			1	-
27	48	255,832.80	19,000.00	19,000.00	19,000.00	-	-	32,167.00		_	
28	49	383,348.70	38,334.88	38,334.88	38,334.88	-	-	,			
29	50	247,576.80	24,757.68	24,757.68	24,757.68	-	-				
30	51	387,800.70	38,780.06	38,780.06	38,780.06	-	-				
31	52	454,545.00	22,727.25	22,727.25	22,727.25	-	-		22,727.25		
32	53	206,296.80	20,628.84	20,628.84	20,628.84	-	-				
33	54	415,695.00	41,569.50	41,569.50	41,569.50	-	-			1	
34	55	431,900.00	21,595.00	21,595.00	21,595.00	-	-			1	
35	56	260,992.80	26,099.28	26,099.28	26,099.28	-	-			4	
36 37	57 58	425,900.00 255,045.00	42,590.00 25,504.50	42,590.00 25,504.50	42,590.00 25,504.50	-	-			1 1	
38	59	425,900.00	42,590.00	42,590.00	42,590.00	_	-			1	
39	60	445,676.70	44,567.68	44,567.68	44,567.68	_	_			-	
40	61	591,900.00	29,595.00	29,595.00	29,595.00	-	-			1	
41	63	252,736.00	25,273.60	25,273.60	25,273.60	-	-			1	
42	65	252,736.80	12,636.84	12,636.84	12,636.84	-	-		12,636.34	1	
43	67	271,312.80	13,565.64	13,565.64	13,565.64	-	-				1
44	68	304,336.80	30,433.68	30,433.68	30,433.68	-	-				
45	69	278,536.80	27,853.68	27,853.68	27,853.68	-	-				
46	70	396,900.00	39,690.00	21,255.84	21,255.84	-	18,434.16			1	
47	71	412,286.70	41,228.67	41,228.67	41,228.67	-	-				
48	72 72	251,895.00	25,189.50	25,189.50	25,189.50	-	-			1	1
49 50	73 74	398,930.70 273,892.80	19,946.54 27,389.28	19,946.54 27,389.28	19,946.54 27,389.28	_	-				1
51	7 4 75	412,286.70	20,614.34	20,614.34	20,614.34	-	_		20,614.34	1	
52	76	442,900.00	22,145.00	20,014.54	20,014.54	-	22,145.00		20,014.54	1	
53	77	421,190.70	15,059.54	15,059.54	15,059.54	-	,		21,059.54		
54	78	483,322.35	15,949.64			-	15,949.64				
55	79	260,295.00	13,014.75	13,014.75	13,014.75	_	13,343.04				1
56	80	463,484.70	46,348.46	46,348.46	46,348.46	_	_			1	-
57	81	260,295.00	13,014.75	13,014.75	13,014.75	-	-			1	
58	82	483,322.35	15,949.64	25,014.75	25,024.75	-	15,949.64				
59	83	483,322.35	15,949.64			-	15,949.64				
60	84	480,795.00	4,808.00			-	4,808.00				
61	87	266,152.00	26,615.30	26,615.30	26,615.30	-	-			1	
62	89	299,176.80	29,917.68	29,917.68	29,917.68	-	-				
63	91	309,496.80	30,949.68	30,949.68	30,949.68	-	-				
64	92	299,176.80	29,917.68	29,917.68	29,917.68	-	-			1	
65	93	308,595.00	15,429.75	15,429.75	15,429.75	-	-			_	1
66 67	94 95	405,900.00 423,416.70	40,590.00 42,341.68	42,341.68	42,341.68	- -	40,590.00 -			1 1	
68	96	286,792.80	28,679.28	28,679.28	28,679.28	-	-			1	
-		,	• • • •	-, ==	,						

The Bridges Steps Limited Partnership - In Receivership Summary of Deposits Held in Trust As at July 25, 2017 in CAD \$

	Legal Unit#	Total Purchase Price McLeod	Total Deposit McLeod	Deposit Payout McLeod	Deposit Release Aviva	Difference	Balance in Trust McLeod	Gift	Bond	Cash	СМНС
69	97	394,695.00	19,734.75	19,734.75	19,734.75	-	-			1	
70	98	263,056.80	26,305.68	26,305.68	26,305.68	-	-				
71	103	260,992.80	26,099.28	26,099.28	26,099.28	-	-			1	
72	104	383,348.00	38,334.80	38,334.80	38,334.80	-	-			1	
73	105	283,395.00	28,339.50	28,339.50	28,339.50	-	-			1	
74	106	427,868.70	21,393.44	21,393.44	21,393.44	-	-		21,393.44		
75	107	427,868.70	42,786.88	42,786.88	42,786.88	-	-			1	
76	108	427,868.70	42,786.88	42,786.88	42,786.88	-	-			1	
Cond	lit 109	746,550.00	7,838.77			-	7,838.77				
77	115	619,395.00	30,969.75	30,969.75	30,969.75	-	-		30,969.75	1	
78	117	650,895.00	65,089.50	65,089.50	65,089.50	-	-			1	
79	118	776,895.00	77,689.50	77,689.50	77,689.50	-	-			1	
80	122	544,900.00	54,490.00				54,490.00			1	
		31,762,719.40	2,569,861.99	2,330,805.20	2,300,000.00	(30,805.20)	239,056.79	32,167.00	129,400.66		

APPENDIX "D"

The Bridges Steps Limited Partnership - In Receivership Statement of Receipts and Disbursements For the period July 25, 2017 to January 4, 2021 in CAD \$

	Notes	Actual Jul 25, 2017 to Jan 4, 2021
Receipts		
Receiver's Certificate	1	497,206
National Home Warranty Refund		58,560
GST refunds		22,754
Utilities refund		16,117
Cash on hand		708
Interest		677
Total receipts		596,022
Disbursements Maintenance costs Insurance Receiver's fees Utilities GST Filing fees Total disbursements	2	369,002 61,913 83,284 24,873 23,858 140 563,069
Estate balance at January 4, 2021		32,953
Less: Accrued Receiver's fees (including GST)	2	17,331
Less: Payment to secured creditor	3	15,622
Estimated Estate balance		<u>-</u>

Notes:

- 1. Pursuant to the Order dated November 27, 2019, the Receiver may borrow up to \$500,000 in aggregate without further Court approval. To date, the Receiver's borrowings total \$497,206.
- 2. The Receiver's fees and disbursements up to and including July 22, 2019 total approximately \$99,790 (excluding GST). This total includes interim invoices for \$83,284 (excluding GST) and unbilled work in progress totaling approximately \$14,006 (excluding GST) and estimates it will incur approximately \$2,500 (excluding GST) in connection with attending Court to obtaining the Receiver's discharge.
- 3 Any remaining funds in the estate will be returned to the secured creditor as partial repayment of the Receiver's Borrowing facility.