# 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 NORTH AMERICAN FUR PRODUCERS INC., NAFA PROPERTIES INC., 3306319 NOVA SCOTIA LIMITED, NORTH AMERICAN FUR AUCTIONS INC., NAFA PROPERTIES (US) INC., NAFA PROPERTIES STOUGHTON LLC, NORTH AMERICAN FUR AUCTIONS (US) INC., NAFPRO LLC (WISCONSIN LLC), NAFA EUROPE CO-OPERATIEF UA, NAFA EUROPE B.V., DAIKOKU SP.Z OO and NAFA POLSKA SP. Z OO

(the "Applicants")

# MOTION RECORD OF THE APPLICANTS (Returnable January 30, 2020)

Date: January 27, 2020 BLANEY MCMURTRY LLP

Barristers & Solicitors 2 Queen Street East, Suite 1500 Toronto ON M5C 3G5

**David T. Ullmann** (LSO # 42357I)

Tel: (416) 596-4289 Fax: (416) 594-2437

Email: <u>DUllmann@blaney.com</u>

Jessica Wuthmann (LSO #72442W)

Tel: (416) 593-3924 Fax: (416) 594-3595

Email: JWuthmann@blaney.com

Counsel for the Applicants

# ONTARIO SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE (COMMERCIAL LIST)

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(the "Applicants")

# **SERVICE LIST**

# TO: BLANEY MCMURTRY LLP

Barristers & Solicitors 2 Queen Street East, Suite 1500 Toronto ON M5C 3G5

#### David T. Ullmann

Tel: 416-596-4289 Fax: 416-594-2437

Email: DUllmann@blaney.com

# Alexandra Teodorescu

Tel: 416 -596-4279 Fax: 416-594-2506

Email: ATeodorescu@blaney.com

#### Jessica Wuthmann

Tel: 416-593-3924 Fax: 416-594-3595

Email: JWuthmann@blaney.com

Lawyers for the Applicants

AND TO: MILLER THOMSON LLP

Barristers and Solicitors

40 King Street West, Suite 5800 Toronto, Ontario M5H 3S1

Kyla Mahar

Tel: 416-597-4303 Fax: 416-595-8695

Email: kmahar@millerthomson.com

**Asim Iqbal** 

Tel: 416-597-6008 Fax: 416-595-8695

Email: aiqbal@millerthomson.com

Lawyers for the Monitor

AND TO: **DELOITTE RESTRUCTURING INC.** 

Bay Adelaide Centre, East Tower Suite 200, 22 Adelaide Street West

Toronto, Ontario M5H 0A9

**Phil Reynolds** 

Tel: 416-956-9200 Fax: 416-601-6151

Email: philreynolds@deloitte.ca

**Todd Ambachtsheer** 

Tel: 416-607-0781 Fax: 416-601-6151

Email: tambachtsheer@deloitte.ca

**Jorden Sleeth** 

Tel: 416-775-8858 Fax: 416-601-6151

Email: jsleeth@deloitte.ca

The Monitor

AND TO: THORNTON GROUT FINNIGAN LLP

Barristers & Solicitors

Suite 3200, 100 Wellington Street West

Toronto, Ontario M5K 1K7

Leanne M. Williams

Tel: 416-304-0060 Fax: 416-304-1313 Email: lwilliams@tgf.ca

Puya Fesharaki

Tel: 416-304-7979 Fax: 416-304-1313 Email: pfesharaki@tgf.ca

Lawyers for the Business Development Bank of Canada

AND TO: BLAKE, CASSELS & GRAYDON LLP

Barristers & Solicitors

199 Bay Street

Suite 4000, Commerce Court West

Toronto, Ontario M5L 1A9

Milly Chow

Tel: 416-863-2594 Fax: 416-863-2653

Email: milly.chow@blakes.com

**Chris Burr** 

Tel: 416-863-2400 Fax: 416-863-2653

Email: <a href="mailto:chris.burr@blakes.com">chris.burr@blakes.com</a>

Aryo Shalviri

Tel: 416-863-2962 Fax: 416-863-2653

Email: aryo.shalviri@blakes.com

Lawyers for Canadian Imperial Bank of Canada (CIBC)

AND TO:	KPMG CORPORATE FINANCE
	199 Bay Street
	Suite 4000, Commerce Court West
	Toronto, Ontario M5L 1A9
	Nick Brearton
	Tel: 416-777-3768
	Fax: 416-777-3364
	Email: <u>nbrearton@kpmg.ca</u>
	Katherine Forbes
	Tel: 416-777-8107
	Fax: 416-777-3364
	Email: <u>katherineforbes@kpmg.ca</u>
	The Financial Advisor of the Company
AND TO:	ALVAREZ & MARSHAL
	Royal Bank Plaza, South Tower 200
	Bay Street, Suite 2900, P.O. Box 22
	Toronto, Ontario M5J 2J1
	Doug McIntosh
	Tel: 416-847-5150
	Fax: 416-847-5201
	Email: dmcintosh@alvarezandmarsal.com
	Greg Karpel
	Tel: 416-847-5170
	Fax: 416-847-5201
	Email: <u>gkarpel@alvarezandmarsal.com</u>
	The Financial Advisor for CIBC
AND TO:	AIRD & BERLIS LLP
AND IO.	Brookfield Place, 181 Bay Street,
	Suite 1800 Toronto Ontorio Cono do M512T0
	Toronto, Ontario Canada M5J 2T9
	Sam Babe
	Tel: 416-865-7718
	Fax: 416-863-1515
	Email: sbabe@airdberlis.com
	Lawyers for Waygar Capital Inc.

AND TO: FOGLER, RUBINOFF LLP

Lawyers

77 King Street West Suite 3000, PO Box 95 TD Centre North Tower Toronto, ON M5K 1G8

**Artem Miakichev** 

Tel: 416-365-3722 Fax: 416-941-8852

Email: amiakichev@foglers.com

**Maurice Fleming** 

Tel: 416-941-8812 Fax: 416-941-8852

Email: mfleming@foglers.com

Counsel for W. Brown Farm

AND TO: KOSKIE MINSKY LLP

20 Queen Street West Toronto, OM M5H 3R5

Andrew J. Hatnay

Tel: 416-595-2083 Fax: 416-204-2872

Email: ahatnay@kmlaw.ca

**Demetrios Yiokaris** 

Tel: 416-595-2130 Fax: 416-204-2810

Email: dyiokaris@kmlaw.ca

Lawyers for the Employees

	BENNETT JONES LLP					
	3400 One First Canadian Place					
	P.O. Box 130					
	Toronto, ON M5X 1A4					
	,					
	Sean Zweig					
	Tel: 416-777-6254					
	Fax: 416-863-1716					
	Email: zweigs@bennettjones.com					
	Jooy Plinick					
	Joey Blinick					
	Tel: 416-777-4828 Fax: 416-863-1716					
	Email: blinick@bennettjones.com					
	Eman. omnek@bennetgones.com					
	Lawyers for the Applicants, Directors And Officers					
AND TO:	COX & PALMER					
	1 Germain Street, Suite 1500					
	Saint John, NB E2L 4V1					
	Josh JB. McElman					
	Tel: 506-633-2708					
	Fax: 506-632-8809					
	Email: jmcelman@coxandpalmer.com					
	Lawyers for Farm Credit Canada					
AND TO:	MINDEN GROSS LLP					
	145 King Street West, Suite 2200					
	Toronto, ON M5H 4G2					
	Timothy Dunn					
	Tel: 416-369-4335					
	Fax: 416-864-9223					
	Email: tdunn@mindengross.com					
	2					
	Lawyers for Meadowvale Land Limited and Rebecca's Gift Holdings Limited					

AND TO:	DE ANCELICIAW DECECCIONAL CODDODATION					
AND IO:	DE ANGELIS LAW PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION					
	675 Cochrane Drive					
	East Tower – Suite 304					
	Markham, On L3R 0B8					
	Vincent J. De Angelis					
	Tel: 905 -752-0408					
	Fax: 905- 752-0409					
	Email: vince@deangelislaw.ca					
	Lawyrang for the Dyrobogor of the Carlingview Property					
AND TO:	Lawyers for the Purchaser of the Carlingview Property  DICKINSON WRIGHT					
AND IO:						
	Commerce Court West					
	199 Bay Street					
	Suite 2200					
	Toronto, ON, M5L 1G4					
	Lisa S. Corne					
	Tel: 416-646-4608					
	Fax: 1-844-670-6009					
	Email: lcorne@dickinsonwright.com					
	Lawyers for VAG					
AND TO:	COUTTS CRANE					
	480 University Avenue					
	Toronto ON M5G 1V2					
	Robert O'Brien					
	Tel: 416 - 977-0956 x 2232					
	Fax: 416 - 977-5331					
	Email: ro'brien@couttscrane.com					
	Email: 10 blien@coutiscrane.com					
	MARY ANNE SHAW					
	308 - 1366 Yonge St					
	Toronto ON M4T 3A7					
	Mary Anne Shaw					
	Tel: 416 – 968-0095					
	Fax 416 – 968-0609					
	Email: maryanne.shaw@sympatico.ca					
	Lawyers for the Creditors, Canada Mink Breeders Association et al					
	Law yers for the Creditors, Canada with Diceders Association et al					

AND TO:	AUDAX LAW PC			
AND IU:	3300 Bloor Street West,			
	Suite 670 West Tower			
	Toronto, Ontario			
	M8X 2X2			
	Frank Snizziwi			
	Frank Spizzirri Tel: 416.862.8329			
	Fax: 416.862.8330			
	Email: frank.spizzirri@audaxlaw.com			
	Linan. Italik.spizziiti@audaxiaw.com			
	Lawyers for Fur Commission USA			
AND TO:	PETKER CAMPBELL POSTNIKOFF			
	295 Weber Street North			
	Waterloo, ON N2J 3H8			
	Peter Campbell			
	Tel: 519-886-1204			
	Fax: 519-886-5674			
	Email: info@petkerlaw.com			
	Lawyers for CNH Industrial Capital Canada Ltd.			
AND TO:	CORESTONE LAW			
	Construction & Property Law			
	117 Peter Street			
	Suite 310			
	Toronto, ON, M5V 0M3			
	Harp Khukh			
	Tel: 416-591-2222			
	Fax: 416-591-2221			
	Email: harp@corestone.ca			
	Counsel for EXP Services Inc.			
AND TO:	CHAITONS LLP			
	5000 Yonge Street, 10th Floor			
	Toronto, ON M2N 7E9			
	Saneea Tanvir			
	Tel: (416) 218-1128			
	Fax: (416) 218-1853			
	Email: stanvir@chaitons.com			
	Lawyers for International Fur Trade Federation, IFF Americas and Fur Europe			

AND TO:	DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE					
	Ontario Regional Office					
	130 King Street West					
	Suite 3400, P.O. Box 36					
	Toronto, Ontario M5x 1k6					
	Diane Winters					
	Tel: 416-973-3172					
	Fax: 416-973-0810					
	Email: diane.winters@justice.gc.ca					
	Lawyers for the Minister of National Revenue					
AND TO:	D TO: MINISTRY OF FINANCE					
	Office of Legal Services					
33 King Street West, 6th Floor						
	Oshawa, ON L1H 8H5					
	Varin I O'llana					
	Kevin J. O'Hara					
	Tel: 905-433-6934					
	Fax: 905-436-4510					
	Email: kevin.ohara@fin.gov.on.ca					
AND TO:	NATIONAL LEASING GROUP INC.					
(D : )	1525 Buffalo Place					
(By courier)	Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 1L9					



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(the "Applicants")

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(the "Applicants")

# NOTICE OF MOTION (Returnable January 30, 2020)

The Applicants will make a motion for an Order seeking the relief set out in the Affidavit of Douglas Lawson affirmed January •, 2020 ("Lawson Affidavit"), and certain other relief, to a Judge of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice (Commercial List), on Thursday, January 30, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. or as soon after that time as the motion can be heard, at the courthouse located at 330 University Avenue, Toronto, Ontario.

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

# THE MOTION IS FOR:

1. An Order, substantially in the form attached at **Schedule "A"** hereto (the "**January Order**"):

- (a) if necessary, abridging the time for service of this Notice of Motion and the corresponding Motion Record and dispensing with service on any person other than those served;
- (b) extending the stay of proceedings ("Stay Period") from January 31, 2020 to and including April 3, 2020 (the "Extension Period");
- (c) authorizing the Applicants to negotiate and enter into an agreement with Fur Harvesters Auction Inc. ("FHA"), on terms substantially similar to those described in the Lawson Affidavit and in the Monitor's Third Report to allow for FHA and the Applicants to hold the Auction (as defined in below);
- (d) authorizing the Monitor to conduct a sale and investment solicitation process (a "SISP") in a form approved by the Applicants and Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce as agent (the "Agent") for the lenders (the "Lenders") or otherwise approved by the Court;
- (e) approving a revised and updated Key Employee Retention Plan ("**KERP**"); and
- (f) sealing certain confidential exhibits; and
- 2. Such further and other relief as this Honourable Court may deem just.

# THE GROUNDS FOR THIS MOTION ARE:

(a) The Applicants are, collectively, in the business of farming, financing, preparing, grading and auctioning fur products, such as pelts and skins, for use in the garment industry;

- (b) On October 31, 2019, the Applicants commenced proceedings under the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act* (the "CCAA") pursuant to the Order of Justice McEwen (as amended and restated, the "Initial Order");
- (c) On November 28, 2019, (the "November Motion"), the Court granted the Applicants various orders including an Order extending the Applicants' Stay Period until January 31, 2020 ("Stay Extension Order");
- (d) Since the date of the Initial Order, the Applicants, in close consultation with Deloitte Restructuring Inc., in its capacity as monitor of the Applicants (the "Monitor"), have focused on stabilizing their business and operations as part of these CCAA proceedings and proceeding to collect pelt advances and other proceeds to repay the indebtedness to the Agent;

# (e) The Applicants have:

- repaid Waygar Capital Inc. (the "DIP Lender") the amounts it advanced under an interim financing facility approved in the Initial Order (the "DIP Facility"), plus interest and fees;
- (ii) paid in excess of \$11,300,000 USD to the Agent to permanently repay a significant amount of secured indebtedness;
- (iii) closed the sale of the Carlingview Property and repaid the first mortgagee thereof in the amount of \$3,000,000;
- (iv) arranged for the KERP Bonus to be paid to the Key Employees;

- (v) liaised with stakeholders, including the Agent, the Lenders, the DIP Lender, the Business Development Bank of Canada, and creditors to keep them apprised of developments in the CCAA proceedings and the Applicants' business operations; and
- (vi) prepared the Cash Flow Forecast with the assistance of the Monitor;
- (f) Since the Agent began enforcement proceedings in August 2019 in respect of the Applicants, the Applicants have reduced the indebtedness to the Agent from approximately \$65,000,000 to approximately \$25,000,000;
- (g) Although the Applicants and the Monitor project in the Cash Flow Forecast (as defined in the Lawson Affidavit and subject to the assumptions in the Cash Flow Forecast) that the Agent will only be owed approximately \$7,500,000 at the end of the Cash Flow period, the Applicants project that there is sufficient equity in the Applicants' remaining real estate assets alone to repay the Agent thereafter. The Applicants will have material other assets remaining beyond its real estate at the end of the extension period;

# **Stay Extension**

- (h) The Stay Extension Order granted an extension of the Stay Period to and including January 31, 2020;
- (i) The Applicants have acted in good faith and with due diligence under the supervision of the Monitor through the Stay Period;

- (j) Additional time is required to continue the Applicants' restructuring efforts, including with respect to their receivables in Europe and North America and their real estate holdings in Canada, the United States and Poland;
- (k) The Applicants require the continued stability provided by the Court-ordered stay of proceedings in order to pursue the proposed path forward;
- (l) The Applicants have sufficient liquidity to fund these proceedings during the Extension Period;
- (m) The Applicants do not anticipate the need for a further DIP Facility during the Extension Period;
- (n) The Monitor has expressed its support for the extension of the Stay Period to and including April 3, 2020;

# **SAGA**

- (o) The Applicants entered into an arrangement with Saga Furs Oyj ("Saga") who agreed to receive certain furs for the Applicants and attend to their sale and provide the proceeds to the Applicants, which would in turn use the proceeds to repay the Agent (the "Saga Transaction");
- (p) The Saga Transaction has two main parts;
- (q) In the first part of the Saga Transaction Saga agreed to fund the last few installments owing on certain "kit loans", which were then still outstanding in November, in

order to facilitate the completion of the growing and harvest cycle for mink being raised by certain ranchers in Europe;

- (r) The second part of the Saga Transaction was that Saga agreed that upon Saga receiving these pelts, Saga would provide advances equal to up to 85% of the total anticipated value of the minks delivered to the Applicants, which is entitled to these proceeds in order to repay the debts owing to the Applicants from these various mink breeders;
- (s) Saga completed this first part of the transaction in November and December materially in line with expectations;
- November 22, 2019 to February 14, 209, annexed as Appendix "D" to the Monitor's Second Report (the "November Cash Flow Forecast"), anticipated the receipt of material proceeds from the pelts delivered to Saga in J anuary. However, a number of issues have arisen with the second part of the Saga transaction, which have required additional effort on the part of the Applicants, and which have delayed the delivery of some of the pelts to Saga and the payment of funds by Saga to the Applicants;
- (u) The Applicants have now identified what it believes to be the majority of these issues and have taken various steps to overcome these issues to continue to collect these advances and make payment to the Agent;

## The Daikoku Farm

- (v) Among the assets owned by the Applicants is a working mink farm in Poland, known as the Daikoku farm;
- (w) The farm produced 105,000 mink skins in 2019 which have been harvested and are being delivered to Saga pursuant to the Saga transaction;
- (x) The Daikoku mink farm produces exceptionally large and valuable mink, based on previous year's and this year's production;
- (y) Subject to confirming the condition of the farm and considering market forces, the Applicants are seeking to continue the operation of the Daikoku farm beyond the Cash Flow Forecast in order to eventually have product to sell in 2021 which will be of greater value than the costs incurred;
- (z) The Applicants require approximately \$340,000 USD to maintain operations at Daikoku during the cash flow period, with further funding required thereafter, to keep a breeding group of approximately 30,000 mink alive to breed the next crop;
- (aa) It is anticipated by the Applicants that, net of all ordinary operating costs and advances, the harvest and sale of the future crop of Daikoku mink will net significant funds to the Applicants;
- (bb) The Applicants also believe that the Daikoku farm is a potentially valuable asset to third parties, as long as it remains an operating farm, which could be sold in a SISP;

(cc) The proceeds from the Daikoku farm is an asset which can either repay the Agent, or more likely provide payment to the creditors behind the Agent, following its repayment;

## Auction

- (dd) FHA has agreed in principle to conduct its March auction at NAFA's Skyway Property from March 24 to 31, 2020, if certain terms are met (the "Auction");
- (ee) The Applicants and FHA are still negotiating the terms of such Auction but expect to have an agreement in place by the time of the extension hearing;
- (ff) the Auction provides the Applicants an opportunity to sell its wild fur, and its owned or consigned inventory, in order to provide the Applicants with additional liquidity during, or just following the Stay Period;

## **Sale Process**

- (gg) The Applicants have worked with the Monitor to developed a SISP, to be conducted by the Monitor and the Applicants, which contemplates the sale of all or part of the entire remaining business including the Applicants' outstanding loan facilities, the real estate and intellectual property;
- (hh) The Monitor has recommended further consultation with the Agent before the form of SISP is finalized. The Applicants support this approach;
- (ii) The SISP, once finalized, will allow certain assets of the Applicants to be marketed;

(jj) The Applicants believe that crafting a SISP with the input of the Monitor and the Agent is appropriate process at this point in the restructuring;

## **KERP**

- (kk) The Initial Order approved and authorized a key employee retention plan ("**KERP**"), that would be paid provided they remain engaged with the Applicants until at least January 15, 2020;
- (ll) Of the 11 of employees subject to the KERP, all have remained with the Applicants;
- (mm) It is anticipated that on January 31, 2020, all of the Key Employees that were a part of the KERP (as referred to in the Initial Order) will be provided their KERP payments;
- (nn) the Applicants believe it would be beneficial to the CCAA proceeding to offer a further KERP to certain of the remaining employees;
- (oo) The KERP was developed to facilitate and encourage the continued participation of senior management and other key employees who are required to guide the business through the restructuring process and preserve the value of the business for the stakeholders;

## **Other Grounds**

(pp) The provisions of the CCAA, including section 11 thereof, and the inherent and equitable jurisdiction of this Honourable Court;

(qq) Rules 2.03, 3.02, 16, and 37 of the Ontario *Rules of Civil Procedure*, R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 194, as amended;

(rr) Section 106 of the Courts of Justice Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. C.43 as amended; and

(ss) 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 the motion:

(a) the Affidavit of Doug Lawson affirmed January ●, 2020 and the exhibits attached thereto;

(b) the Third Report of the Monitor, to be filed; and

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

Date: January 27, 2020 BLANEY MCMURTRY LLP

Barristers & Solicitors 2 Queen Street East, Suite 1500 Toronto ON M5C 3G5

**David T. Ullmann** (LSO # 42357I)

Tel: (416) 596-4289 Fax: (416) 594-2437

Email: DUllmann@blaney.com

Jessica Wuthmann (LSO #72442W)

Tel: (416) 593-3924 Fax: (416) 594-3595

Email: JWuthmann@blaney.com

Counsel for the Applicants

# **SCHEDULE "A"**

Court File No. CV-19-00630241-00CL

## **ONTARIO**

#### SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE

## **COMMERCIAL LIST**

THE HONOURABLE	)	THURSDAY, THE $30^{TH}$
	)	
MR. JUSTICE McEWEN	)	DAY OF JANUARY, 2020

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 NORTH AMERICAN FUR PRODUCERS INC., NAFA PROPERTIES INC., 3306319 NOVA SCOTIA LIMITED, NORTH AMERICAN FUR AUCTIONS INC., NAFA PROPERTIES (US) INC., NAFA PROPERTIES STOUGHTON LLC, NORTH AMERICAN FUR AUCTIONS (US) INC., NAFPRO LLC (WISCONSIN LLC), NAFA EUROPE CO-OPERATIEF UA, NAFA EUROPE B.V., DAIKOKU SP.Z OO and NAFA POLSKA SP. Z OO

(the "Applicants")

#### **ORDER**

(Stay Extension, SISP, and Auction)

**THIS MOTION**, made by the Applicants for an Order for the relief set out in the Notice of Motion of the Applicants dated January 26, 2020, was heard this day at 330 University Avenue, Toronto, Ontario.

**ON READING** the Affidavit of Douglas Lawson, affirmed January ●, 2020 and the Exhibits thereto (the "Lawson Affidavit"), the Third Report of Deloitte Restructuring Inc., in its capacity as monitor for the Applicants (in such capacity, "Monitor") dated January ●, 2020 (the

"Third Report"), and on hearing the submissions of counsel for the Applicants, counsel to the Monitor, counsel to the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, as agent (in such capacity, the "Agent") for the lenders party to the Fourth and Restated Credit Agreement dated as of September 27, 2019 (as may be amended or amended and restated, the "Credit Agreement") from time to time (the "Lenders"), and all other counsel listed on the counsel slip, no one appearing for any other person on the Service List, although properly served as appears on the Affidavit of Service of •, sworn January •, 2020, filed:

#### SERVICE AND DEFINITIONS

- 1. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the time for service of the Notice of Motion and Motion Record herein is hereby abridged and validated so that this Motion is properly returnable today and hereby dispenses with further service thereof.
- 2. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that terms not otherwise defined in this Order shall have the meaning set out in the Initial Order of the Honourable Justice McEwen, dated October 31, 2019 (as amended and restated) (the "**Initial Order**").

#### EXTENSION OF THE STAY PERIOD

3. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Stay Period is hereby extended from January 31, 2020 until and including April 3, 2020.

# AUTHORIZATION TO UNDERTAKE SALE AND INVESTMENT SOLICITATION PROCESS

- 4. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Monitor is hereby authorized to undertake a Sale and Investment Solicitation Process ("**SISP**") in a form approved by the Applicants and the Agent or otherwise approved by the Court.
- 5. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that, subject to the approval of the Agent and the Applicants to the form of the SISP or further Order approving the SISP as contemplated by paragraph 4 hereof, the Monitor be and is hereby authorized and directed to perform its obligations under and in accordance with the SISP, and to take such further steps as it considers necessary or desirable in carrying out the SISP.

- 6. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that, in undertaking its obligations under the SISP, the Monitor is hereby empowered and authorized, but not obliged, to do any of the following where the Monitor considers it necessary or desirable:
  - (a) To engage, in consultation with the consultants, managers, property managers, real estate agents, brokers, listing agents, counsel and such other persons from time to time and on whatever basis, including on a temporary basis, to assist with the exercise of the Monitor's powers and duties conferred by this Order;
  - (b) In accordance with the SISP, to market any and all of the Property subject to the SISP, including advertising and soliciting offers in respect of the Property, and negotiating such terms and conditions of sale as the Monitor in its discretion may deem appropriate;
  - (c) To apply for any vesting order or other orders necessary to convey the Property subject to the SISP or any part or parts thereof to a purchaser or purchasers thereof, free and clear of any liens or encumbrances affecting such Property and vesting same in the proceeds; and
  - (d) To take any steps reasonably incidental to the exercise of these powers or the performance of any statutory obligations.
- 7. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Monitor and its affiliates, partners, directors, employees, agents and controlling persons shall have no liability with respect to any and all losses, claims, damages or liabilities, of any nature or kind, to any person in connection with or as a result of the SISP, except to the extent such losses, claims, damages or liabilities result from gross negligence or willful misconduct of the Monitor in performing its obligations under the SISP.
- 8. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that in connection with the SISP and pursuant to clause 7(3)(c) of the *Personal Information and Electronic Documents Act (Canada)*, the Monitor is authorized and permitted to disclose personal information of identifiable individuals to prospective purchasers or offerors and to their advisors, but only to the extent desirable or required to negotiate and attempt to complete one or more transactions (each, a "**Transaction**"). Each prospective purchaser or offeror

to whom such information is disclosed shall maintain and protect the privacy of such information and shall limit the use of such information to its evaluation of the Transaction.

9. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that pursuant to section 3(c)(i) of the *Electronic Commerce Protection Regulations*, SOR/2013-221, made under *An Act to Promote the Efficiency and Adaptability of the Canadian Economy by Regulating Certain Activities that Discourage Reliance on Electronic Means of Carrying Out Commercial Activities, and to Amend the Canadian Radiotelevision and Telecommunications Commission Act, the Competition Act, the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act and the Telecommunications Act*, S.C. 2010, c. 23, the Monitor is authorized and permitted to send, or cause or permit to be sent, commercial electronic messages to an electronic address of prospective purchasers or bidders and to their advisors but only to the extent desirable or required to provide information with respect to the SISP in these CCAA proceedings.

#### APPROVAL OF AUCTION

- 10. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Applicants are authorized to undertake an auction as described in the Lawson Affidavit (the "Auction") and are authorized to negotiate and enter into an agreement with Fur Harvesters Auction Inc. ("FHA"), on terms substantially similar to those described in the Lawson Affidavit and the Monitor's Third Report, for FHA and the Applicants to hold a joint Auction for wild fur, and any other such pelts that FHA and the Applicants may agree to sell, at the Applicants' property located at 65 Skyway Avenue, Rexdale Ontario.
- 11. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Applicants and the Monitor be and are hereby authorized and directed to perform the obligations in order to undertake the Auction, and to take such further steps as it considers necessary or desirable in carrying out the Auction.

# KEY EMPLOYEE RETENTION PLAN

12. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Key Employee Retention Plan ("**KERP**") as described in the Lawson Affidavit is hereby approved and the Applicants are authorized, in consultation with the Monitor, to make payments contemplated thereunder in accordance with the terms and conditions of the KERP.

13. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the key employees referred to in the KERP (the "**Key Employees**") shall be entitled to the benefit of the KERP Charge.

## APPROVAL OF MONITOR REPORTS AND ACTIONS

14. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Second Report of the Monitor dated November 27, 2019, and the actions, decisions and conduct of the Monitor as set out in the Reports are hereby authorized and approved.

#### SEALING OF CONFIDENTIAL EXHIBITS

15. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that Confidential Appendices "A" and "B" to the Lawson Affidavit shall be and are hereby sealed, kept confidential and shall not form part of the public record pending further Order of this Court.

## INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

16. 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 Monitor and the Applicants and their agents 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 Monitor, as an officer of this Court, and the Applicants as may be necessary or desirable to give effect to this Order or to assist the Monitor and the Applicants and their agents in carrying out the terms of this Order.

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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 NORTH AMERICAN FUR PRODUCERS INC., NAFA PROPERTIES INC., 3306319 NOVA SCOTIA LIMITED, NORTH AMERICAN FUR AUCTIONS INC., NAFA PROPERTIES (US) INC., NAFA PROPERTIES STOUGHTON LLC, NORTH AMERICAN FUR AUCTIONS (US) INC., NAFAPRO LLC (WISCONSIN LLC), NAFA EUROPE CO-OPERATIEF UA, NAFA EUROPE B.V., DAIKOKU SP.Z OO and NAFA POLSKA SP. Z OO

(the "Applicants")

## AFFIDAVIT OF DOUGLAS LAWSON

I, **DOUGLAS LAWSON**, of the City of Toronto, in the Province of Ontario, **AFFIRM AND SAY**:

- 1. I am the President and Chief Executive Officer of North American Fur Auctions Inc. and as such have knowledge as to the matters which I hereinafter depose. To the extent I am recounting information provided to me by others, I have stated the source of that information and verily believe it to be true.
- 2. I use the term "NAFA" to refer to the Applicants throughout this affidavit. Further, all currency stated herein is stated in U.S. dollars unless otherwise noted.
- 3. I swear this affidavit in support of a motion by NAFA for an Order seeking, *inter alia*:
  - a. an extension of the stay of proceedings ("Stay Period") from January 31, 2020 to
     and including April 3, 2020;

- b. authorizing NAFA to negotiate and enter into an agreement with Fur Harvesters Auction Inc., on terms substantially similar to those described herein and in the Monitor's Third Report to allow for Fur Harvesters Auction Inc. and NAFA to hold the Auction (as defined in below);
- c. authorizing the Monitor to conduct a sale and investment solicitation process (a "SISP) in a form approved by the Applicants and Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce as agent (the "Agent") for the lenders (the "Lenders") or otherwise approved by the Court;
- d. approving a revised and updated Key Employee Retention Plan ("KERP"); and
- e. sealing certain confidential exhibits.

# Background

- 4. On October 31, 2019, NAFA commenced proceedings under the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act* (the "CCAA") pursuant to the Order of Justice McEwen (as amended and restated, the "Initial Order"). Background information about NAFA's business is set out in the affidavit I affirmed in support of the initial CCAA application ("Initial Affidavit"), a copy of which is attached hereto (without exhibits) and marked as Exhibit "A".
- 5. On November 28, 2019 (the "November Motion"), the Court granted NAFA various orders including an Order extending NAFA's Stay Period until January 31, 2020 ("Stay Extension Order"). Attached hereto and marked as Exhibit "B" is a copy of the Stay Extension Order dated November 28, 2019. Attached hereto and marked as Exhibit "C" is a copy of my affidavit sworn November 27, 2019 (without exhibits) in support of the November Motion (the "November Affidavit").

- 6. On January 13, 2020, NAFA obtained a further Order clarifying that third party goods consigned to or stored by NAFA, whether currently held or received thereafter are not and will not be considered property of NAFA, could be returned to those third parties upon confirmation by the Monitor and payment as required by the Stay Extension Order of any amounts owing to NAFA (the "Safe Harbour Order"). If such goods are sold by NAFA, the net proceeds (after payment of any amounts owing to NAFA by the third party) would be held in a segregated account by the Monitor for the benefit of the third party.
- 7. Since the date of the Initial Order, NAFA, in close consultation with Deloitte Restructuring Inc., in its capacity as monitor of NAFA (the "Monitor"), has focused on stabilizing its business and operations as part of these CCAA proceedings as further described herein.
- 8. Although NAFA continues to facilitate the conversion of its current assets (and some real estate assets) into proceeds in order to facilitate the repayment of the Agent, and have made and will continue to make material payments to its lenders, this process is not a liquidation of NAFA. NAFA and its advisors, in consultation with the Monitor, continue to explore all options for the restructuring of the business.
- 9. As set out below, I believe NAFA is acting in good faith and with due diligence and that, provided the Stay Extension Order is granted, NAFA will be able to continue with its restructuring, which will include considering how best to formulate a Plan for its creditors and stakeholders.

# Cash Flow and Repayment to the Agent

10. NAFA has worked with the Monitor to prepare a 13 week cash flow ("Cash Flow Forecast") for the period from the week ending January 24, 2020 to the week ending April 17,

- 2020 ("Cash Flow Period"). I am advised that the Cash Flow Forecast will be annexed to the Monitor's Third Report to be filed in respect of this motion (the "Third Report").
- 11. Prior to the date of affirming this affidavit, I have reviewed the most recent version of the Cash Flow Forecast, which is in the process of being finalized.
- 12. A copy of a draft of the Cash Flow Forecast was also provided to the Agent for its review on January 20, 2020.
- 13. The Cash Flow Forecast will be the subject of detailed review in the Monitor's Third Report, so I will only make limited comments here.
- 14. I note that the Cash Flow Forecast extends beyond the requested extension period (i.e. April 3, 2020) by two weeks. The Cash Flow Forecast demonstrates that during the period described therein, NAFA will make significant payments to reduce the Agent's debt and have sufficient cash to operate. Interest continues to be paid to the Agent throughout the Cash Flow Period, as it has been throughout this proceeding.
- 15. When the Agent initially made demand on NAFA in August 2019, it was owed approximately \$65,000,000.
- 16. As a time of affirming this affidavit, in total, NAFA has already repaid in excess of \$14,300,000 of secured indebtedness during these CCAA proceedings, which includes repaying outstanding amounts owing under the DIP Loan, all \$8,000,000 of the Tranche B of the Credit Facility advanced by Waygar Capital Inc., and approximately \$3,000,000 to Farm Credit Canada on the closing of the sale of the Carlingview Property.
- 17. In addition, NAFA has paid the Agent's professional fees in the amount of \$616,509 (approximately Cdn \$805,000) that were outstanding at the commencement of these CCAA

proceedings and funded the Agent's professional fees during these CCAA proceedings of approximately \$330,634 (approximately Cdn \$363,000).

- 18. The Cash Flow Forecast projects Distributable Funds being paid to the Agent in each week of the Cash Flow Period and, therefore, the Stay Period.
- 19. In accordance with the Initial Order, the Cash Flow Forecast contemplates repayment to the Lenders from the Distributable Funds (as defined in the Monitor's First Report) being the amount greater than \$1,000,000 in NAFA's bank accounts at the end of each week. This amount is wired to the Agent weekly and two such repayments have occurred to date.
- 20. At the end of the Cash Flow Period, the assets of NAFA at that time will include at least \$1,000,000 of cash in NAFA's bank account plus real estate conservatively estimated at having equity in the amount of \$11,900,000.
- 21. In my view, without even considering the remaining pelts pledged as collateral to NAFA, which will be converted into proceeds after the Cash Flow Period, and without considering any value which may be derived from a successful SISP, the Cash Flow Forecast demonstrates that substantial assets will remain at the end of the Cash Flow Period with which to pay the Agent and other creditors beyond the Agent. These asset values are reflected in the notes to the Cash Flow Forecast to be annexed to by the Monitor's Third Report.

# **DIP Facility**

22. The Initial Order approved an interim financing facility (the "**DIP Facility**") in the principal amount of \$5 million from Waygar Capital Inc. (the "**DIP Lender**").

- 23. With the approval of the Monitor, the DIP Lender advanced \$1.65 million to NAFA under the DIP Facility on November 4, 2019. In addition, NAFA, with the assistance of the Monitor, entered into definitive documents in respect of the DIP Facility as between the DIP Lender and NAFA.
- 24. Due to the success of the restructuring to date, NAFA did not require any further funds from the DIP Lender in order to continue operations or meet its obligations in this process.
- 25. In accordance with its terms, the DIP facility was due on January 31, 2020.
- 26. On January 8, 2020, NAFA repaid the entirety of the amount it borrowed under the DIP Facility to the DIP Lender inclusive of interest and fees. The DIP Facility was terminated after payment of these amounts.
- 27. At this time, NAFA does not anticipate the need for a further DIP Facility during the proposed Stay Period.

## The Saga Transaction

- 28. But for the circumstances which led to this CCAA proceeding, in the ordinary course of conducting its business, NAFA would at this time of year collect furs from the international mink breeding and wild fur communities which had been funded by NAFA. NAFA would then process these furs into auction lots and ultimately sell them at the three auctions which NAFA routinely held every year.
- 29. In 2019, in order to respond to the Agent's requirement that it be paid on an accelerated basis, NAFA agreed that it would not collect and grade new furs, and instead entered into an arrangement with Saga Furs Oyj ("Saga") who agreed to receive these furs for NAFA and attend

to their sale and provide the proceeds to NAFA, which would in turn use the proceeds to repay the Agent (the "Saga Transaction").

- 30. The Saga Transaction was described in my Initial Affidavit and NAFA was authorized to undertake the Saga Transaction in the Initial Order.
- 31. The Saga Transaction has two parts.
- 32. The first part of the Saga Transaction was that Saga agreed to fund the last few installments owing on certain "kit loans", which were then still outstanding in November, in order to facilitate the completion of the growing and harvest cycle for mink being raised by certain ranchers in Europe.
- 33. The second part of the Saga Transaction was that Saga agreed that upon Saga receiving these pelts, Saga would provide advances equal to up to 85% of the total anticipated value of the minks delivered to NAFA, which is entitled to these proceeds in order to repay the debts owing to NAFA from these various farmers.
- 34. Saga completed this first part of the transaction in November and December materially in line with expectations. After this point, the crisis with respect to the funding of the kit loans passed and NAFA's focus turned to the processing of the pelts.
- 35. As a result of the success of the first part of the Saga Transaction, approximately 1.3 million mink pelts, which are subject to the security held by NAFA, have been harvested around the world. The total value of these mink pelts, assuming an average market price of \$22.50 per pelt, will likely be approximately \$29,250,000.
- 36. The second aspect of the Saga Transaction, wherein Saga agreed it pay up to 85% of the anticipated value of the mink pelts delivered to it by NAFA, contemplated NAFA receiving the

majority of the value of the mink pelts upon delivery to Saga, rather than having to wait for the pelts to be auctioned later in the year by Saga.

- 37. The Cash Flow Forecast for the period November 22, 2019 to February 14, 2020, referred to in my November Affidavit and annexed as Appendix "D" to the Monitor's Second Report (the "November Cash Flow Forecast"), anticipated the receipt of material proceeds from the pelts delivered to Saga in January. However, a number of issues have arisen with the second part of the Saga Transaction, which have required additional effort on the part of NAFA, and which have delayed the delivery of some of the pelts to Saga and the payment of funds by Saga to NAFA.
- 38. We have now identified what I believe to be the majority of these logistical issues and I believe the updated Cash Flow Forecast is an appropriate estimate of the future flow of pelts and funds from Saga to NAFA. The Monitor will address material assumptions in its report.
- 39. The issues we have had to address are set out below.

## **Opportunistic Farmers**

- 40. It has become evident that some farmers have sought to take advantage of their erroneous perception that NAFA, being in restructuring, is too weak to pursue its security and collect its debts around the world. This is incorrect.
- 41. NAFA has run into at least two material issues with two European farms, known as Kestutis and Grobina.
- 42. The Kestutis and Grobina farms, being separate businesses located in Lithuania and Latvia, respectively, together owe NAFA in excess of \$16 million, [including \$12 million from this year's

kit loans (in addition to other long term debts). Kestutis was to provide in excess of 360,000 pelts and Grobina was to provide in excess of 160,000 pelts to NAFA this year.

- 43. Grobina, in or around the date of the Initial Order, entered into an insolvency administration in Latvia.
- 44. It has recently been brought to our attention that Grobina purported to sell as many as 60,000 pelts to a European investment house shortly before it filed for insolvency, at a price which is manifestly below market price, and for proceeds which may never have been received. However, we further understand that the 60,000 pelts may remain on Grobina's property notwithstanding that Grobina may have entered into a transaction to sell them.
- 45. It may also be the case that Grobina attempted to consign 110,000 pelts to one of NAFA's competitors, Kopenhagen Furs ("**KF**"), without creditor approval in Grobina's insolvency process.
- 46. At the last meeting of Grobina's creditors, the administrator acknowledged that he could not enter into the agreement with KF without the agreement of NAFA (given that it is NAFA's security) and that he will be negotiating with NAFA moving forward. However, the administrator has been very slow to take steps and to respond to NAFA's requests to negotiate.
- 47. NAFA has been and continues to be actively involved in the Grobina insolvency. NAFA, through its local counsel, attempted to replace the Grobina insolvency administrator (who, I am advised by our Latvian counsel, has failed to diligently pursue his obligations) during the week of January 6, 2020 but was unsuccessful.
- 48. To protect the value of its security at Grobina, NAFA has taken steps to have security posted at the Grobina farm in Latvia. I am advised by our local agent that at least one attempt has

recently been made to remove some pelts from Grobina, which was blocked by the security guards hired by NAFA.

- 49. NAFA is continuing to attempt to assert control over these pelts so that they can be delivered to Saga or NAFA for processing, but given these issues, NAFA has removed the receipt of these proceeds from the Grobina pelts from its current Cash Flow Period.
- 50. The Kestutis farm presents different issues with a similar short term impact.
- 51. In or about the time of the commencement of these CCAA proceedings, NAFA became aware that Kestutis had failed to raise 360,000 mink that it has committed to NAFA to deliver, and had only raised 250,000. We are investigating the details of how this came to be. As a result, the November Cash Flow Forecast reflected the fact that only 250,000 pelts were to be delivered from Kestutis to Saga.
- 52. Over the past three to four weeks, Kestutis has resisted delivering his furs to Saga. Kestutis has, according to our agent in Lithuania, received advice from his local counsel that NAFA is too weak to pursue him.
- 53. Kestutis has therefore taken various positions seeking to extort hostage payments from NAFA to fund future Kestutis operations in exchange for the consensual delivery of the pelts to Saga. On January 13<sup>th</sup>, Kestutis also reported to NAFA that the herd available for collection had dropped from 250,000 pelts to 210,000 pelts. NAFA has not been able to confirm if Kestutis in fact sold 40,000 pelts or made this statement as part of its attempt at negotiating with NAFA.
- 54. NAFA has rejected this leveraged approach from Kestutis and is considering litigation options at this time. More details regarding these options have been provided to the Agent and the Monitor and can confidentially be provided to the Court.

- 55. Currently, NAFA anticipates the receipt of at least 210,000 pelts from Kestutis, but the timing of receiving the pelts is now uncertain.
- 56. It is entirely possible that, when faced with possible litigation and, as we are advised by our Lithuanian counsel, the very real possibility of criminal sanction under Lithuanian laws, Kestutis may reconsider his position and allow for the delivery of these pelts during the Stay Period, but we believe the more conservative approach is to not include these proceeds in the Cash Flow Forecast and the Monitor agrees with this approach.
- 57. In addition, there are certain other farmers who have not yet delivered their goods to Saga. We suspect that some of these farmers may be waiting to see whether or not NAFA survives this proceeding and/or whether or not the commodity value for mink for this year improves.
- 58. At least one farmer has demanded that NAFA pay its outstanding feed bill, of approximately \$30,000, before it will deliver its pelts to NAFA. This request by the farmer is outside the ordinary court and opportunistic.
- 59. NAFA holds security from all of these farmers and is resisting farmers' opportunistic attempt to seek hostage payments in this fashion.
- 60. We have prepared a form of demand letter, which is going to be sent to all farmers who are indebted to NAFA that have mink which are anticipated to be sold this year. The letter makes clear that NAFA will pursue its remedies against these farmers, including the appointment of the necessary parties to collect mink from these farmers, if their mink are not delivered immediately.
- 61. It is our belief that these measures will encourage these reluctant farmers to deliver their mink. If it does not, we may seek the further assistance of the Court.

#### **Pelting Plant Holdbacks**

- 62. A second unanticipated issue has occurred at the pelting plants.
- 63. Most farmers do not have their own facility to transform what are known as "green" skins (being essentially the raw skin from the animal which is kept frozen pending processing) into pelts which can be turned into garments.
- 64. As a result, most breeders provide these green skins to a pelting plant, who then processes the skins into pelts, for a fee.
- 65. When NAFA was operating normally, NAFA would pay these pelting costs directly to the pelting plants for many of its breeders to facilitate the timely delivery of pelts. It was anticipated that Saga would provide for these advances directly to the pelting plants as well. However, Saga will not pay pelting costs until it has had the opportunity to receive and confirm the pelts at one of its designated grading facilities.
- 66. As a result of the forgoing, a material number of pelts are accumulating at various pelting plants around the world that will not release the pelts prior to receiving payment.
- 67. Given this accumulation at pelting plants, the flow of pelts to Saga, and the resultant flow of funds back to NAFA, has been delayed.
- 68. To assist with the upfront costs required by pelting plants, NAFA believes it is practical for NAFA to pay pelting costs directly to the pelting plants and then seek reimbursement of the pelting plant costs once the pelts are delivered to Saga.
- 69. It is anticipated that these pelting costs will be recovered when the pelts are delivered to Saga (or to AME or KF, as further discussed below).

70. Saga has confirmed that it is prepared to pay the pelting costs once the pelts are received at one of their designated grading facilities and it has the chance to confirm the number of pelts in the shipment.

# Assignment of Receivables - "AORs"

- 71. Upon pelts reaching Saga, an additional obstacle has been encountered. Saga has advised that it would only pay the advance anticipated by the Saga Transaction to NAFA upon the farmers signing an "Assignment of Receivables" or "AOR". A copy of the form is attached hereto as **Exhibit "D".**
- 72. The AOR essentially requires the farmer to confirm that it has a debt owing to NAFA and that it does not object to Saga paying NAFA ahead of the farmer.
- 73. This issue became known to NAFA in December just prior to the holiday break, when pelts began to reach Saga.
- 74. It is NAFA's position that the Saga Transaction does not allow Saga to require these AOR as a precondition of taking delivery and making payment to NAFA, but Saga does not agree.
- 75. Certain farmers have been reticent to sign the AORs, again because of what I understand to be, in part, the confusion the additional paperwork causes the farmers, the misunderstanding of the purpose of the AOR, and/or their erroneous belief that NAFA will not survive to collect these debts, and the hope that by not signing the AOR they can receive the funds that would otherwise go to NAFA.
- 76. NAFA will have much greater difficulty collecting the funds from the farmers rather than from Saga, although it will do so if necessary.

- 77. As recently as a conference call held on January 23, 2020, NAFA has advised Saga, that it is the position of NAFA, and the Monitor, that in the event Saga takes delivery of any pelts, which are subject to NAFA's security and/or sells these pelts without paying the pelting advance contemplated by the Saga Transaction, such action will constitute conversion by Saga and we will hold Saga jointly and severally liable with the farmer for any loss suffered by NAFA as a result.
- 78. Saga has confirmed to NAFA and the Monitor that it will continue its efforts to have the AORs signed, and to be aware of NAFA's security interests in those pelts.
- 79. As noted above, we are also making demand upon all farmers who are to deliver pelts this year and who have an outstanding obligation to NAFA. In that demand we will advise them of this position and require the farmers to either make payment in full or to deliver the mink to Saga and sign the AORs.
- 80. It is anticipated that the farmers and Saga will comply with the above as:
  - a. Saga wants to have the furs delivered to it for its auction; and
  - b. the farmers, facing our demands, need to convert their pelts to proceeds.

When this becomes the common practice, the flow of funds to NAFA should accelerate.

#### American Mink Exchange/Kopenhagen Furs

81. The final material obstacle which has slowed the collection of the anticipated proceeds from the Saga Transaction has been the leakage of pelts to Saga's competitor, KF and their American broker/agents, the American Mink Exchange ("AME").

- 82. AME operates a brokerage house out of New York which allows for North American fur farmers to have their products graded and sorted in North America and then sold by AME through auctions conducted at KF.
- 83. KF is the largest fur auction house in the world.
- 84. Where a breeder who has mink pledged to NAFA chooses to deliver furs to AME or KF rather than Saga, NAFA currently has no arrangement in place to get paid the same advances which it was to receive under the Saga Transaction.
- 85. As such, in the absence of an arrangement, NAFA may have to wait for AME or KF to sell these mink at auction before proceeds are made available to NAFA thereby delaying cash receipts and payment of the Syndicate debt.
- 86. NAFA, along with the Monitor, has communicated verbally with AME and the Monitor has written to AME. AME has verbally provided its assurance that it will recognize NAFA's security position in the mink delivered to it from farmers that have pledged mink to NAFA. They have also offered to possibly provide an advance on delivery, similar to the one paid by Saga, on a case by case basis. Lastly, AME has advised that it would likely be in a position to pay pelting costs incurred by NAFA at the pelting plants for furs delivered to AME.
- 87. NAFA and the Monitor also held a conference call directly with KF on January 23, 2020 and reviewed with them the same position which had been expressed to AME.
- 88. KF similarly acknowledged the existence of the NAFA security, and considered the possibility of providing advances, both for pelts delivered and for pelting costs expended by NAFA, provided the pelts are delivered to KF with an AOR. NAFA intends to explore how to formalize this arrangement in the near future with the assistance of the Monitor.

89. Unfortunately, NAFA cannot control where the farmers deliver their product, unless NAFA were to seize that product itself. In my view, this is not practical or cost efficient solution at this time. NAFA cannot quickly seize these products. As such, NAFA must now account for the fact that certain breeders may deliver their goods to AME, or KF, and not Saga.

#### The Daikoku Farm

- 90. Among the assets owned by NAFA is a working mink farm in Poland, known as the Daikoku farm. The Daikoku Farm has produced 104,000 harvested mink this year which are in the process of being delivered to Saga, as per the Saga Transaction.
- 91. NAFA believes that the Daikoku farm produces strong, high quality mink which can produce valuable mink for sale in 2021 and beyond. NAFA only acquired this asset in 2018 and is optimistic of its future value.
- 92. The Daikoku mink sold for prices that were above the standard price for mink pelts because of their quality in 2019. NAFA manages this owned farm and therefore has direct knowledge of the mink. The recently harvested crop appears to also be of high quality product.
- 93. As such, NAFA is seeking to continue the operation of the Daikoku farm beyond the Cash Flow Forecast in order to eventually have product to sell in 2021 which will be of greater value than the costs incurred.
- 94. At this time the Cash Flow Forecast projects that during the Cash Flow Period it will cost \$337,000 to keep approximately 30,000 breeder minks alive and cared for with a view to creating in excess of 100,000 minks for harvest and sale in the 2021 season. There are further costs of \$478,000 projected as required after the Cash Flow Period. I anticipate that Daikoku can seek to obtain a kit loan for those further expenses.

- 95. It is anticipated by NAFA that, net of all ordinary operating costs and advances (including the \$337,000 in the Cash Flow Forecast), the harvest and sale of the future crop of Daikoku mink will net approximately \$750,000 based upon an average value of EUR 30 per pelt. NAFA's calculations in this regard are attached at **Confidential Appendix "A"**.
- 96. The recovery from the Daikoku farm will be of value to the creditors who stand behind the Agent, since I believe the Agent will be repaid before 2021. As such, the investment in this asset may provide funds for a future plan, or at least future recovery for the unsecured creditors.
- 97. NAFA also believes that the Daikoku farm is a potentially valuable asset to third parties, as long as it remains an operating farm, which could be sold in the SISP, described below.
- 98. There are two caveats to the foregoing. The first is that there is a threat of the outbreak of a mink destroying disease known as Aleutian Disease in or around the area of the Daikoku farm. If the breeder mink are found to be infected, the entire herd will have to immediately be pelted and there will be no future for the farm.
- 99. Second, NAFA is keenly watching the results of the upcoming auctions to be held by its competitors to see which direction the mink commodity market is heading. If there is no sign of recovery in the prices in the auctions to be held during the Extension Period, NAFA may decide to terminate the herd.
- 100. It is my understanding that likely less than \$50,000 to \$75,000 will be spent maintaining the Daikoku farm pending the Company being in a position to review the outcome of these two caveats.

- 101. It is my understanding the Monitor and the Agent are reviewing this matter further and that the Agent has expressed concerns, albeit indirectly through the Monitor. The Monitor has also continued to ask questions about the risks and likely revenue from this project.
- 102. NAFA believes that, while there is risk in continuing to operate the farm, there is likely value to be realized as well which makes that risk reasonable. But for these proceedings, NAFA would proceed in this way without hesitation and I am recommending the Court allow us to do so.

### **The Carlingview Property**

- 103. NAFA's principal North American warehouse/distribution facility is located at 500 Carlingview Drive, Toronto ("Carlingview Property"). NAFA Properties Inc. ("NAFA Properties") owned and maintained the Carlingview Property.
- 104. At the November Motion, Justice McEwen granted NAFA an Approval and Vesting Order for the sale of the Carlingview Property. The details of the sale are further described in my November Affidavit. The Agreement of Purchase and Sale ("APS") included a leaseback provision wherein the Purchaser leased back a portion of the Carlingview Property to NAFA. As such, NAFA has the ongoing use of the property for at least a year at no cost while it evaluates its restructuring options on a go-forward basis with an option to renew for up to two further years.
- 105. On January 6, 2020, NAFA and the Purchaser closed the sale of the Carlingview Property. NAFA received gross proceeds of CDN \$11,000,000 for the sale of the Carlingview Property. The net sale proceeds were distributed by the Monitor in accordance with the Approval and Vesting Order.

# **The International Properties**

- 106. Among its holdings, NAFA owns one property in Poland and two properties in Stoughton, Wisconsin.
- 107. NAFA has listed the property in Poland and are in the final stages of listing the two properties in Wisconsin. It is anticipated that these listings will run in parallel with the SISP.

## **BDC** and the Skyway Property

- 108. NAFA Properties is the registered owner of two long-term ground leases (the "**Ground Leases**") in respect of a property municipally known as 65 Skyway Avenue, Rexdale Ontario (the "**Skyway Property**"), which is NAFA's head office and main auction facility.
- 109. The Business Development Bank of Canada ("**BDC**") made a term loan available to NAFA Properties in the principal amount of \$7,240,000 to allow NAFA Properties to acquire its interest in the Skyway Property in connection with the Ground Leases.
- 110. At the November Motion, Justice McEwen granted NAFA what is referred to as the Ground Leases Order. This Order ordered that, *inter alia*, all payments relating to the Grounds Leases will continue to be paid to BDC in the ordinary course, and authorized NAFA Properties to list the Ground Leases for sale, provided that the listing agreement is in form and substance satisfactory to the Monitor and BDC, in consultation with the Agent.
- 111. NAFA met with four agents and after consultation with the Monitor, BDC and notice to the Agent, selected an agent who began its marketing efforts on January 21, 2020.

112. NAFA proposes to also offer the Skyway Property for sale through the SISP, both to any party who makes an enterprise offer, or as a discrete asset to any party who participates in the process.

#### **BLACKGLAMA Trademark**

- 113. NAFA is the owner of the BLACKGLAMA brand (the "Marks") used in association with mink pelts, perfume, as well as false eyelashes and clothing items made from mink fur (the "Goods").
- 114. My November Affidavit explained the importance of the BLACKGLAMA brand worldwide and advised the Court that NAFA was in the process of negotiating a short license agreement for the BLACKGLAMA brand ("License Agreement").
- 115. Since the November Motion, NAFA has finalized and concluded the License Agreement.

  The terms of the License Agreement are substantially similar to those described in my November Affidavit.
- 116. The License preserved the right for NAFA to market the Marks for sale to any party, provided that Saga, the licensee, had the right of first offer and the exclusive right to use the Marks until August 2020, and commercial terms to allow for the sale of remaining marked product after licence termination. Prior to commencing a SISP, NAFA intends to provide Saga an opportunity to submit its right of first offer.
- 117. NAFA proposes to list the Marks for sale through the SISP.

# **KERP** and other Employee Matters

#### The KERP

- 118. The Initial Order approved and authorized a key employee retention plan ("**KERP**"), which offered the Key Employees a bonus equal to 50% of their ordinary salary over three months (the "**KERP Bonus**") that would be paid provided they remain engaged with NAFA until at least January 15, 2020.
- 119. The employees were advised of this plan prior to and following the granting of the Initial Order including after the Initial Order was amended and restated on November 8, 2019. On or about November 15, 2019, NAFA sent a letter to the Key Employees to explain the KERP and advised that the KERP Bonus would be paid to them on the earliest of the termination of their employment with NAFA or January 31, 2020.
- 120. Of the 11 of employees subject to the KERP, all have remained with NAFA.
- 121. The Cash Flow Forecast reflects that on January 31, 2020, all of the Key Employees that were a part of the KERP and remained with NAFA, will be provided their KERP Bonus.
- 122. Given that the KERP Bonus is being paid, NAFA believe it would be beneficial to the CCAA proceeding to offer a further KERP to certain of the remaining employees.
- 123. I am of the view that a KERP is appropriate for the same reasons set out in my Initial Affidavit.
- 124. NAFA and the Monitor are in the process of reviewing the terms of the KERP and will provide a final schedule of the proposed payments to the Court at the hearing of this matter.
- 125. The KERP does not provide any bonus for myself, nor do I seek any.
- 126. Assuming that NAFA are able to retain all of the Key Employees to April 30, 2020, the total amount payable to these employees under the KERP would be similar to the previous KERP

approved in this process, which is reasonable given the value that these employees will provide to the enterprise.

## **US 401(k) Plan**

- 127. NAFA is terminating its US 401(k) Plan as all of its employees have been terminated, resigned, or accepted positions with Saga.
- 128. I am told by NAFA's US counsel that the IRS is not permitting NAFA to terminate the 401(k) Plan as NAFA's employer contributions have not been remitted.
- 129. Given that it is unclear if the within CCAA proceedings will be recognized in the US and be able to stay this obligation, I understand that has conservatively provided for payment of these amounts in the Cash Flow Forecast. However, NAFA is considering its options in this regard.
- 130. The Agent have questioned the Monitor as to whether or not this payment is appropriate at this time and further discussions may ensue before the hearing. For the time being, NAFA has asked the Monitor to leave this payment in the cash flow forecast as NAFA intends to make this payment.

### **SISP**

- 131. NAFA has worked with the Monitor to develop a SISP which contemplates that sale of all or part of the entire remaining business including NAFA's outstanding loan facilities, the real estate and intellectual property.
- 132. It is intended that the SISP would commence with the issuance by the Monitor of a teaser to solicit interest, which would be sent out on March  $2^{nd}$ .

- 133. NAFA believes that a SISP is a workable and appropriate process in order to facilitate the restructuring of the business and the payment of its creditors.
- 134. I also understand that the Agent was provided a draft of the SISP for its review and comments on January 22, 2020.
- 135. Although there have been attempts at marketing certain assets of the business in the past, including the unfortunately accelerated marketing in July and August of 2019, I believe that NAFA will now be marketed to a wider audience under a SISP with a more appropriate time frame and I am hopeful that it could lead to a very positive outcome.
- 136. The Monitor will have the ability to liaise with KPMG Corporate Finance to leverage off of their recent marketing efforts, as well as bring the considerable resources of Deloitte to bear on this process.
- 137. All of Saga, KF and FHA (defined below), have already been advised of the intention to commence the SISP.
- 138. Mindful of the cost of a SISP, especially given the international nature of the assets and possible purchaser(s), the SISP is contemplated to have two phases, with the first being to seek expressions of interest before fully committing to phase two of the SISP.
- 139. I am advised that the Agent wishes for further time to consult and consider the scope and nature of the SISP. As such, NAFA intends to use the time between now and March 2<sup>nd</sup> to consider the Agent's comments and reach a consensual form of SISP.
- 140. The Cash Flow Forecast does not yet rely on or provide for any receipts from the proposed SISP, but I do believe the SISP could result in additional funds being available to pay creditors, not only for the Agent, but for the benefit of creditors ranking behind the Agent.

#### Wild Fur Auction

- 141. NAFA has undertaken an analysis with the Monitor and it is of the view that it is clear that an auction is required, appropriate and cost efficient to deal with NAFA's remaining inventory and assist the wild fur community.
- 142. As I previously reported, in an average year, NAFA would sell wild fur with a gross value of in excess of \$25,000,000. This represents in excess of a million wild furs provided by in excess of 25,000 individual entities.
- 143. According to the Fur Institute of Canada, the Canadian fur trade directly employs an estimated 60,000 Canadians. I understand that many of those employed persons are indigenous.
- 144. NAFA has approximately 294,000 skins on hand that it can offer at an auction. Of these skins, approximately 103,280 are consigned, 5,400 are re-consigned, and 185,775 are owned by NAFA. In addition, various pieces are in storage with NAFA.
- 145. Of the approximately 294,000 skins on hand, approximately 14,675 are ranched mink, 1,859 are ranched fox, and 277,921 are wild furs.
- 146. The Safe Harbour Order has made it possible for NAFA to approach the market and restore some confidence that if an auction takes place, the consignors will be paid.
- 147. With NAFA originally withdrawing from holding an auction this year, and with NAFA not sending out its fur collectors to bring in the wild fur to its auction (as it has done for hundreds of years) the wild fur community has turned to two outlets.
- 148. First, I am advised that a number of trappers have turned to small dealers who buy furs directly from the trappers and attempt to sell them directly to garment houses and or sell them

through other auctions. Under this approach, the trapper may receive a lesser amount for their goods, but they receive that amount up front instead of waiting under a consignment arrangement for their goods to be sold.

- 149. The second outlet has been to prepare to sell their goods through Fur Harvesters Auction Inc. ("**FHA**").
- 150. FHA is a wild fur auction house based in North Bay, Ontario. It has historically been a smaller organization than NAFA, but in the current circumstances, it anticipates receiving a larger than usual flow of goods (being a substantial amount of the wild fur which would have otherwise come to NAFA) and seeks a larger facility to sell the goods.
- 151. FHA has agreed in principle to conduct its March auction at NAFA's Skyway Property from March 24 to 31, 2020, if certain terms are met (the "Auction"). Attached hereto and marked as Confidential Appendix "B" to this affidavit is a copy of a letter I received from FHA providing the terms that it required to be met in order to proceed with the Auction and our response.
- 152. The NAFA and FHA are still negotiating the terms of such Auction but expect to have an agreement in place by the time of the extension hearing.
- 153. Essentially, FHA will leverage off of NAFA's facility and expertise to conduct an auction which is larger than FHA would normally hold. At the same time, NAFA will be able to sell its goods in that Auction, and gain the advantage of the presumably larger number of customers who would attend a combined Auction rather than an auction held just by NAFA.
- 154. I am mindful of the fact that the wild fur community was particularly negatively impacted by the steps taken by the Agent in September 2019 to enforce its security. In particular, on or about September 17, 2019, the Agent cancelled in excess of 7,500 outstanding cheques which had been

issued to the wild fur community related to the August 2019 auction resulting in the non-payment of in excess of \$1,000,000 to this community, often being payments of \$50 or less. These amounts remain outstanding to those hunters and trappers.

- 155. NAFA believes that the Auction is a positive opportunity for NAFA's restructuring process because it provides NAFA an opportunity to sell its wild fur, owned and consigned inventory in order to provide NAFA with additional liquidity that was not accounted for in the November Cash Flow Forecast.
- 156. The Monitor has worked at great length with NAFA to model the likely costs and receipts of the proposed Auction, which I understand will be addressed in greater detail in the Monitor's Third Report.
- 157. NAFA is adjusting its standard payment and credit terms for this Auction to: (a) require that all product is to be sold without reserve bid: and (b) ensure that payment is made, in full, within 14 days of the Auction.
- 158. Indeed, even if an Auction with FHA was not possible, the auction model supports that conducting an auction is a cash positive and also assists with NAFA's obligations to its stakeholders. This auction model was shared with the Agent on January 20, 2020.
- 159. The result of the above changes should be that NAFA will be able to receive additional liquidity from the Auction during, or just following the Stay Period, and continue to provide the wild fur community with an outlet for their product.

#### **Extension**

- 160. Since the Stay Extension Order, NAFA has been acting in good faith and with due diligence, and continues to act in this manner in its relationships with its creditors, employees, lenders, trappers and farmers. As set out in greater detail above, NAFA has:
  - a. repaid the DIP Lender the amounts it advanced under the DIP Facility plus interest and fees;
  - b. paid in excess of \$11,300,000 to the Agent to permanently repay a significant amount of secured indebtedness;
  - c. closed the sale of the Carlingview Property and repaid the first mortgagee thereof;
  - d. arranged for the KERP Bonus to be paid to the Key Employees;
  - e. liaised with stakeholders, including the Agent, the Lenders, the DIP Lender, BDC, and creditors to keep them apprised of developments in the CCAA proceedings and NAFA's business operations; and
  - f. prepared the Cash Flow Forecast with the assistance of the Monitor.
- 161. The current Stay Period under the Stay Extension Order will expire on January 31, 2020. NAFA requests an extension of the Stay Period to and including April 3, 2020 to continue its restructuring efforts.
- 162. I am satisfied that NAFA will be in material compliance with the Cash Flow Forecast going forward and will have sufficient funds to operate during the extension of the Stay Period and beyond, provided the Saga Transaction continues to be performed as projected and NAFA is able to continue with the realizations and restructuring detailed herein and as will be further developed hereafter.

- 163. The Monitor has advised me that it is supportive of NAFA seeking an extension of the Stay Period to and including April 3, 2020.
- 164. I affirm this affidavit in support of NAFA's motion for an Order, *inter alia*: (a) an extension of the Stay Period to and including April 3, 2020; (b) approval of the Auction; (c) authorization of a SISP to be conducted by the Monitor and NAFA, in consultation with the Agent; (d) approval of a revised and updated KERP; and (e) scaling certain confidential exhibits.

AFFIRMED before me at thein the		. )
on the	th day of January, 2020	)

A commissioner, etc.

DOUGLAS LAWSON

This is Exhibit "A" referred to in the Affidavit of Doug Lawson sworn on the day of January, 2020.		
Commissioner for Taking Affidavits (or as may be)		

#### **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 NORTH AMERICAN FUR PRODUCERS INC., NAFA PROPERTIES INC., 3306319 NOVA SCOTIA LIMITED, NORTH AMERICAN FUR AUCTIONS INC., NAFA PROPERTIES (US) INC., NAFA PROPERTIES STOUGHTON LLC, NORTH AMERICAN FUR AUCTIONS (US) INC., NAFPRO LLC (WISCONSIN LLC), NAFA EUROPE CO-OPERATIEF UA, NAFA EUROPE B.V., DAIKOKU SP.Z OO and NAFA POLSKA SP. Z OO

(the "Applicants")

#### AFFIDAVIT OF DOUG LAWSON

- I, DOUG LAWSON, of the City of Toronto, in the Province of Ontario, AFFIRM AND SAY:
- 1. I am the President and Chief Executive Officer of North American Fur Auctions Inc. (the "Company" or "NAFA") and as such have knowledge as to the matters which I hereinafter depose. To the extent I am recounting information provided to me by others, I have stated the source of that information and verily believe it to be true.
- I swear this affidavit in support of an Application by the Applicants seeking protection from their creditors pursuant to the provisions of the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act (the "CCAA").

- 3. All currency references in this affidavit are in USD, the primary operating currency for the Applicants, unless otherwise noted.
- 4. The Applicants' key lending syndicate (the "Syndicate") has advised that it will no longer provide further funding to the Applicants. As such, the Applicants unable to meet certain of their key liabilities as they fall due, in particular their obligation to provide funding to more than 50 farmers around the world who rely on those funds to grow and harvest animals (mainly mink) for sale by NAFA. As a result, the Applicants seek the following urgent relief to:
  - a. ensure continuity of management control (albeit in a public process supervised by a court officer);
  - receive priority debtor in possession ("DIP") financing ("DIP Financing") to allow the Applicants to maintain operations and address the funding needs of their farming clients;
  - c. pursue a transaction for the refinancing of their obligations; and
  - d. have "breathing space" within which to formulate a restructuring plan satisfactory to the stakeholders.
- 5. In the last week, the Company has entered into an arrangement with one of its competitors that provides it with immediate liquidity which, in combination with some short term DIP Financing described herein, should provide the Applicants with the necessary breathing space to consider their options and obligations to stakeholders.

#### Company Background and Recent Events

6. NAFA has a corporate lineage, in one corporate incarnation or another, which is approximately 350 years long. It is the direct corporate descendant of the original Hudson

Bay Fur Trading Company and later the Hudson's Bay Company ("**HBC**"). Its logo recounts that it has been in business since the year 1670:



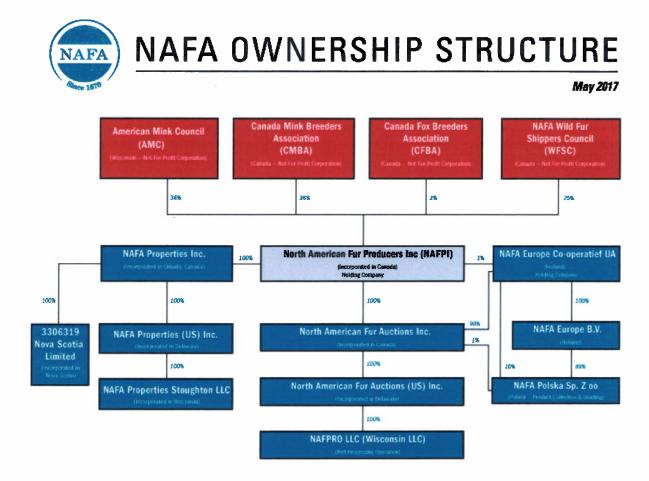
- 7. NAFA is in the business of farming, financing, preparing, grading and auctioning fur products, such as raw fur Pelts ("Pelts"), for use in the garment industry. It is one of essentially three such companies in the world that operate in this industry with similar size and scale. The other two are based in Finland and Denmark. There is no material North American competitor that provides these services.
- 8. NAFA sells in excess of \$200,000,000 worth of fur products annually at the auctions it conducts, as described in greater detail below. It employs in excess of 100 people worldwide through the Canadian and foreign subsidiaries, as well as approximately 300 seasonal workers worldwide from December to June annually.
- 9. NAFA had lending facilities with the Syndicate in the amount of approximately \$50,000,000 to \$80,000,000, depending on the time of year (as explained below). It is currently indebted to the Syndicate in the amount of approximately \$32,000,000 as at October 28, 2019.

#### **Corporate Structure and Business of the Applicants**

- 10. NAFA has two principal sources of revenue. It collects interest and fees on loans it makes into the fur farming industry, and it collects consignor and buyer commissions and related auction charges, and amounts due from those loans, when it conducts its auctions to sell those fur products.
- 11. In addition, NAFA makes loans to farmers to support those businesses in excess of and separate from the Kit Loans (as defined below). NAFA also includes 3306319 Nova Scotia Limited ("3306319"), which owns one mink farm in Nova Scotia. 3306319 generates 48,000 Pelts annually worth approximately \$1,500,000 CAD.
- 12. The Company also provides storage facilities for furs from around the world for entities which have purchased and not collected furs from previous auctions or for parties who wish to store fur pending future auctions. The Company also stores furs provided to it for an auction but which have failed to sell, with instructions to sell those furs at a future auction.
- 13. Between the NAFA owned furs and the furs in storage, NAFA currently has approximately 1,000,000 Pelts worth approximately \$25,000,000 on hand. Less than \$250,000 worth of these Pelts are NAFA's inventory, while the remainder are furs that NAFA is storing on behalf of their owners as described above.
- 14. The Applicants, although located in different countries, are principally controlled by and do business through the Canadian operations of NAFA. The Canadian operations conduct the auctions, oversee the lending operations, and have central command and control over the material decisions made at the subsidiaries. All business of the Applicants is focused on the delivery of Pelts to the Canadian operations centralized around NAFA to be auctioned at NAFA's Head Office (as defined below) in Toronto. All funding of loans, collection of loans,

and receipt of proceeds are also conducted at the Head Office location and by the staff in Canada, as further set out below.

15. The corporate structure of the Applicants is set out in the chart below:



- 16. In addition to the entities in the above corporate chart, there is an additional entity in Poland named Daikoku Sp.Z oo ("Daikoku"), which is a direct subsidiary of NAFA.
- 17. Operational control for the entities in this corporate structure is conducted from the head office located at 65 Skyway Avenue, Toronto, which is also the Company's principal auction location and grading facility (the "Head Office"). The Company's principal distribution facility is located at 500 Carlingview Drive, Toronto. All buyer services, marketing services, buyer

- logistics, storage of sold goods and related activities are carried out within these two buildings.
- 18. The Head Office staff control and administer all consignor loans finance, oversee all consignor accounts, and administer related consignor marketing activities for all the entities in the corporate structure. The Head Office deals with soliciting ranch mink, ranch fox and wild fur within Canada. It is a major receiving depot (receiving individual Pelts into accounts, ticketing for identification, and CITES¹ registration and administration) for both wild fur and ranched fur.
- 19. The Head Office (through Buyer Services and Logistics) is the shipping point for all buyer purchases acquired at auction and staff at the Head Office pack, stage and co-ordinate shipments. NAFA is the major staging location and co-ordination facility for intercompany shipments between NAFA Europe B.V. ("NAFA Europe") and North American Fur Auctions (US) Inc. ("NAFA USA").
- 20. North American Fur Producers Inc. ("NAFPI") is the holding company for the producer associations. The producer association shareholders appoint the NAFPI Board of Directors, who in turn, nominate the directors for NAFA.
- 21. NAFA Properties Inc. ("NAFA Properties") is wholly owned by NAFPI. It owns and maintains various properties located within Canada, including the Carlingview property.
- 22. 3306319 is a fur farm operation located in Nova Scotia and owned by NAFA Properties.
- 23. NAFA USA is wholly owned by the Company. NAFA USA performs all soliciting functions within the United States, administers the American consignor accounts, serves as a receiving deposit for the American goods, and serves as a major grading depot for ranch mink and wild fur. The two facilities in the United States commonly receive and grade mink

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna.

and varying types of wild fur. NAFA USA is also currently storing Pelts. It also owns one of the two properties located in Stoughton, Wisconsin. This building is used primarily as the USA head office and grading facility (also containing the former NAFPRO LLC (Wisconsin LLC) ("NAFPRO") facility).

- 24. NAFA Properties (US) Inc. ("NAFA Properties US") is wholly owned by NAFA Properties. It owns a warehouse in Stoughton, Wisconsin, through NAFA Properties Stoughton LLC, that was under a graduated development as an eventual replacement building for all Stoughton operations, but is currently used primarily for cold storage, packing, and wild fur receiving.
- 25. NAFPRO is wholly owned by NAFA US. Its function was to receive "green" mink Pelts and process them into dry, raw and stable Pelts suitable for grading. This operation has been, or is in the process of being, closed and will not operate in the 2019/2020 season.
- 26. The Pelts that are being processed through NAFPRO and are currently graded and stored through NAFA USA and NAFA Properties US will ultimately be shipped to Canada to be sold at NAFA's auctions held at the Head Office.
- 27. NAFA Europe ran the Western European office, which has since been closed. It administered and paid for all non-Polish solicitors working outside of Poland and in countries including the Netherlands and Denmark. It also administered account proceeds for all European Consignor Auction revenue. As set out above, the accounts for consignor auctions handled through NAFA Europe were ultimately coordinated and controlled by the staff at the Head Office. These operations have now been closed and transitioned to NAFA Polska (as defined below).
- 28. NAFA Polska Sp. Z oo ("NAFA Polska") is the company tasked with the collection and grading of European origin ranch mink for delivery to the Canadian auction. NAFA Polska

serves a cold storage function for 805,000 Pelts and provides the facility for much of the NAFA team located in Europe to operate from. NAFA Polska's grading capacity is about 8,000,000 Pelts per year. These furs are also ultimately shipped to and auctioned in Canada.

- 29. Diakoku is a fur farm operation located in Poland.
- 30. NAFA Europe Co-operatief UA ("NAFA Co-op") is a holding company for all NAFA entities in Europe.
- 31. NAFA also operates the largest wild fur auction house in North America. Annually, NAFA facilitates the sale of approximately \$25,000,000 worth of wild fur.<sup>2</sup>
- 32. This part of NAFA's business is extremely important to the North American wild fur industry, particularly to the aboriginal community that uses NAFA's wild fur auction house as an important way of selling their furs.
- 33. NAFA's wild fur business administration also assists the Canadian Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to monitor the catching and trapping of animals across Canada, including with respect to the limits related to endangered species.
- 34. The Applicants own or lease the following real estate:
  - a. NAFPI 65 Skyway Avenue, Toronto, Ontario (lease);
  - b. NAFA Properties 500 Carlingview Avenue, Toronto (owned);
  - c. NAFA USA 205 Industrial Circle, Stoughton, Wisconsin, U.S.A. (owned);
  - d. NAFA Properties Stoughton LLC 1600 Williams Drive, Stoughton, Wisconsin (owned);

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> "Wild fur" are furs trapped in the traditional sense as opposed to farm raised furs which make up the majority of the fur industry.

- e. NAFA Polska ul. Granitowa 10 in Goleniow, Poland (composed of 0.8916 hectares of land and development erected thereon) (owned);
- f. NAFA Polska ul Produckcyina in Goleniow, Poland (composed of 0.8003 hectares of land and development erected thereon) (owned);
- g. 3306319 569 Middle Cross Road, Roxville, N.S.;
- h. 3306319 241 Riverdale Road, Riverdale, N.S.; and
- i. Daikoku 72-100 Lozienica, Poland (a farm that is leased).
- 35. NAFA conducts three auctions a year, which are held at its Head Office location. The last of these auctions was just concluded successfully on August 27, 2019. The next auction is currently scheduled to be held in March, 2020.
- 36. During the period between July and March, the Applicants have traditionally had access to bank financing to fund the growing cycle for their product, which I understand to be similar to other agricultural businesses.
- 37. In particular, from the period of July until November in most years, including this one, NAFA borrows in excess of \$45,000,000, a portion of which is lent to farmers/ranchers who use those funds to fund the development of mink. Those farmers are then contractually bound to deliver those mink to NAFA for auction. These loans are referred to herein as "Kit Loans".3
- 38. The farmers who contract with NAFA for the Kit Loans are, once the loans are in place, completely dependent on NAFA for these funds to purchase necessities such as feed in order to grow the mink.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Infant mink are called "Kits".

- 39. NAFA's lending cycle ends around the end of November each year. Thereafter, the mink are harvested and turned into Pelts for auction.
- 40. NAFA's lenders, and in particular the Syndicate, have made loans to NAFA to fund this farming cycle for decades (since the late 1980's).
- 41. This year, in both May and July, the Syndicate confirmed its willingness to do so again (subject to certain terms) and entered into a new loan agreement with NAFA in July, as further described below.

## **Dealings with the Syndicate**

- 42. In 2018, NAFA decided to delay its third auction in 2019 (which would usually have been in July) to the end of August. This decision was made in April of 2018 and was made known to the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce ("CIBC" or the "Agent"), the Agent for the Syndicate, at that time.
- 43. The other two 2019 auctions were scheduled to take place in March and June 2019.
- 44. Although the results from the auctions held in March and June 2019 were acceptable competitively and relative to the current market, the results of the auctions were materially below projections.
- 45. The auction results in June were depressed, in part, by changes in the worldwide price for mink and other furs, which trade as commodities and are subject to the volatility as other internationally traded commodities.
- 46. At the end of June, I voluntarily approached CIBC and advised my principal bank contact that due to the poor outcome of the auction in June, and the fact that the auction normally held in July was taking place in August, NAFA would not have sufficient cash to fund the Kit Loans in July and August without assistance from the Syndicate.

- 47. In particular, NAFA calculated that it would require a bulge facility from the Syndicate in the amount of up to \$20,000,000. The Company had previously requested and received bulge facilities from the Syndicate in prior years.
- 48. At that time, the total amount owing to the Syndicate was approximately \$45,000,000.
- 49. The Agent was advised that NAFA intended to hold its auction in August (as scheduled) and that when it did so, it was expected that it would return to a more usual level of debt with the Syndicate.
- 50. On July 8, 2019, a meeting was held between the Agent's Special Loans group, its financial advisors, the Company's financial advisors, and representatives from the other lenders from the Syndicate and counsel to canvass options and concerns.
- 51. Following that meeting, the Company and the Syndicate entered into a new credit agreement whereby the Syndicate agreed to provide funding to the Company for the period from July 17, 2019 up to and including the current date and beyond. A copy of that Credit Agreement (the "Credit Agreement") is attached hereto and marked as Exhibit "A".
- 52. The Credit Agreement is extremely dense and complex, reflecting the size and complexity of the loan products used in the NAFA business. I will not describe it in detail here. I will note that, as was confirmed in July of this year, all of the Applicants (with the exception of Daikoku, NAFA Europe and NAFA Co-op) were either borrowers or guarantors under the Credit Agreement, with the guarantors guaranteeing the entire amount of the debt, jointly and severally.
- 53. In the Credit Agreement, CIBC affirmed that it would continue to provide funding to ensure that the Kit Loan payments were made. In reliance on this fact, NAFA made it known to their farmers that they could reasonably expect to continue to receive the Kit Loans for this growing season.

- 54. Attached as Schedule "1.1.23" of the Credit Agreement was a cash flow forecast which strictly limited the Company's disbursements and the Company covenanted to follow it.
- 55. The new Credit Agreement was focused on three new business points:
  - a. First, the Company would diligently follow the cash flow, which would be closely monitored by the parties and their financial advisors;
  - b. Second, the Company would engage in an aggressive program to sell the business, or part of it, and would immediately hire KPMG Corporate Finance ("KPMG Corporate") to spearhead that initiative; and
  - c. Third, the Company would conduct the August auction in the usual course and ensure maximum recovery from those assets.
- 56. The cash flow forecast was prepared after careful and detailed review by KPMG Inc. ("KPMG") (our auditor and financial advisors), the Agent, its counsel and their financial advisor, Alvarez & Marsal Canada ULC ("Alvarez").
- 57. Pursuant to the cash flow forecast, the Syndicate did allow for funding to be made to pay the Kit Loans and the Company did so. Thereafter, the Kit Loans were generally kept current to the farmers until October 17, 2019, as further described below.
- 58. The Company held its auction in August, 2019 as agreed.
- 59. The Company was obliged, pursuant to its credit and other arrangements with the Syndicate, to certify by August 30<sup>th</sup> that the receipts from that auction were at least \$53,000,000. In fact the auction proceeds were in excess of \$55,600,000, as certified in the certificate provided to the Syndicate, which is attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit "B"**.
- 60. As required by the Credit Agreement, the Company hired KPMG Corporate in July 2019, who began the process of seeking sale or refinance opportunities for the Company.

Immediately after being retained, KPMG Corporate advised the Company and CIBC that while a strategic sale of some or all of the Company was possible, the deadlines set out in the Credit Agreement were unrealistic in its view.

- 61. The Syndicate made demand on the Company on August 2, 2019 and issued notices of intent to enforce under the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act* ("BIA"), largely because the Company had failed to meet the sales guidelines. Attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit** "C" are copies of the demand letters and BIA notice.
- 62. By August 14, 2019, the Syndicate had agreed to a forbearance with the Company and the Syndicate agreed to new timelines for the sale process which were supported by KPMG Corporate ("Forbearance Agreement"). A copy of the Forbearance Agreement is attached hereto and marked as Exhibit "D".
- 63. The Company continued to follow its cash flow forecast (as amended from time to time with the agreement of the Syndicate) and delivered the first SAGA LOI (described below) within the timeline provided in the Forbearance Agreement.
- 64. The Company has substantially lived up to its obligations under the Credit Agreement and the Forbearance Agreement (as amended) except in regards to certain covenants to sell certain assets and/or enter into merger transactions within the timeframes that proved to be unrealistic.
- 65. On September 19, 2019, the Syndicate issued a default letter purportedly terminating the Forbearance Agreement and the Credit Agreement. While I did not agree that there had been a default which entitled the Syndicate to issue the default letter, the Forbearance Agreement expired in any event on September 19, 2019 and so NAFA did not contest it as it seemed a moot point. Attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit "E"** is the default letter, dated September 19, 2019 from counsel to CIBC.

66. Since September 19, 2019, the Syndicate has not made any further cash advances to NAFA.

## The Waygar Refinancing Transaction and First Interim Funding

- 67. In accordance with the sale process sanctioned by the Credit Agreement and subsequent forbearances, the Company solicited and received a letter of intent from Waygar Capital Inc. ("Waygar") on or about August 27, 2019, under which Waygar expressed its intent to finance the Company.
- 68. Waygar advised of its intent to advance \$60,000,000 in loan repayment and working capital by mid-October, 2019.
- 69. At a conference call attended by Waygar, the Agent, and all of the advisors on September 19, 2019, Waygar advised that it had delayed moving forward with its loan until the Company made the majority of the payments owing by it to parties who had supplied furs to NAFA on consignment for the August auction from the proceeds of that auction. As a result, Waygar advised that it would now not be able to meet its planned advance date to retire the Syndicate's indebtedness, upon which the Company had relied. Those payments were made, as scheduled, on September 17, 2019.
- 70. On or about September 18, 2019, the Company was advised by the tax authorities in the Netherlands that they had sequestered funds (ultimately totalling approximately 1.2 million Euros subsequently reduced to 830,000 Euros, which has been transferred to the Dutch Tax authorities as security and approximately 100,000 Euros held in a Rabobank account) due to suspicion that, in the past, funds which were payable to certain consignors of furs to the three major fur auction companies in Europe (including NAFA), were part of a tax fraud scheme being perpetrated by the intended recipients. The investigation is going to go back in time approximately fourteen years.

- 71. No allegation was made specifically against NAFA in this regard, but the suspension of the funds further depleted the availability of funds for NAFA and further complicated NAFA's ability to make payments of any kind into Europe. Two letters from the Dutch tax authority dated September 11, 2019 are attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit "F"** along with a translation.
- 72. Following this, the Agent advised the Company on Saturday, September 21, 2019 that it intended to place the Company into receivership.
- 73. In response, on Sunday, September 22, 2019, the Company arranged for interim funding from Waygar.
- 74. In particular, Waygar agreed to advance, and the Syndicate agreed to allow, up to \$8,000,000 to fund operations until the closing of the \$60,000,000 financing with Waygar, which was to take place on October 17, 2019.
- 75. Waygar provided the interim financing through Waygar joining the Syndicate, as set out in the agreement attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit "G"**.
- 76. The key terms of the advance between Waygar and the Syndicate were that Waygar would advance the funds and would have first priority to repayment of those funds. The funding was principally to be used to fund Kit Loan obligations. That funding closed on September 27, 2019.
- 77. It was my understanding, based on multiple conversations which I attended with the Agent and/or its advisors (along with NAFA's advisors) that the Syndicate recognized the utility in making this funding to the farmers in order to ensure the further development of the kits into harvestable product.
- 78. I believe that it is understood among the Company, the Syndicate and our respective advisors, that under-funded and under fed kits are essentially valueless.

79. By comparison, it is estimated by our advisors that the conservative market value of the kits, which are subject to Kit Loans, and anticipated to be converted into Pelts would be in excess of \$90,000,000 once harvested. Based on the terms of the current 2019 Kit Loans, approximately \$65,000,000 would be payable to the Company to repay those loans upon those animals being pelted, auctioned and sold (assuming NAFA completed its loans to all of these farmers).

#### Termination of the \$60,000,000 refinance Waygar Transaction

- 80. On October 14, 2019, Waygar advised the balance of the Syndicate (the "Original Syndicate") and the Company that it was no longer prepared to enter into long term funding with the Company or provide the \$60,000,000.
- 81. Confronted with the fact that the Company was going to be unable to fund its Kit Loans or other obligations beyond day-to-day operations after October 17, 2019, the Company approached each of Waygar and the Original Syndicate members to seek interim funding to allow it to finish the Kit Loans and operate.
- 82. The Agent advised the Company, at an all parties meeting on October 15, 2019, that the Syndicate was unwilling to provide any further funding to the Company. On the other hand, the Agent advised that the Syndicate might be willing to consider allowing for the Company to consume certain easy to liquidate assets, if that might provide it some runway before it ran out of funds.
- 83. CIBC also advised that it would not allow for further DIP funding from Waygar to come in ahead of the Original Syndicate.
- 84. Further, CIBC advised that in its opinion, there may not be sufficient value in the current business to even repay the \$8,000,000 due to Waygar in priority to the Original Syndicate.

  I disagree with this statement.

- 85. The Agent strongly encouraged the Company to seek a transaction with its competitors to see if that might either solve the liquidity issues or provide a basis for a merger, transaction or wind-down.
- 86. Waygar, confirmed on October 18 and October 20, 2019, that it was prepared to provide DIP Financing to allow the Company to meet its Kit Loan obligations. As set out below, Waygar has provided a term sheet outlining a DIP funding transaction which, if approved by the Court, will provide the Company with the funding to move forward.
- 87. In the interim, while continuing to operate in the normal course (subject to its extreme cash constraints), the Company has pursued a transaction with its competitor, SAGA Furs ("SAGA"), to address these liquidity issues.

#### The SAGA Furs Transaction

- 88. Since July of this year, NAFA has been engaged in negotiations with SAGA about a possible transaction. The transaction was sourced and organized by KPMG Corporate in accordance with the mandate provided to it pursuant to the Credit Agreement. Various iterations of the transaction were vetted and considered from time to time by KPMG Corporate and reported to the Syndicate and Alvarez.
- 89. SAGA provided the Company with an LOI to allow it to acquire certain of the Kit Loans in August (the "August LOI"), but that transaction was not pursued at that time because of the opportunity provided by the anticipated transaction with Waygar which NAFA thought would retire the Original Syndicate loan or provide the business with a path forward.
- 90. On October 20, 2019, the Company and KPMG Corporate solicited and received a new LOI from SAGA (the "SAGA LOI"). A copy of the SAGA LOI is attached hereto as Confidential Exhibit "A" to this affidavit.

- 91. Fundamentally, the SAGA LOI proposes a transaction which allows for NAFA to receive some or all of the present value of the outstanding Kit Loans, without having to wait to recover those amounts from auction proceeds which would not otherwise be available until March, 2020 or later. In exchange for this, NAFA is surrendering the right to auction these kits at its March auction, and foregoing the profit it would make from conducting such an auction.
- 92. The SAGA LOI sets out the following deal terms:
  - a. SAGA would provide immediate funding to NAFA with respect to certain farmers in Europe who had outstanding Kit Loans, up to the amount of those loans (which certain advances made by it would be repaid to NAFA). In accordance with the terms of SAGA LOI, these farmers are referred to as the "Schedule 1 Farmers."
  - b. SAGA would fund the balance of the requirements owing under the Kit Loans for the balance of the season for the Schedule 1 Farmers, thereby relieving NAFA of the obligation to do so.
  - c. SAGA would take over funding the pelting, grading and auctioning of the kits subject to Kit Loans.
  - d. SAGA would also make offers to acquire the balance of the European Kit Loans from the other European farmers, which are referred to as the "Schedule 2 Farmers". In respect of these farmers, SAGA would provide NAFA with an amount equal to 85% of the past market price averages. The balance due for these Kit Loans would be paid when the kit Pelts were auctioned by SAGA.
  - e. To the extent NAFA was owed anything from the farmers beyond the payment contemplated in sub-paragraphs a) or b) above to be financed by SAGA, it would have a second secured position over the Pelts which were the subject of the Kit

Loans and would be paid the balance owing to them from the proceeds realized at auction.

- f. SAGA also offered a similar structure for NAFA's North American Kit Loans, but on a less immediate basis.
- g. A commission fee would be payable to NAFA in connection with the Pelts to be sold at auction provided through this structure (the "SAGA Furs Transaction").

#### Immediate Cash Flow Impact of the SAGA Furs Transaction

- 93. On October 21, 2019, the Company, in consultation with KPMG provided to the Syndicate and Alvarez two cash flow forecasts for the period of October 11 to December 13, 2019, which assumed the SAGA Furs Transaction would be performed and the Company could utilize some or all of that cash to meet its remaining Kit Loan obligations and operational obligations. Those cash flows are attached hereto as **Confidential Exhibit "B1"** and "**B2"** to this affidavit.
- 94. These illustrative cash flow forecasts are no longer current as the Company has continued to work with KPMG to prepare a cash flow forecast for these CCAA proceedings. Deloitte Restructuring Inc. ("Deloitte"), in its capacity as proposed monitor for the Applicants (the "Proposed Monitor") is currently working with the Company and KPMG to review and finalize the cash flow forecasts, as discussed below.
- 95. The Company, with the assistance of KPMG, also reviewed and provided an analysis of the benefit of the SAGA Furs Transaction to the Syndicate and Alvarez. A copy of this analysis is attached hereto and marked as **Confidential Exhibit "C"**. The analysis was positive.
- 96. Having reviewed the SAGA Furs Transaction with KPMG Corporate, KPMG, the Syndicate and its advisors, and with particular regard to the fact that the Syndicate was unwilling to

provide any further bridge funding or any funding at all, the Company determined that the SAGA Furs Transaction was the best available option to support the Company and its obligations to its stakeholders. The Board also supported and authorized that the Company proceed with this transaction.

- 97. The SAGA Furs Transaction will, if completed on schedule, provide sufficient liquidity to allow NAFA to harvest the current mink crop and thereafter to reconsider its business operations.
- 98. Under the SAGA Furs Transaction, it is likely the case that NAFA will not hold an auction in March 2020 as it is expected that the remaining Pelts consigned to NAFA could be directed to be auctioned by SAGA. It is unclear what role, if any, the existing NAFA staff would play in conjunction with those products.
- 99. It is my hope that once the Company gets through the immediate cash crunch related to the completion of the 2019 Kit Loans, it will then be able to review with its advisors what future business, if any, might be performed by NAFA or its personnel both in Canada and or in its satellite offices to further support the fur industry. For example, SAGA and the Company have also discussed the possibility of a transaction in the future whereby SAGA will assist NAFA to fund the Kit Loans and assist with operations in North America.
- 100. Attached hereto and marked as **Confidential Exhibit "D"** to this affidavit is the NAFA/SAGA Furs Rancher Visitation Schedule and Estimate Valuation, which shows a summary of the Kit Loans and the corresponding next farm visit and payment, as at October 28, 2019. As set out therein, certain loans have already been assigned to SAGA, and more than \$3 million is expected to arrive by the end of the week.

- 101. It is anticipated by the Company in its Cash Flow Forecast (as defined below) that the Syndicate will allow the Company to use these proceeds to fund operations, but the Syndicate has not committed to this position.
- 102. I have advised SAGA of the Company's intention to seek protection under the CCAA and have been advised by Juha Huttunen, the CFO of SAGA, that the CCAA filing will not impact SAGA's desire to complete the SAGA Furs Transaction.

#### **Financial Impact of the SAGA Furs Transaction**

- 103. The cash flow at B1 assumed the SAGA Furs Transaction will be performed entirely on an expedited basis and with the best outcome for all assumptions. On this cash flow, the Company would have sufficient liquidity to meet its obligations, including the ability to complete the remaining Kit Loan funding, without the need for further DIP Financing over that period.
- 104. On October 21, 2019, counsel for Waygar, CIBC and the Company, KPMG/KPMG Corporate, and Alvarez had a call in which the Company expressed its belief that while it was possible, based on the best case scenario cash flow, that the Company would be able to operate without any further funding from the Syndicate, it was of the view that it was prudent to have a DIP Financing facility of \$5,000,000 given the potential risk surrounding the timing of the assumption of the loans by SAGA (as the cash flow at Confidential Exhibit B1 outlined a doable but optimistic time frame).
- 105. By comparison, the cash flow at Confidential Exhibit B2 assumes there will be some greater difficulty in completing the anticipated SAGA Furs Transaction with the various farmers which causes a greater period of time to pass before the first or significant funds are provided by SAGA. Under this forecast, the Company requires \$5,000,000 from Waygar immediately (i.e. on or before November 1, 2019) to allow it to maintain funding to the Kit

Loans while the SAGA Furs Transaction matures and generates material funds a week later.

- 106. Both cash flow forecasts also include material repayments to the Syndicate and the continuation of current payments in accordance with the existing security and lending arrangements. A delay or "holiday" in those payments could improve the Company's cash position going forward, but it would not provide the additional liquidity the Company immediately needs in order to keep the Kit Loans current. The Company is reviewing the appropriateness of these pay downs during the period of the cash flow.
- 107. As the cash flow demonstrates, after nearly 4 months of carefully managed and occasional acrimonious negotiations and funding, the Company is, according to projections, literally within only a few weeks of being able to complete the funding of the Kit Loans (with the proceeds from the SAGA Furs Transaction) and see the benefit of those loans turning into collectable assets.
- 108. The Company has now commenced the process of contacting farmers and implementing the SAGA Furs Transaction (even prior to receiving final documentation from SAGA) and it is optimistic it will provide the much needed liquidity to the Applicants. I personally flew to Finland on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and remained there until October 27<sup>th</sup> to help coordinate this process. My initial report is that the contact with the first group of farmers by SAGA proceeded well and I am optimistic the balance of the transaction will proceed equally well.
- 109. The negotiations with our single largest customer and debtor, the Van Ansem Group ("VAG"), are ongoing and to date have proven somewhat difficult. The Company's business dealings with VAG are complex and relatively large (with VAG owing in excess of \$16,000,000 to NAFA and NAFA owing \$7,000,000 to VAG from the most recent auction) which may not be resolved as quickly as the above cash flow forecasts had projected. I am confident that a resolution will be found shortly.

- 110. In the interim, the Company, in conjunction with KPMG have determined that it is prudent to have a DIP Financing facility in place to ensure there is no further interruption of funding to the kit farmers or to NAFA operations. The Company is prepared to only draw on that funding as needed and if needed. The Company is working on a cash flow with the Proposed Monitor which anticipates the availability of this DIP.
- 111. CIBC rejected providing the required \$5,000,000 standby facility at an all counsel call on October 21, 2019. Waygar confirmed it would provide that funding on that call, but only on a priority basis.
- 112. At an all hands meeting on October 28, 2019, CIBC and Waygar confirmed this remained their respective positions. CIBC also confirmed its position that the Company should vigorously pursue the SAGA Furs Transaction to resolve its liquidity issues, which the Company confirmed it was doing (and is doing) in any event.

#### **Current Circumstances of the Company**

- 113. On October 23, 2019, the Company met with its employees in Toronto to discuss the challenges being faced by the Company. In the circumstances, the Company advised that it may not have the funds necessary to pay any statutory termination pay or other notice amounts owing to these individuals. The employees were also advised that all wages were current until October 31, 2019. The Company is also not engaging the seasonal workers it would usually engage at this time of year.
- 114. The Company is being pursued by its creditors. My staff is in daily communication, of increasing frequency, with consignors looking for their outstanding payments, customers looking for their deferred proceeds, parties looking to repossess inventory that remains under NAFA's control following the last auction, and parties seeking Kit Loans or related loan funding.

- 115. We have not been able to provide satisfactory answers to most of these inquiries and I suspect that some or all of these parties are going to seek legal recourse against the Company with respect to their perceived breaches of NAFA's obligations to them.
- 116. The Company is still current with its salary and other current expenses. Its payroll is paid until the end of October, but the Company is struggling to meet other employee liabilities, including accrued vacation pay. As at October 29, 2019, the outstanding vacation pay liability was approximately \$100,000.

#### Assets

- 117. According to the most recent analysis of KPMG, based on up-to-date information and audited financial statements, the Company has assets with a book value in excess of \$129,000,000. This is materially more than the Syndicate is owed.
- 118. Attached as **Confidential Exhibit "E"** is a Net Realization Analysis ("**NRA**") from the Company and reviewed and revised by KPMG as at October 18, 2019. Similar ones with similar asset classes was prepared during the negotiations of the Credit Agreement in July and in relation to the Forbearance Agreement in August. As set out therein, the principal assets of the Company are:
  - a. Accounts receivable owing from parties who purchased goods at auction;
  - b. Kit Loans which remain outstanding;
  - Other loans to consignors (i.e. capital loans to support Farm operations not directly tied to Kits);
  - d. Inventory; and
  - e. Real estate assets.

- 119. As set out therein, the Company has in excess of \$53,000,000 worth of Kit Loans. The collectability of these assets increases dramatically if the final payments are made to the farmers so that the kits reach full size and can be converted into Pelts.
- 120. If that occurs, even on a liquidation basis, it is estimated that NAFA will recover approximately \$39,000,000 from the Kit Loans, which alone is substantially more than the Syndicate is owed. I understand that the Proposed Monitor is reviewing the NRA with KPMG.
- 121. On a going concern basis, I believe that these loans will be nearly 100% collected. In my experience, we have had a less than 1% loan loss rate on these loans. On a going concern basis, the Kit Loans would be worth approximately \$52,000,000.
- 122. Also, on a going concern basis, NAFA has in excess of \$12,000,000 worth of loans owing by farmers separate and apart from the Kit Loans and loans from previous years of approximately \$11,000,000 which are still outstanding, which in the ordinary course would have some value. On a liquidation basis, it is estimated that these will not be collected for any material value.
- 123. In addition, I note that the NRA does not provide a value for the Company's intellectual property (in particular, trademarks), which I believe could have some material value.
- 124. In terms of its fixed assets, the Company is in the process of completing a sale of its Carlingview property, which will provide a further pay down of the Syndicate's indebtedness of approximately \$5,000,000 possibly within the next two weeks. That transaction is quite advanced, and the Syndicate is fully informed of and approves that transaction. It is estimated that the balance of the Company's real estate holdings could, on a liquidation, generate a further \$5,000,000 to \$6,000,000 in realizations.

- 125. On or about October 28, 2019, the Company was provided with a revised purchase agreement for the Carlingview property for a reduced price. If accepted, the transaction is due to close within two weeks. The agreement does not currently include a provision from the purchaser requiring a vesting order or court approval.
- 126. As at October 18, 2019, the total indebtedness of the Company to the Syndicate, inclusive of the \$8,000,000 DIP already advanced by Waygar, was approximately \$32,000,000
- 127. As set out in the Confidential Exhibit, assuming the Kit Loans are funded to maturity, it is reasonable to expect the Company to have a liquidation value which is more than \$20,000,000 in excess of its current indebtedness to the Syndicate and Waygar (before repayment of the additional \$5,000,000 DIP described below).
- 128. The financial statements for each of the Applicants from 2018 will be provided at the hearing. The financial statements were audited by KPMG.
- 129. But for the indebtedness to the Syndicate which NAFA directly owes and the other Applicants (with the exception of Daikoku, NAFA Europe and NAFA Co-op) jointly and severally guaranteed, the businesses are otherwise solvent.

#### Creditors

- 130. Attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit "H"** are PPSA searches for each of the Canadian Applicants. As set out therein, the entities with registrations against the Company are:
  - a. CIBC NAFA Properties, NAFA, and 3306319;
  - b. Business Development Bank of Canada ("BDC") NAFA Properties and NAFA;
  - c. Farm Credit Canada ("FCC") NAFA Properties, NAFA, and 3306319;
  - d. National Leasing Group Inc. NAFA;

- e. Xerox Canada Ltd. NAFA; and
- f. CNH Industrial Capital Canada Ltd. 3306319.
- 131. There are also inter-company secured loans subordinated to the Syndicate, the details of which we are assembling for review by the Proposed Monitor during the CCAA proceedings.
- 132. Each of BDC and FCC have specific loans on real property. BDC holds a mortgage on the Skyway property lease interest. FCC holds a first mortgage on the Carlingview property and the Nova Scotia Farm.
- 133. Neither real property lender has taken any material steps to enforce their security although both are aware of the default notice provided by CIBC. Attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit "I"** are the property searches for the two properties in Toronto. The Company is in the process of completing searches of the Nova Scotia properties.
- 134. BDC did contact Company counsel by letter and by phone to express its concern with the apparent issues with the Company. They have taken no further steps.
- 135. There has been no communication from FCC.
- 136. Outside of secured creditors with security over its real estate, the only material secured creditor for NAFA is the Syndicate. As at October 28, 2019, the Syndicate was owed approximately \$32,000,000. Of that amount approximately \$8,000,000 is a result of the interim financing provided by Waygar.
- 137. Since July 2019, the amount owing to the Syndicate has been reduced from approximately \$60,000,000 to under \$25,000,000 (not including the \$8,000,000 loaned by Waygar).

#### **Government Remittances and Unsecured Creditors**

- 138. All government remittances are up to date to the best of my knowledge and no amounts are owed for source deductions. The Company routinely files HST and from time to time is in a deficit or refund position. Currently, it is expected that there is a small refund for HST owing to the Company.
- 139. The Company owes approximately \$7,000,000 to its buyers for "Buyer Credits", which are credits that the Company has agreed to provide to buyers who have provided funds for future purchases, provided back up collateral against future amounts, or are entitled to commissions/rebates that they earned on prior sales that they have not applied to purchases.
- 140. The Company owes in excess of \$11,500,000 (out of which \$7,000,000 is owing to VAG) to its consignors who have not yet received funds derived from the sale of their goods in the August auction. Those payments were interrupted by CIBC when it issued its default letter on September 19, 2019. Approximately 7,500 consignors are owed funds.
- 141. Beyond the consignors, the Company has the ordinary unsecured creditors expected of an enterprise of this size. I estimate the debts to those creditors to amount to approximately \$8,000,000 to \$9,000,000, but I have not had the opportunity to properly itemize the Company's obligations to its ordinary unsecured creditors at this time.
- 142. Beyond this, NAFA is obliged to provide in excess of \$13,000,000 (the "**Deferred Proceeds**") to various parties who were owed funds from previous auctions, but who for one reason or another, have not collected them and or had asked that they continue to be held at NAFA pending direction from those parties. The total number of parties with Deferred Proceeds from NAFA are approximately 50.

#### **Employees**

- 143. NAFA also employs in excess of 70 full-time employees in Canada, and 35 full-time employees around the world at its satellite offices. There is no union for these employees. It is my understanding at this time that the employment, severance and termination of these employees are governed by the laws of Canada, the United States, the Netherlands and Poland.
- 144. NAFA's Canadian employees are all a part of a defined contribution pension plan with Sun Life Financial (the "Plan"). The Company pays into the Plan on a monthly basis. The Company does not have any obligations with the Plan which are in arrears at this time.
- 145. Approximately 7 Canadian employees are also part of a HBC Legacy Fund. These were former employees of HBC who joined NAFA in 1987 when NAFA acquired the fur business from HBC. At HBC, these employees were part of a pension plan.
- 146. It is my understanding that as a result of a promise under which these employees joined NAFA, the Company provides these employees an additional pension payment ranging from approximately \$400 per month to \$2000 per month after their retirement until their death. Five of the seven employees have already retired and have been paid monthly as required. Two have yet to retire and are still employees.
- 147. Currently, it is my understanding that the Company's projected obligations in respect of this HBC Legacy Fund are in the amount of approximately \$1,000,000 (CDN), but NAFA does not have a recent actuarial report to certify that liability.
- 148. We are in the process of accumulating information about the Applicant's obligations and options in various foreign jurisdictions.

#### **DIP Loan Agreement Key Terms**

- 149. Having regard to the cash flows at Confidential Exhibits B1 and B2, the Company has asked and Waygar has offered to provide a DIP Financing facility available to the Company, which is conditional on Court approval (the "DIP Facility").
- 150. Attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit "J"** is a draft term sheet for the DIP Facility dated October 29, 2019 ("**Term Sheet**"). I expect to have an executed Term Sheet by the time of the CCAA hearing date which will be provided to the Court.
- 151. The key provisions of the proposed DIP Facility are as follows:
  - a) The DIP Facility will be in the amount of no more than \$5,000,000;
  - b) The DIP Facility may be drawn as needed but will not revolve;
  - c) The Interest rate will be 12% per annum, payable monthly in arrears;
  - d) There is a set-up fee charged in the amount of 2%;
  - e) The DIP Facility matures within 60 days from execution of the DIP loan agreement or upon completing milestones related to the Kit Loan refinancing;
  - f) Waygar, in its capacity as lender under the DIP Facility (in such capacity, the "DIP Lender"), must be granted a Court ordered first priority charge over all of the property, assets and undertakings of the Applicants; and
  - g) The terms of the Initial Order must be satisfactory to the DIP Lender.
- 152. I have reviewed the terms of the DIP Facility with Company counsel as well as KPMG. I understand that the Proposed Monitor is reviewing the DIP Facility and will provide its views in their Pre-Filing Report.

#### **Need for DIP Funding to Fund Kit Loans**

- 153. It is estimated that the total number of mink kits which were sired, acquired and raised in reliance on promises from NAFA to fund the carrying costs of those animals is approximately 3,400,000 animals worldwide. Kit Loans are required to ensure these mink reach maturity and the farmers have the resources to process them properly and humanely.
- 154. The historic loss rate on these Kit Loans is less than 1%. Over my tenure at NAFA the total amount lent in this fashion has exceeded \$1 billion.
- 155. If the Kit Loans are terminated suddenly, most of the farmers have no ability to seek alternate funding quickly, and the minks would starve to death or they would have to be euthanized by their ranchers. The immature Pelts have no value.
- 156. The farmers will have, as of Wednesday, October 29, 2019, been without funding since October 17, 2019 when the \$8,000,000 financing from Waygar was exhausted by NAFA. It is therefore critical that funding be re-established immediately to ensure the health of the kits.
- 157. It is not an exaggeration to say that a significant portion of the worldwide mink ranching business is wholly dependent on the flow of funds from NAFA. If these funds are not provided on a timely basis, these minks will starve, cannibalize their siblings, or will not mature or grow in a normal manner, causing the farmers to suffer a material loss from which they may not recover.
- 158. As noted above, it is a condition of the Kit Loans that the ranchers who take on these loans deliver their minks to NAFA for auction. In this fashion, by making these loans, NAFA ensures that it has inventory to sell at its auction.

- 159. Although NAFA takes security for its loans from the ranchers, the principal way that NAFA collects on these loans is by offsetting the amounts owing to NAFA against the obligations owing to these farmers from their product which is sold at auction.
- 160. Although some of the Kit Loans are to be assumed by SAGA under the SAGA Furs

  Transaction, not all of them are and the ones that are may not be done immediately.
- 161. If NAFA fails to pay its Kit Loans when due and the mink in question are killed or not made available for sale it makes collection of the loans much more difficult or even unlikely.
- 162. It is also reasonable to expect that any mink rancher who does not receive the funding agreed to be provided to it by NAFA will assert a cause of action against NAFA which might nullify any amount owing by that farmer to NAFA. In any event, collection would be materially more difficult, if not impossible.
- 163. It is also the case that many of these farmers (approximately 70%) are located in Europe, which further complicates enforcement.

#### **Current Cash Flow Forecast**

164. The Applicants, with the assistance of KPMG, are preparing a cash flow forecast from the current week to the week ending December 13, 2019 (the "Cash Flow Forecast"). The Cash Flow Forecast is in the process of being finalized and I understand that it will be attached to the Proposed Monitor's Pre-Filing Report and that the Proposed Monitor will review the Cash Flow Forecast and comment on it in its report.

#### Relief Sought under the Initial Order

165. The Applicants likely do not have adequate means to maintain going concern operations (including funding the Kit Loans) without commencing a CCAA proceeding, along with

authorization to enter into the DIP Facility. The Applicants are unable to meet their obligations as they come due and are therefore insolvent. I believe that the Applicants will benefit from the granting of an Initial Order under the CCAA. Below, I have outlined the key components of the proposed Initial Order.

#### Stay of Proceedings for Canadian and Foreign Entities

- 166. In order to provide breathing space to the Applicants while they restructure and to continue to allow them to operate as a going concern, the Applicants require a stay of proceedings. The Applicants are concerned about the potential termination of contracts and the potential claims that may be made against them by farmers and other creditors arising out of the Applicants' insolvency and the application for protection under the CCAA.
- 167. The Applicants include foreign entities in the United States and Europe, as well as the Canadian corporations. The operations of the Applicants are intertwined in terms of their auction and consignee accounts, as further described above. The inclusion of the entire NAFA structure, including the American and European subsidiaries, is, in my view, appropriate and necessary to ensure the enterprise can continue to operate as a cohesive unit to maintain stability and value in the CCAA process.
- 168. The stay will allow management to develop and oversee an orderly restructuring of the business with minimal disruption which will protect the interests of the Applicants' employees, landlords, customers, farmers and lenders. I believe that the granting of a stay of proceeding is in the best interests of the Applicants and their stakeholders.

#### **DIP Financing**

169. As a result of the Applicants' immediate need to fund the Kit Loans, as described above, and as set out in the cash flow, the Applicants require interim financing pursuant to the DIP

- Facility to provide stability and ensure that the value of the Applicants' business is not eroded.
- 170. As part of the Applicants' consideration of strategic alternatives for funding, Waygar was canvassed on its willingness to provide DIP Financing. In the view of the Applicants and KPMG, Waygar would be in the best position to provide DIP Financing in a timely manner as it was already familiar with the Applicants' unique business and lending structure. Given the immediate need for funding, any non-current lender would likely be unable to conduct due diligence and provide committed DIP Financing in the timeline required.
- 171. The funds available under the DIP Facility will be used to meet the Applicants' funding requirements in respect of the Kit Loans in the short-term in accordance with the Cash Flow Forecast to be filed.
- 172. It is proposed that the DIP Facility will be secured by a Court-ordered charge on all of the present and future assets, property and undertaking of the Applicants in favour of the DIP Lender (the "DIP Lender's Charge"). This is a condition precedent to the funding under the DIP Facility being made available by the DIP Lender to the Applicants. The DIP Lender's Charge will be subordinate to the Administration Charge and the KERP Charge (as defined below), but in advance of the Directors' Charge (as defined below).
- 173. The DIP Facility and the DIP Lender's Charge are critical to the successful restructuring as they will provide the Applicants with the necessary liquidity to maintain the going concern value of the Kit Loans, which is a substantial asset for the Applicants. Absent an injection of cash in accordance with the DIP Facility, the Kit Loans will significantly deteriorate and may not be collectable, which will be detrimental to the Applicants' stakeholders, including the Syndicate.

#### **Monitor**

174. It is proposed that Deloitte will act as Monitor in these CCAA proceedings if the proposed Initial Order is issued. Deloitte has consented to act as the Monitor of the Applicants.

#### **KERP**

- 175. The proposed Initial Order includes approval of a key employee retention plan (the "KERP") and the granting of a charge up to a maximum aggregate amount of \$150,000 as security for payments made to key employees under the KERP ("KERP Charge"). The KERP Charge will be subordinate to the Administration Charge (as defined below), but in priority to the DIP Lender's Charge and the Directors' Charge (as defined below).
- 176. I am of the view that our labour force, especially our executive team, is quite mobile and will, given the uncertainty, potentially flee to other opportunities (albeit perhaps out of the fur industry) or safer options once we make this public declaration of insolvency.
- 177. The staff and key executives, including myself, have indicated their intention to resign if a receiver is appointed or the business pursues a path that is not for the benefit of the Applicants' stakeholders as a whole. I continue to be of the belief that the retention of key staff is essential to maximizing recovery for those stakeholders.
- 178. I have consulted with our counsel and KPMG and have been advised that in restructurings staff can be provided with incentives to encourage staff retention in the form of the KERP.
- 179. In consultation with KPMG, I have created the attached schedule of such KERP payments which I believe will materially enhance the restructuring process, which is attached hereto and marked as **Confidential Exhibit "F."** The KERP will provide the key employees with a bonus equal to 50% of their ordinary salary over three months, which will be paid provided they remain engaged with the Company until at least January 15, 2020.

- 180. The KERP also includes payment to me in the amount of my full RRSP contribution for 2019. This is part of my ordinary compensation and will be fully earned as of October 31, 2019 in the ordinary course. I have deferred paying any of this amount to myself due to cash constraints. This amount will only be payable to me if I remain engaged with the Company until at least January 15, 2020.
- 181. By December 15, 2019, the Applicants should have managed much of the transition necessary to ensure that the 2019 harvest of mink has been converted into Pelts and a decision will have been made how, either under the SAGA Fur Transaction or otherwise, those Pelts will be converted into cash.
- 182. The KERP was developed to facilitate and encourage the continued participation of senior management and other key employees who are required to guide the business through the restructuring process and preserve the value of the business for the stakeholders. These employees have significant experience and specialized knowledge of the business that cannot be easily replicated or replaced. Furthermore, these employees will be faced with a significantly increased workload during the restructuring and will likely have other, more stable employment opportunities they could pursue.
- 183. Assuming that the Applicants are able to retain all of the key employees, the total amount payable to these employees under the KERP would be a maximum of \$150,000, which is reasonable given the value that these employees will provide to the enterprise.

#### **Administration Charge**

184. In accordance with the Credit Agreement, the Applicants retained KPMG Corporate to assist with a potential sale of the business in July 2019. KPMG also acts as NAFA's auditor and financial advisor. It is contemplated that, given KPMG's role to date and KPMG Corporate's involvement in the SAGA Furs Transaction, KPMG and KPMG Corporate would continue to

- act as the Applicants' financial advisor during the CCAA process (in such capacity, the "Financial Advisor"). The Applicants are seeking Court approval of the continued engagement of the Financial Advisor.
- 185. I believe that the Financial Advisor's significant investment banking expertise, its extensive experience running sales processes both outside the context of and within insolvency proceedings and its capabilities of debt restructurings have benefited the Applicants in their sale efforts to date. I believe the Applicants will continue to benefit from the Financial Advisor's advice as they continue to work towards closing the SAGA Furs Transaction and during the CCAA process.
- 186. If the Applicants were required to retain a new financial advisor, it would likely take a significant amount of time for a new firm to acquire a working knowledge of the Applicants' unique business and would slow down the Applicants' restructuring efforts.
- 187. In connection with its appointment, it is proposed that the Monitor, along with its counsel, counsel for the Applicants, the Financial Advisor, and counsel for the Applicants' board of directors will be granted a charge on all of the present and future assets, property and undertaking of the Applicants as security for their respective fees and disbursements relating to the services rendered in connection with this CCAA proceeding up to a maximum of \$500,000 (the "Administration Charge"). The Administration Charge is proposed to have priority over all other charges and security interests.
- 188. These professionals are required to provide assistance and guidance to the Applicants as they navigate the CCAA process and liaise with the various stakeholders during their restructuring efforts. I am of the view that the Administration Charge is fair and reasonable given the complexity of the business and the value that the professionals will contribute to the restructuring.

#### **Directors' and Officers' Protection**

- 189. In my view, the board of directors and management, including myself, are necessary to the successful restructuring. The continued participation of the Applicants' directors and management are essential to the viability of the Applicants' continuing business and the preservation of its value.
- 190. I have a significant amount of institutional knowledge in respect of the Applicants' business, as I have already demonstrated in dealing with the SAGA Furs Transaction. The directors are generally members of the fur industry who are uniquely situated to provide advice on how to restructure the business.
- 191. I held a meeting with the Board of Directors on October 28, 2019 to discuss the insolvency process. The directors have authorized the Applicants to proceed with the CCAA filing.
- 192. The directors advised at that meeting that they are particularly concerned that the assets be realized for the highest and best possible value to ensure the greatest possible recovery to the stakeholders. They believe that a creditor driven receivership will not create the highest or best value and are worried there would be wholesale discounting of assets to drive in cash quickly rather than prudently.
- 193. On the other hand, the directors and I are keenly aware that liabilities can accrue to us, either in respect of our past actions, or the actions which follow. I understand that directors can be held liable for certain obligations of a company owing to employees and government agencies, such as unpaid wages and unremitted taxes.
- 194. I also understand, and I have discussed with the Board of Directors, that the liabilities being faced by Board members in different countries may be materially different than in Canada. In particular, I am advised by Company counsel that criminal penalties can be sought against Board members related to these liabilities in Poland, but that these liabilities and

- remedies might be mitigated by a CCAA filing in Canada and an eventual plan of arrangement.
- 195. Many of the directors have considered resigning, as I myself have.
- 196. I am advised by our counsel that the Applicants' present and former directors and officers may be the beneficiaries under a liability insurance policy held by the Applicants (the "**D&O Policy**"). A copy of the insurance policy will be made available to this Court at the hearing, if requested. Pursuant to the summary of the D&O Policy, I understand the policy is a "claims made" policy with limits of \$10,000,000 CAD for liability, \$1 million CAD for punitive damages, and \$1 million CAD for defence costs.
- 197. However, I have not been provided with an opinion that insurance coverage under the D&O Policy either universally applies or is sufficient to pay all possible liabilities, and I understand there are various exceptions, exclusions and carve-outs where coverage may not be available. I am also very concerned about possible liabilities in other jurisdictions outside of Canada.
- 198. Moreover, the D&O Policy upon which the directors rely will expire on November 1, 2019.
  The financial situation of the Company makes renewal complicated and uncertain. It is also not yet clear that the renewal of the D&O Policy will be funded.
- 199. I am advised by our counsel and the Proposed Monitor that it is usual that there be a stay of claims against directors and a charge in favour of the directors from which the Company can honour its obligation to indemnify the directors for post-filing obligations.
- 200. In light of the potential liabilities and the uncertainty surrounding available indemnities and insurance, I and the other directors and officers have indicated to counsel for the Applicants that our continued service and involvement in this CCAA proceeding is conditional upon the granting of an Order under the CCAA which grants a charge in favour of the directors and

officers in the amount of \$1,000,000 (**Directors' Charge**) and provides a stay of all claims pending a plan or the end of the CCAA process. It is contemplated that the Directors' Charge will rank behind the other court ordered charges being sought.

- 201. It is my hope that once the immediate pressure of managing the realization of the 2019 harvest is completed, the Applicants will be in a position to turn their attention to considering and formulating a plan of arrangement which will be acceptable to the Applicants' stakeholders.
- 202. I make this affidavit in support of an application by the Applicants for protection under the CCAA and for no other or improper purpose.

SWORN before me at the City of

Toronto, in the Province of Ontario

on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of October 2019

)

)

A commissioner, etc.

**DOUG LAWSON** 

This is Exhibit "B" referred to in the Affidavit of Doug Lawson sworn on the day of January, 2020.	1
Commissioner for Taking Affidavits (or as may be)	



## ONTARIO SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE COMMERCIAL LIST

THE HONOURABLE	)	THURSDAY, THE 28 <sup>Th</sup>
MR. JUSTICE McEWEN	)	DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2019

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 NORTH AMERICAN FUR PRODUCERS INC., NAFA PROPERTIES INC., 3306319 NOVA SCOTIA LIMITED, NORTH AMERICAN FUR AUCTIONS INC., NAFA PROPERTIES (US) INC., NAFA PROPERTIES STOUGHTON LLC, NORTH AMERICAN FUR AUCTIONS (US) INC., NAFPRO LLC (WISCONSIN LLC), NAFA EUROPE CO-OPERATIEF UA, NAFA EUROPE B.V., DAIKOKU SP.Z OO and NAFA POLSKA SP. Z OO

(the "Applicants")

#### STAY EXTENSION ORDER

THIS MOTION, made by the Applicants for an Order, *inter alia*: (a) extending the Stay Period (defined below) until and including January 31, 2020; (b) authorizing and directing the Applicants to sell, transfer, assign or dispose of certain assets, settle any indebtedness owed to the Applicants for a value not exceeding \$1,000,000, and return consigned goods upon request; (c) approving the actions of Deloitte Restructuring Inc., in its capacity as Court-appointed monitor of the Applicants (in such capacity, the "Monitor") as set out in the Monitor's reports; (d) sealing certain confidential exhibits, and certain other relief, was heard this day at 330 University Avenue, Toronto, Ontario.

ON READING the Affidavit of Doug Lawson, sworn November 27, 2019 and the Exhibits thereto (the "Lawson Affidavit"), the Second Report of Deloitte Restructuring Inc., in its capacity as monitor for the Applicants (in such capacity, "Monitor"), and on hearing the submissions of counsel for the Applicants, counsel to the Monitor, counsel to the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, as agent (in such capacity, the "Agent") for the lenders party (the "Lenders") to the Fourth and Restated Credit Agreement dated as of September 27, 2019 (as may be amended or amended and restated, the "Credit Agreement") from time to time, and all other counsel listed on the counsel slip, no one appearing for any other person on the Service List, although properly served as appears on the Affidavit of Service of Jessica Wuthmann, sworn November 27, 2019, filed:

#### SERVICE AND DEFINITIONS

- 1. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the time for service of the Notice of Motion and Motion Record herein is hereby abridged and validated so that this Motion is properly returnable today and hereby dispenses with further service thereof.
- 2. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that terms not otherwise defined in this Order shall have the meaning set out in the Initial Order of the Honourable Justice McEwen, dated October 31, 2019 (as amended and restated) (the "Initial Order").

#### EXTENSION OF THE STAY PERIOD

3. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Stay Period is hereby extended from November 29, 2019 until and including January 31, 2020.

#### ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATIONS AND DIRECTIONS

- 4. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Applicants shall, in addition to the rights set out in the Initial Order, and subject to such requirements as are imposed by the CCAA and such covenants as may be contained in the DIP Loan Agreement dated November 5, 2019, have the right to:
  - (a) sell, convey, transfer, lease, assign or dispose of any Kit Loans and Pelts subject to the SAGA Furs Transaction for consideration that is equal to or greater than that

which they would otherwise be receiving under the SAGA Furs Transaction, with the approval of the Monitor, the Agent and the DIP Lender;

- (b) settle or compromise any indebtedness owing to the Applicants in each case to a maximum of \$1,000,000 with the approval of the Monitor and the Agent; and
- upon request of a consignor, return consigned goods of that consignor that are: (i) subject to the standard form consignment agreement (as attached as Exhibit "B" to the Lawson Affidavit), (ii) not in an intersorted lot, (iii) currently are in the possession of the Applicants, and (iv) not subject to any auction or other sale agreement, provided that the return of such consigned goods shall only be made with the approval of the Monitor, and upon receipt of payment by the applicable Applicant of any and all amounts owing by such consignors to the Applicants (including, without limitation, all outstanding Kit Loans, pelt advances and/or other loans and all applicable commissions, accrued interest, taxes, storage or insurance fees and other charges payable to the Applicants by such consignors), without any set-off, deduction, counterclaim or offset of any kind whatsoever.

#### APPROVAL OF MONITOR REPORTS AND ACTIONS

5. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Pre-filing Report of the Monitor, dated October 31, 2019, the First Report of the Monitor, dated November 7, 2019 (the "**Reports**"), and the actions, decisions and conduct of the Monitor as set out in the Reports are hereby authorized and approved.

#### SEALING OF CONFIDENTIAL EXHIBITS

6. THIS COURT ORDERS that Confidential Exhibits "A" and "B" to the Lawson Affidavit shall be and are hereby sealed, kept confidential and shall not form part of the public record pending further Order of this Court.

ENTERED AT / INSCRIT À TORONTO ON / BOOK NO: LE / DANS LE REGISTRE NO:

NOV 2 8 2019

PER/PAR:

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

OPERATIEF UA, NAFA EUROPE B.V., DAIKOKU SP.Z OO and NAFA POLSKA SP. Z OO (the "Applicants") PROPERTIES STOUGHTON LLC, NORTH AMERICAN FUR AUCTIONS (US) INC., NAFPRO LLC (WISCONSIN LLC), NAFA EUROPE CO-AND IN THE MATTER OF A PLAN OF COMPROMISE OR ARRANGEMENT OF NORTH AMERICAN FUR PRODUCERS INC., NAFA PROPERTIES (US) INC., NAFA PROPERTIES (US) INC., NAFA

# ONTARIO SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE COMMERCIAL LIST

Proceeding commenced at Toronto

### ORDER

## BLANEY MCMURTRY LLP

Barristers & Solicitors

2 Queen Street East, Suite 1500

Toronto ON M5C 3G5

## **David T. Ullmann** (LSO # 42357I)

Tel: (416) 596-4289

Fax: (416) 594-2437

Email: DUllmann@blaney.com

# Alexandra Teodorescu (LSO #63889D)

Tel: (416) 596-4279

Fax: (416) 594-2506

Email: ATeodorescu@blaney.com

# Jessica Wuthmann (LSO #72442W)

Tel: (416) 593-3924 Fax: (416) 594-3595

Email: JWuthmann@blaney.com

Counsel for the Applicants

This is Exhibit "C" referred to in the Affidavit of Doug Lawson sworn on the day of January, 2020.		
Commissioner for Taking Affidavits (or as may be)		

Court File No. CV-19-00630241-00CL

### 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 NORTH AMERICAN FUR PRODUCERS INC., NAFA PROPERTIES INC., 3306319 NOVA SCOTIA LIMITED, NORTH AMERICAN FUR AUCTIONS INC., NAFA PROPERTIES (US) INC., NAFA PROPERTIES STOUGHTON LLC, NORTH AMERICAN FUR AUCTIONS (US) INC., NAFPRO LLC (WISCONSIN LLC), NAFA EUROPE CO-OPERATIEF UA, NAFA EUROPE B.V., DAIKOKU SP.Z OO and NAFA POLSKA SP. Z OO

(the "Applicants")

#### AFFIDAVIT OF DOUG LAWSON

I, DOUG LAWSON, of the City of Toronto, in the Province of Ontario, AFFIRM AND SAY:

- 1. I am the President and Chief Executive Officer of North American Fur Auctions Inc. (the "Company" or "NAFA") and as such have knowledge as to the matters which I hereinafter depose.

  To the extent I am recounting information provided to me by others, I have stated the source of that information and verily believe it to be true.
- 2. I swear this affidavit in support of a motion by the Applicants for an Order seeking, *inter alia*: (a) approval of the conditions of sale in respect of the Ground Leases (as defined below); (b) approval for the sale of the Carlingview Property (as defined below); and (c) an extension of the stay of proceedings to and including January 31, 2020.
- 3. All references to currency are denominated in U.S. dollars.

#### **Overview of Activities Since the Initial Order**

- 4. On October 31, 2019, the Applicants commenced proceedings under the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act* (the "CCAA") pursuant to the Order of Justice McEwen (as amended and restated, the "Initial Order"). Background information about the Applicants' business is set out in the affidavit I affirmed in support of the initial CCAA application ("Initial Affidavit"), a copy of which is attached hereto (without exhibits) and marked as Exhibit "A".
- 5. Since the Initial Order, the Applicants, in close consultation with Deloitte Restructuring Inc., in its capacity as monitor of the Applicants (the "Monitor"), have focused on stabilizing their business and operations as part of these CCAA proceedings.
- 6. The Applicants have been diligently communicating with and responding to inquiries from numerous creditors and stakeholders on a daily basis, including mink farmers, employees and other service providers. In particular, the Applicants have ensured that funding continues to be provided to farmers to allow them to feed and grow mink during this critical time before the pelts are harvested as anticipated by the cash flows filed with this Court.
- 7. As further set out below, the Applicants have financed the Kit Loans<sup>1</sup> through the DIP Facility and the Saga Transaction (as defined below), which has significantly stabilized the Applicants' business.
- 8. In addition, the Applicants promptly advised their employees that they had applied for protection under the CCAA and provided them with information about the CCAA proceedings.

<sup>1</sup> A "kit" is an immature mink. The Applicants provide financing to farmers and ranchers who use those funds to finance the development of the kits until pelting and harvesting ("**Kit Loans**"). In exchange for the Kit Loans, the farmers are contractually bound to deliver the mink to the Applicants for auction.

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- 9. The Applicants have been successful in maintaining the confidence of their employees. With the exception of those employees that have been terminated by the Applicants, all other employees have been retained, including those individuals in senior management roles and other key employees ("**Key Employees**") who have guided and continue to guide the business through the CCAA process.
- 10. As set out below, I believe the Applicants are acting in good faith and with due diligence and that, provided the Stay Extension Order is granted, the Applicants will be able to continue with their restructuring, which will include considering how best to formulate a Plan for its creditors and stakeholders.

#### **DIP Facility**

- 11. The Initial Order approved an interim financing facility (the "**DIP Facility**") in the principal amount of \$5 million from Waygar Capital Inc. (the "**DIP Lender**").
- 12. With the approval of the Monitor, the DIP Lender advanced \$1.65 million to the Applicants under the DIP Facility on November 4, 2019. In addition, the Applicants, with the assistance of the Monitor, entered into definitive documents in respect of the DIP Facility as between the DIP Lender and NAFA.
- 13. Pursuant to the DIP Term Sheet approved by the Court under the Initial Order, the DIP Lender was entitled to a \$100,000 closing fee, which was paid on or about November 18, 2019 from the Company's cash on hand.
- 14. At this time, as set out in the cash flow forecast that will be appended to the Monitor's Second Report (the "Cash Flow Forecast"), the Applicants do not anticipate seeking further draws

under the DIP Facility during the proposed extension period, although they have the right to do so in accordance with the terms of the DIP Facility and the definitive documents.

- 15. The Applicants have, in conjunction with the Monitor and with the assistance of their financial advisor KPMG Inc., made regular reports to the DIP lender and Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, as agent (in such capacity, the "Agent") for the lenders (the "Lenders") to the Fourth and Restated Credit Agreement dated as of September 27, 2019 (collectively, the "Syndicate"), which have demonstrated that the Applicants have shown material positive variances related to disbursements in these first few weeks notwithstanding that the Applicants receipts have materialized slower than projected.
- 16. I have had an opportunity to review information from the Monitor about these variances and the cash flow projections and understand that the Monitor will be providing a detailed review of the Cash Flow Forecast and other economic factors effecting the business and I will therefore not provide any detailed analysis here.
- 17. I am satisfied that the Applicants will be in material compliance with their cash flow projections going forward and will have sufficient funds to operate during the projected extension period and beyond, provided the Saga Transaction continues to be performed as projected and the Applicants are able to continue with the realizations and restructuring detailed herein and as will be further developed hereafter.

#### The Saga Transaction

18. As further described in my Initial Affidavit, the Applicants entered into an arrangement with Saga Furs Oyj ("Saga") that would allow Saga to take over certain European Kit Loans (the "Saga Transaction"). Saga agreed to pay to NAFA some or all of the present value of the

outstanding Kit Loans and, in exchange, Saga would receive delivery of the harvested pelts from the farmers and the net proceeds from the sale of the pelts. Pursuant to the Saga Transaction, Saga required that farmers meet certain financing criteria, and that farmers agreed to the terms for financing and selling pelts through Saga.

- 19. A great deal of the Applicants' time and energy in this first month of restructuring has been spent implementing the Saga Transaction, with good success.
- 20. The Applicants and representatives of Saga have been meeting with farmers located in Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands and Romania to obtain their consent to transfer the Kit Loans from NAFA to Saga. As of the date of this affidavit, 33 of 36 farmers that have been approached have agreed to have their business transferred to Saga in accordance with the terms of the Saga Transaction. Agreements with the majority of these 33 farmers have now been executed.
- 21. Pursuant to the terms of the Saga Transaction, once an agreement with the farmer is finalized and Saga takes security over the farmer's mink herd, funds are paid by Saga to the Applicants. Thus far, the Applicants have received approximately USD \$3.5 million pursuant to the Saga Transaction. It was anticipated that the Applicants would receive approximately USD \$3.6 million from Saga by November 1, 2019.
- 22. The small variance between the forecast amount and the collected amount is attributable to delays in obtaining signatures from farmers and the registration of Saga's security in Europe and some differences in the forecast receipts on a farm by farm basis which were agreed to by the Applicants in order to expedite the agreement and receive funds. In general the process for completing the paperwork has taken longer than anticipated and forecast, but the business terms underlying the deal and the amount of anticipated cash to be received on a collective basis have not changed materially.

23. The Applicants continue to work with Saga and local counsel to complete the Saga Transaction.

### **VAG Settlement**

- 24. As previously reported in the Initial Affidavit, the Applicants' single largest customer and debtor is the Van Ansem Group (a collection of farms under one corporate umbrella, "VAG"), which received substantial Kit Loans from NAFA and was indebted to NAFA for these loans.
- 25. VAG and NAFA have now reached a settlement agreement to resolve the indebtedness between them, which will see VAG making a payment to NAFA, the amount of which is being kept confidential but is in line with, and indeed slightly above, the amount projected in the in initial cash flow forecast filed with the Court (the "VAG Settlement").
- 26. In order to make such a payment, VAG will enter into assignment agreements with Saga pursuant to which Saga will fund the VAG Settlement provided that certain conditions are satisfied, including the transfer of the relevant Kit Loans to Saga, the release of NAFA's security over the VAG pelts, and the execution of new consignment agreements related to these pelts in favour of Saga. A copy of the VAG Settlement is attached hereto and marked as **Confidential Exhibit "A"**. The Applicants are requesting a sealing order to be granted with respect to the Confidential Exhibits.
- 27. It is a term of the VAG Settlement that its business terms be kept confidential. Those terms have been made known to the Monitor, the DIP Lender and the Agent, all of whom have consented to the Applicants proceeding with the VAG Settlement. The consent of those parties is a requirement of the VAG Settlement.

- 28. The Initial Order authorizes the Applicants to enter into the VAG Settlement and dispenses with the need for Court approval of the VAG Settlement provided that the Monitor, the Agent and the DIP Lender consent to the settlement, as has now occurred.
- 29. The parties have finalized the terms of the VAG Settlement and are awaiting for the settlement agreement to be executed by VAG (it has already been executed by NAFA). The Applicants and the Monitor have confirmed that settlement funds in the correct amount are being held in trust by the Canadian counsel for VAG. These funds are expected to be released as early as November 25, 2019 but could slip until later in the week ended November 29, 2019 depending on timing of the settlement agreement being fully executed by VAG.
- 30. In addition to VAG, there have been other creditors that have reached out to NAFA to settle outstanding debts, either in exchange for the return of their goods on hand with NAFA or for other proposed consideration. The Applicants have brought these proposed settlements to the attention of the Monitor on a case by case basis, but as of yet have not entered into any such settlements because it is unclear whether or not the Applicants have the authority to do so under the Initial Order.
- 31. Generally, the settlements being proposed allow for the recovery of amounts owed to NAFA other than or in addition to outstanding Kit Loans. The current Cash Flow Forecast does not project any recovery for these additional loans. As such, any amounts recovered in respect of these loans, beyond the Kit Loans, will improve the Applicants' cash flow.
- 32. The Applicants are seeking authorization to enter into these settlement agreements with the approval of the Monitor, following consultation with the Agent and the DIP lender (while the DIP is available or outstanding), but without requiring further orders of this Court, provided that the settlement are, in each case, for less than \$1,000,000. There are currently two such settlement

proposals pending, which fit the above criteria, which the Applicants would seek to pursue, and others may arise.

### **Other Kit Loan Transactions**

- 33. The Company was pursuing a tripartite transaction with a third party and a Polish farmer with respect to Kit Loans that would have otherwise been subject to the Saga Transaction. The third party expressed an interest in taking over these Kit Loans on terms that were equal to or more attractive than the terms of the Saga Transaction. As of the date of this affidavit, it does not appear this potential opportunity will proceed, but the Applicants would like the flexibility to enter into such transactions if they arise in the future.
- 34. Under the terms of the Initial Order, the Applicants are currently restricted form disposing of any assets that have an aggregate value above \$250,000 in the absence of the approval of the Court. On the other hand, the Initial Order does allow for transfers in accordance with the Saga Transaction without further approval being requested.
- 35. The Applicants are seeking authorization to sell Kit Loans subject to the Saga Transaction for consideration that is equal to or greater than what they would otherwise receive from Saga, without further order of this Court, provided such transactions are approved by the Monitor, the DIP Lender and the Agent.

### **Consignors**

36. As further described in the Initial Affidavit, NAFA currently has approximately 1 million pelts worth approximately \$25,000,000 on hand in storage facilities across the world. Less than

\$250,000 worth of these pelts are NAFA's inventory, the remainder, and vast majority, are furs that NAFA is storing on behalf of its consignors.

- 37. Next after the Saga Transaction, no single issue is occupying more time for the NAFA staff around the world than fielding calls from consignors/producers seeking the return of their goods. There is speculation (in the Applicants' view unjustified) in the fur community that these goods will be seized by the Agent if left with NAFA. There has been no indication from the Agent of any intent to do so, the Cash Flow Forecast does not anticipate the sale of these goods, and in the current CCAA proceedings the Agent could not do so without an order of the Court, which it has not sought and is not currently anticipated.
- 38. It is also my understanding that the Monitor supports the view that farmed consignor goods in the possession of NAFA, or goods stored with NAFA that are not consignor goods but which belong to third parties (except consigned wild furs where the Monitor's analysis is not yet complete), are not goods of the Applicants and therefore not goods to which the security of the Agent attaches. The Applicants share this view. The Applicants are of the view that consigned wild fur goods are no different.
- 39. In the decades of history of the dealings between the Applicants and the Agent, neither party has ever treated the consignor goods as inventory of the Applicants, and the view in the fur community is, in my view, somewhat unwarranted, albeit understandable given most parties lack of experience with a CCAA proceeding and the general worries that often accompany such unfamiliarity.
- 40. It is also my view that many of the consignors who are asking for the return of their goods would rather not do so (indeed, many do not have comparable storage facilities to locally house

their goods nor do they want to pay shipping costs) but they are panicked by the uncertainty which they perceive in this process.

- 41. Given the foregoing, the Applicants are of the view that they should be allowed to return, when requested, any consignor goods that they have on hand, which are subject to the standard form of farmed consignment agreements with the Applicants (a copy of which is attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit "B"**) to those consignors after ensuring that any amounts owing by the consignors are paid to NAFA. The same should be the case for any goods which the records of NAFA record as goods which are being stored by NAFA on behalf of third parties, which are not subject to any auction agreement.
- 42. One caveat to the general position that consignor goods should be returned (if requested) is that it should not apply to inter-sorted goods.
- 43. When NAFA prepares for its auctions, it receives goods from various producers/consignors. Part of the value add which NAFA brings to the auction of these furs is that its staff of graders review the fur provided and group like quality furs into lots for purchase with other like quality fur from other producers, to create lots which are attractive to the fur auction market. This typically occurs with smaller deliveries where each shipments does not, in and of itself, constitute a large enough lot to sell at auction.
- 44. This process may result in a single "lot" at auction containing fur from dozens of consignors. A lot made up of mink (or other species) from more than one supplier is called an "intersorted lot".
- 45. Unfortunately, the process of desegregating these intersorted lots would be time consuming, expensive, labour intensive and imprecise. It also destroys the value created by an

intersorted lot of like quality furs which might yet be sold. At this time, NAFA is not recommending that it desegregate these intersorted lots and that those furs remain with NAFA for now. This is consistent with the auction agreement that the consignors have agreed to when providing NAFA their furs.

- 46. NAFA is also delivering goods to parties who had entered into agreements (at the auctions prior to the CCAA filing) to purchase such items but where payment had not yet been completed and, as a result, the goods remained with NAFA. Goods are only being released upon receipt of payment in full of the balance remaining under any such sale agreements or, where payment was previously received in full and NAFA was storing the pelts until required by the purchaser then upon their request.
- 47. The Applicants' ability to deal with consignor goods on hand and to return them is not expressly dealt with in the Initial Order. As such, the Applicants are seeking a further Order of this Court authorizing the Company, with the consent of the Monitor, to allow for the return of consignor goods and third party stored goods when requested.
- 48. To the extent any consignor chooses to leave their goods with NAFA (or new goods arrive), NAFA will discuss with that consignor whether or not it would like NAFA's assistance in offering those assets for sale, either through an auction yet to be conducted by NAFA, or through facilitating the delivery of furs to other auction or sale destinations. NAFA will, of course, charge its customary fees and commissions in such case. Any such sales will provide an incremental gain to NAFA's cash flow as the Cash Flow Forecast does not currently anticipate any value from these furs for NAFA.

### **The Carlingview Property**

- 49. The Applicants' principal distribution facility is located at 500 Carlingview Drive, Toronto ("Carlingview Property"). NAFA Properties Inc. ("NAFA Properties") owns and maintains the Carlingview Property.
- 50. NAFA Properties engaged CBRE Limited, Brokerage, In Trust ("CBRE") to assist with the listing and marketing of the Carlingview Property in April 2019. NAFA Properties and CBRE marketed the Carlingview Property by contacting a number of potentially interested parties and advertising the property widely. The market was canvassed broadly and multiple offers were received for the Carlingview Property.
- 51. It is my understanding that the Monitor will provide a further review of this sale process to the Court in its report. The Applicants are of the view that the process leading to the ultimate sale of the Carlingview Property was reasonable in the circumstances and but for the requirements that a sale of an asset of this size be put before the court in the CCAA proceedings, the Applicants would have proceeded with the sale without hesitation.
- 52. On April 18, 2019, NAFA Properties received an agreement of purchase and sale with Lange Group of Companies Ltd. (the "Purchaser") for the Carlingview Property which it signed back on April 25, 2019 (the "APS"). The APS has been amended twice, most recently in November 2019. The APS and corresponding amendments are attached hereto and marked as Confidential Exhibit "B".
- 53. The consideration that NAFA Properties will receive under the APS (the "Purchase Price") is, in the Applicants' view, confidential information and the disclosure of such information could materially prejudice the Applicants' ability to further market the Carlingview Property in

the event that the proposed transaction does not close as anticipated. The Applicants are requesting a sealing order to be granted with respect to Confidential Exhibit "B".

- 54. The APS provides for, *inter alia*, the following:
  - a. NAFA Properties agrees to sell, assign and transfer to the Purchaser, and the Purchaser agrees to purchase and assume from NAFA Properties the Carlingview Property in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in the APS.
  - b. The Purchaser will pay the Purchase Price. The Purchaser paid a deposit to CBRE in accordance with the terms of the APS, which is currently being held in trust.
  - c. The Purchaser will leaseback a portion of the Carlingview Property to NAFA Properties for an initial period of three years following the date of closing with options for termination and renewal.
  - d. The completion date for the APS (i.e. the closing) is the 30<sup>th</sup> day following the waiver of the conditions by the Purchaser.
  - e. The APS is conditional for a six week period from November 12, 2019 ("Conditional Period") upon the parties entering into an agreement on the terms of the leaseback, the Purchaser satisfying itself as to financing and title, and NAFA Properties obtaining all required consents.
- 55. The Purchase Price is factored into the Cash Flow Forecast and is expected to be received in the week ended January 17, 2020.
- 56. The Applicants believe that the Purchase Price is fair and reasonable and that the APS is in the best interests of the Applicants and their stakeholders. The sale of the Carlingview Property will provide the Applicants with liquidity, and the leaseback provisions contemplated in the APS

will also allow the Applicants to continue using the distribution facility while they evaluate their restructuring options on a go-forward basis.

57. The Applicants understand that the Agent and the Syndicate is supportive of the sale of the Carlingview Property as contemplated under the APS.

### **The International Properties**

- 58. Among its holdings, the Applicants own one property in Poland and two properties in Stoughton, Wisconsin. The property in Poland is the European head office and a grading and storage facility for European pelts (the "Poland Property"). One property in Wisconsin is currently being used as the head office for the Applicants' operations in the United States, and the second property is primarily used for grading, cold storage and wild fur receiving (the "US Properties").
- 59. With respect to the Poland Property, the Applicants are in the process of engaging a broker to list and sell the property. Staging work has commenced and videos and photographs have been taken to market the property.
- 60. The Applicants are currently in discussions with Saga for Saga to enter into a short-term lease with respect to some or all of the US Properties (the "Stoughton Lease"). As part of the Saga Transaction, Saga will be harvesting, collecting and grading pelts and it wishes to have NAFA's grading and storage facilities in Stoughton, Wisconsin available to use during the harvest season.
- 61. Consignors in the United States have expressed reservation on delivering their goods to the US Properties, even once rented to Saga, again out of a fear that the Agent will seize goods delivered to Saga.

- 62. There is no reason to suspect the Agent has any intention to do so and the Agent would have no inherent right to enter the US Properties once they were leased to and used by Saga. The Applicants may seek some form of confirmatory declaration to this effect either from the Agent or the Court, or both, if this continues to be an issue which might impact this restructuring.
- 63. Saga requires the US Properties in order to take delivery of the pelts, which it has agreed to receive pursuant to the Saga transaction. The Stoughton Lease will allow for those goods to be delivered to Saga (and paid for to NAFA by Saga) in North America, before the goods are shipped to Saga instead of having the goods shipped directly to Saga before they are paid for (which is the likely alternative if the consignors remain unsure about delivery to Stoughton).
- 64. The receipt and conversion of these pelts into cash by Saga is essential to the cash flow projections of the Applicants and to the proposed pay-down of the Agent's debt.

### **BDC** and the Skyway Property

- 65. NAFA Properties is the registered owner of two long-term ground leases (the "Ground Leases") in respect of a property municipally known as 65 Skyway Avenue, Rexdale Ontario (the "Skyway Property"), which is the Applicants' head office.
- 66. The Business Development Bank of Canada ("**BDC**") made a term loan available to NAFA Properties in the principal amount of \$7,240,000 to allow NAFA Properties to acquire its interest in the Skyway Property in connection with the Ground Leases.
- 67. On October 31, 2019, BDC brought an application seeking to appoint Ernst & Young Inc. as receiver over the Ground Leases (the "Receivership Application"). It was agreed on October 31, 2019 that the Receivership Application would be adjourned to November 8, 2019 and that the Initial Order would not impact BDC or the Receivership Application. A copy of Justice McEwen's

Endorsement relating to the Receivership Application is attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit** "C".

- 68. On November 8, 2019, the Receivership Application was adjourned to November 21, 2019 on the same terms. Justice McEwen's Endorsement dated November 8, 2019, is also attached at Exhibit "C".
- 69. The Applicants and the Monitor have been in communications with BDC to resolve the Receivership Application. The parties have reached a consensual resolution in respect of the Receivership Application on the following terms:
  - a. BDC will withdraw the Receivership Application on a without prejudice basis;
  - b. NAFA Properties, BDC and the Agent will be provided with 60 days' notice if the tenancy at the Skyway Property will be terminated;
  - c. NAFA Properties will be authorized to list the Ground Leases for sale, provided that the listing agreement is in form and substance satisfactory to the Monitor and BDC, in consultation with the Agent;
  - d. listing, marketing and sales strategy in respect of the Ground Leases will be conducted in consultation with the Monitor, BDC and the Agent, and BDC will be provided with regular updates and information in respect of the Ground Leases and the sale process;
  - e. all payments relating to the Ground Leases will continue to be paid to BDC in the ordinary course; and
  - f. the security granted to BDC in respect of the Ground Leases will rank in priority to the other charges in the Initial Order (only to the extent of the security held by BDC

over the Ground Leases), subject to the costs incurred by the Monitor, the Applicants and their counsel associated with the Ground Leases and the sale of the Ground Leases, which will rank in priority to BDC's security in respect of the Ground Leases.

### **BLACKGLAMA** Trademark

- 70. NAFA is the owner of the BLACKGLAMA brand (the "Marks") used in association with mink pelts, perfume, as well as false eyelashes and clothing items made from mink fur (the "Goods").
- 71. The BLACKGLAMA brand is an important brand worldwide in the fur industry. In my view, it is effectively the "Rolls Royce of mink". The brand has a history of more than 40 years. BLACKGLAMA furs have been worn and modeled by celebrities.
- 72. In order to be certified as a BLACKGLAMA mink, the mink has to be a high grade of black North American mink. BLACKGLAMA furs are tracked with specific serial numbered labels which then appear in the garments made from these rare furs.
- 73. The Marks are seen by some as providing an important competitive advantage for North American fur producers in the worldwide fur market.
- 74. NAFA holds the exclusive worldwide rights to the Marks and controls the certification process.
- 75. Various entities have contacted the Applicants and their counsel to ensure that the BLACKGLAMA brand is preserved in the within CCAA proceeding and some have also expressed an interest in purchasing the Marks.

- 76. In order to maintain the value of the Marks, NAFA believes the Marks must be included in furs in this season's garment production. The season for the production of those garments is right now.
- 77. The Company does not believe it can successfully market the Marks for sale in the time available to ensure that the Marks are properly used and supported in the 2019/2020 season.
- 78. As such, the Company has determined that the best interim measure is to enter into a short term license for the use of the Marks, which will maintain the value of the Marks pending further consideration as to how to maximize value from this asset and or include it in the future of NAFA.
- 79. Accordingly, the Company is in the process of negotiating a short license agreement for the BLACKGLAMA brand ("License Agreement").
- 80. The License Agreement negotiations contemplate that NAFA will temporarily license the BLACKGLAMA brand to Saga for less than a year in exchange for an initial license fee plus tax.
- 81. The License Agreement would grant Saga an exclusive, non-renewable, non-extendible, non-transferable, worldwide license to use, among other things, the Marks subject to the terms and conditions set out in the agreement (the "License"). The License would not include any right to grant sublicenses or to delegate any activity that relates to the Marks.
- 82. The License Agreement will likely require Saga to maintain accurate records, ledgers, accounts, books, and data reflecting use of the Marks and sales of approved products.

- 83. The License Agreement will also likely require that Saga will use its best endeavours to develop and increase the Business,<sup>2</sup> to improve the reputation and public perception of the Marks, and to increase the sales of the approved products.
- 84. Further, the proposed License Agreement requires that, within 10 days of execution of the License Agreement, Saga shall provide NAFA with a marketing plan detailing the proposed advertising that it proposes to undertake together with a budget for each campaign, initiative, activity or endeavour detailed therein. NAFA will review the marketing plan and retains ultimate discretion.
- 85. Given the draft license agreement, Saga will begin the BLACKGLAMA marketing campaign in order to promote the Marks and preserve their value during the holiday season.
- 86. The draft Licence expressly contemplates that NAFA will be allowed to market and sell the Marks any time after June 2020, provided that Saga will have a right of first offer in such a marketing process, and Saga will, if unsuccessful in acquiring the brand, have the right to sell any remaining BLACKGLAMA branded products in its system.
- 87. There is no presumption in the Licence or the plans of NAFA that the Marks will be owned by Saga and the Applicants intend to run a fair, open and transparent process, supervised by the Monitor, if they decide to sell the brand in the future.
- 88. It is also possible that NAFA may elect to retain the Mark for its ongoing use after the license expires, depending on future decisions it may make in this restructuring and the support for that proposition from the relevant stakeholders.

<sup>2</sup> Defined in the draft License Agreement as "the business of marketing and selling the Approved Products under the Marks to persons located in the Territory through the Permitted Distribution Channels."

### **KERP** and other Employee Matters

### Terminated Employees and the KERP

- 89. Since the Initial Order, certain employees were terminated as the Applicants restructured their business under the CCAA. Further terminations may occur as the CCAA proceedings unfold.
- 90. It is my understanding that a relatively large group of terminated employees and some current employees are in discussion with a law firm to allow for their collective representation in this process. Proposed counsel attended the November 8<sup>th</sup> hearing in these proceedings.
- 91. I do not have the details under which this representation might occur (although I am advised by Company counsel that such representation is not uncommon in CCAA matters). The Applicants are generally in favour of the employees having a voice in this process, just as the directors, the lenders and the other stakeholders do.
- 92. The Applicants reserve their judgment on the appropriateness of any relief which may be sought by the employees until that relief it made clearer and the Applicants, their advisors, the Monitor and the Court, have had an opportunity to consider the impact of any such relief. In particular, it is my understanding (from discussing it with Company counsel) that funding is sometimes sought for such representative counsel, which is something that would need to be carefully considered in the managed cash flow circumstances of the Applicants.
- 93. The Initial Order approved and authorized a key employee retention plan ("**KERP**"), which offered the Key Employees a bonus equal to 50% of their ordinary salary over three months (the "**KERP Bonus**") that would be paid provided they remain engaged with the Company until at least January 15, 2020.

- 94. The employees were advised of this plan prior to and following the granting of the Initial Order including after the Initial Order was amended. On or about November 15, 2019, the Applicants sent a letter to the Key Employees to explain the KERP and advised that the KERP Bonus would be paid to them on the earliest of the termination of their employment with the Company or January 31, 2020.
- 95. As of the date of swearing this affidavit, none of the Key Employees have resigned as an employee of the Applicants and I am of the view that the KERP process has contributed to the stability of the business since the commencement of these CCAA proceedings.

### Polish Employees

- 96. NAFA employed, as at the date of the Initial Order, 13 full time employees in Poland. Nine of these employees were terminated on or after the date of the Initial Order.
- 97. It was initially projected that severance payments to Polish employees would total USD \$500,000. However, the Company has further investigated its obligations to its Polish employees and has determined that the severance obligation is approximately USD \$219,000. This amount is still under final review.
- 98. Although the full time employees have been terminated, NAFA has hired a material number of seasonal employees to assist with the grading, shipping and processing of fur products in Europe. The work of these employees is required in order to ensure goods which form part of the Saga Transaction reach Saga. The delivery of the goods being processed by these employees is an essential element of the cash flow.
- 99. The Company seeks to accelerate payments of the severance amounts, which come due hereafter to these Polish employees to coincide with when the employees are given their notice. In

particular, NAFA is relying on some key staff in Poland to effect mink and other asset realizations and perform the necessary work to create value. The necessary work includes managing the Polish farm, delivering skins to Saga, following the kits through to harvest, pelting, auctioning, staging the Poland Property for sale, and assisting the agent with the sale.

- 100. Further, staff that has been recently terminated from Poland and are not receiving their severance in accordance with Polish labour laws are "poisoning the well" with remaining staff who may decide not to remain if they believe that their severance is in jeopardy or become concerned that they will not receive their wages.
- 101. I am advised by the Applicants' Polish counsel that laws in Poland for the payment of severance are very strict and may attract criminal liability. Penalties accrue for non-payment of severance at a rate of USD \$7,500 per employee per day.
- 102. Based on the Company's review of the Monitor's analysis of the realizations expected in Poland net of the salary and severance costs, the Applicants have made certain payments towards these obligations and seek to issue the severance payments ahead of the projected timing in the initial cash flow forecasts. The Monitor is supportive this process and has advised the Agent of same.
- 103. Given the importance of the Polish employees to preserve the value of the Applicants, as well as the criminal liability that may attach to the Applicants and their officers for failure to pay severance, the Company is of the opinion that it is necessary to treat Polish employees differently than other employees of the Applicants.

### **Stay Extension**

- 104. Since the Initial Order, the Applicants have been acting in good faith and with due diligence, and continue to act in this manner in their relationships with their creditors, employees, lenders, and farmers. As set out in greater detail above, the Applicants have:
  - a. worked with the Monitor and the DIP Lender to finalize the definitive documents for the DIP Facility and obtained financing from the DIP Lender as contemplated in the cash flow forecast appended to the Monitor's First Report, dated November 7, 2019;
  - b. communicated with farmers in Europe and Saga representatives in order to effectuate the Saga Transaction;
  - c. negotiated and finalized the VAG Settlement to improve liquidity;
  - d. attended to the monetization of the Applicants' real estate holdings, including by finalizing the APS for the Carlingview Property, working on listing the Poland Property, and negotiating a short-term lease with Saga in respect of the US Properties;
  - e. settled the Receivership Application with BDC, which will see the Ground Leases being listed for sale in consultation with the Monitor, BDC and the Agent;
  - f. arranged for the KERP notices to be sent to the Key Employees;
  - g. liaised with stakeholders, including the Agent, the Syndicate, the DIP Lender, creditors and the Applicants' international employees to keep them apprised of

- developments in the CCAA proceedings and the Applicants' business operations; and
- h. worked with the Monitor and the Applicants' financial advisor to prepare the Cash Flow Forecast.
- 105. The current stay of proceedings under the Initial Order will expire on November 29, 2019 ("Stay Period"). The Applicants request an extension of the Stay Period to and including January 31, 2020 to continue their restructuring efforts, including with respect to the Kit Loans in Europe and North America and its real estate holdings in Canada, the United States and Poland.
- 106. At this time, the Applicants are still reviewing whether they will be in a position to conduct the pelt auction in March 2020.
- 107. I understand that the Cash Flow Forecast will demonstrate that the Applicants will have access to sufficient liquidity to fund operations during the requested extension of the Stay Period.
- 108. The Monitor has expressed its support for the extension of the Stay Period to and including January 31, 2020.

109. I affirm this affidavit in support of the Applicants' motion for an Order, *inter alia*: (a) approving the sale of the Carlingview Property; (b) approving the conditions for sale in respect of the Skyway Property; (c) the various additional relief items aimed at addressing consignor and operational issues; and (d) extending the Stay Period to and including January 21, 2020 and for no

other or improper purpose.

AFFIRMED before me at the CITY OF AMUES

on the 27 day of November, 2019

A commissioner, etc

AMY F. DANGLER
MY COMMISSION # GG91851
EXPIRES: May 12, 2021

ROUG LAWSON

This is Exhibit "D" referred to in the Affidavit of Doug Lawson sworn on the day of January, 2020.				
Commissioner for Taking Affidavits (or as may be)				

### AGREEMENT ON ASSIGNMENT OF RECEIVABLES

Undersigned			
	("Fur Breeder") and		
	("Beneficiary")		
	Further instructions from the Fur Breeder, to be paid		
□ up to □ until further notice.	USD		
The agreement upon the date set out be	elow.		
All funds are to be paid to the Beneficia	ary's Account nr		
Bank (name and address):			
SWIFT/BICRouting/ABA:			
rights so, that the Beneficiary has the r from the Fur Breeder have been paid in This Agreement is governed by Canadia	an Law. Any dispute arising of or in connection with this Agreemen ario Superior Court, Commercial List, unless the Beneficiary prefer		
Place and date	Fur Breeder's signature and name clarification		
Place and date	Beneficiary's signature and name clarification		
We have today been notified of this Ag	greement on Assignment of Receivables.		
Place and date	Saga Furs Oyj		

Doc # 438516.1



### **ONTARIO**

### SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE

### **COMMERCIAL LIST**

THE HONOURABLE	)	THURSDAY, THE $30^{TH}$
	)	
MR. JUSTICE McEWEN	)	DAY OF JANUARY, 2020

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 NORTH AMERICAN FUR PRODUCERS INC., NAFA PROPERTIES INC., 3306319 NOVA SCOTIA LIMITED, NORTH AMERICAN FUR AUCTIONS INC., NAFA PROPERTIES (US) INC., NAFA PROPERTIES STOUGHTON LLC, NORTH AMERICAN FUR AUCTIONS (US) INC., NAFPRO LLC (WISCONSIN LLC), NAFA EUROPE CO-OPERATIEF UA, NAFA EUROPE B.V., DAIKOKU SP.Z OO and NAFA POLSKA SP. Z OO

(the "Applicants")

### **ORDER**

(Stay Extension, SISP, and Auction)

**THIS MOTION**, made by the Applicants for an Order for the relief set out in the Notice of Motion of the Applicants dated January 26, 2020, was heard this day at 330 University Avenue, Toronto, Ontario.

ON READING the Affidavit of Douglas Lawson, affirmed January ●, 2020 and the Exhibits thereto (the "Lawson Affidavit"), the Third Report of Deloitte Restructuring Inc., in its capacity as monitor for the Applicants (in such capacity, "Monitor") dated January ●, 2020 (the "Third Report"), and on hearing the submissions of counsel for the Applicants, counsel to the

Monitor, counsel to the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, as agent (in such capacity, the "Agent") for the lenders party to the Fourth and Restated Credit Agreement dated as of September 27, 2019 (as may be amended or amended and restated, the "Credit Agreement") from time to time (the "Lenders"), and all other counsel listed on the counsel slip, no one appearing for any other person on the Service List, although properly served as appears on the Affidavit of Service of •, sworn January •, 2020, filed:

### SERVICE AND DEFINITIONS

- 1. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the time for service of the Notice of Motion and Motion Record herein is hereby abridged and validated so that this Motion is properly returnable today and hereby dispenses with further service thereof.
- 2. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that terms not otherwise defined in this Order shall have the meaning set out in the Initial Order of the Honourable Justice McEwen, dated October 31, 2019 (as amended and restated) (the "**Initial Order**").

### EXTENSION OF THE STAY PERIOD

3. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Stay Period is hereby extended from January 31, 2020 until and including April 3, 2020.

### AUTHORIZATION TO UNDERTAKE SALE AND INVESTMENT SOLICITATION PROCESS

- 4. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Monitor is hereby authorized to undertake a Sale and Investment Solicitation Process ("**SISP**") in a form approved by the Applicants and the Agent or otherwise approved by the Court.
- 5. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that, subject to the approval of the Agent and the Applicants to the form of the SISP or further Order approving the SISP as contemplated by paragraph 4 hereof, the Monitor be and is hereby authorized and directed to perform its obligations under and in accordance with the SISP, and to take such further steps as it considers necessary or desirable in carrying out the SISP.

- 6. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that, in undertaking its obligations under the SISP, the Monitor is hereby empowered and authorized, but not obliged, to do any of the following where the Monitor considers it necessary or desirable:
  - (a) To engage, in consultation with the consultants, managers, property managers, real estate agents, brokers, listing agents, counsel and such other persons from time to time and on whatever basis, including on a temporary basis, to assist with the exercise of the Monitor's powers and duties conferred by this Order;
  - (b) In accordance with the SISP, to market any and all of the Property subject to the SISP, including advertising and soliciting offers in respect of the Property, and negotiating such terms and conditions of sale as the Monitor in its discretion may deem appropriate;
  - (c) To apply for any vesting order or other orders necessary to convey the Property subject to the SISP or any part or parts thereof to a purchaser or purchasers thereof, free and clear of any liens or encumbrances affecting such Property and vesting same in the proceeds; and
  - (d) To take any steps reasonably incidental to the exercise of these powers or the performance of any statutory obligations.
- 7. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Monitor and its affiliates, partners, directors, employees, agents and controlling persons shall have no liability with respect to any and all losses, claims, damages or liabilities, of any nature or kind, to any person in connection with or as a result of the SISP, except to the extent such losses, claims, damages or liabilities result from gross negligence or willful misconduct of the Monitor in performing its obligations under the SISP.
- 8. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that in connection with the SISP and pursuant to clause 7(3)(c) of the *Personal Information and Electronic Documents Act (Canada)*, the Monitor is authorized and permitted to disclose personal information of identifiable individuals to prospective purchasers or offerors and to their advisors, but only to the extent desirable or required to negotiate and attempt to complete one or more transactions (each, a "**Transaction**"). Each prospective purchaser or

offeror to whom such information is disclosed shall maintain and protect the privacy of such information and shall limit the use of such information to its evaluation of the Transaction.

9. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that pursuant to section 3(c)(i) of the *Electronic Commerce Protection Regulations*, SOR/2013-221, made under *An Act to Promote the Efficiency and Adaptability of the Canadian Economy by Regulating Certain Activities that Discourage Reliance on Electronic Means of Carrying Out Commercial Activities, and to Amend the Canadian Radiotelevision and Telecommunications Commission Act, the Competition Act, the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act and the Telecommunications Act, S.C. 2010*, c. 23, the Monitor is authorized and permitted to send, or cause or permit to be sent, commercial electronic messages to an electronic address of prospective purchasers or bidders and to their advisors but only to the extent desirable or required to provide information with respect to the SISP in these CCAA proceedings.

### APPROVAL OF AUCTION

- 10. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Applicants are authorized to undertake an auction as described in the Lawson Affidavit (the "Auction") and are authorized to negotiate and enter into an agreement with Fur Harvesters Auction Inc. ("FHA"), on terms substantially similar to those described in the Lawson Affidavit and the Monitor's Third Report, for FHA and the Applicants to hold a joint Auction for wild fur, and any other such pelts that FHA and the Applicants may agree to sell, at the Applicants' property located at 65 Skyway Avenue, Rexdale Ontario.
- 11. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Applicants and the Monitor be and are hereby authorized and directed to perform the obligations in order to undertake the Auction, and to take such further steps as it considers necessary or desirable in carrying out the Auction.

### KEY EMPLOYEE RETENTION PLAN

12. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Key Employee Retention Plan ("**KERP**") as described in the Lawson Affidavit is hereby approved and the Applicants are authorized, in consultation with the Monitor, to make payments contemplated thereunder in accordance with the terms and conditions of the KERP.

13. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the key employees referred to in the KERP (the "**Key Employees**") shall be entitled to the benefit of the KERP Charge.

### APPROVAL OF MONITOR REPORTS AND ACTIONS

14. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that the Second Report of the Monitor dated November 27, 2020, and the actions, decisions and conduct of the Monitor as set out in the Reports are hereby authorized and approved.

### SEALING OF CONFIDENTIAL EXHIBITS

15. **THIS COURT ORDERS** that Confidential Appendices "A" and "B" to the Lawson Affidavit shall be and are hereby sealed, kept confidential and shall not form part of the public record pending further Order of this Court.

### INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

16. **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 Monitor and the Applicants and their agents 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 Monitor, as an officer of this Court, and the Applicants as may be necessary or desirable to give effect to this Order or to assist the Monitor and the Applicants and their agents in carrying out the terms of this 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 NORTH AMERICAN FUR PRODUCERS INC., NAFA PROPERTIES INC., 3306319 NOVA SCOTIA LIMITED, NORTH AMERICAN FUR AUCTIONS INC., NAFA PROPERTIES (US) INC., NAFA PROPERTIES STOUGHTON LLC, NORTH AMERICAN FUR AUCTIONS (US) INC., NAFPRO LLC (WISCONSIN LLC), NAFA EUROPE CO-OPERATIEF UA, NAFA EUROPE B.V., DAIKOKU SP.Z OO and NAFA POLSKA SP. Z OO (the "Applicants")

## ONTARIO SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE COMMERCIAL LIST

Proceeding commenced at Toronto

# MOTION RECORD OF THE APPLICANTS (RETURNABLE JANUARY 30, 2020)

### BLANEY MCMURTRY LLP

Barristers & Solicitors

2 Queen Street East, Suite 1500

Toronto ON M5C 3G5

David T. Ullmann (LSO # 42357I)

Tel: (416) 596-4289 Fax: (416) 594-2437

Email: DUllmann@blaney.com

Jessica Wuthmann (LSO #72442W)

Tel: (416) 593-3924

Fax: (416) 594-3595

Email: JWuthmann@blaney.com

Counsel for the Applicants