

KINGSWAY FINANCIAL SERVICES INC
Form DEF 14A
April 30, 2018

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20549
SCHEDULE 14A
Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a)
of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant [X]
Filed by a Party other than the Registrant o
Check the appropriate box:
 o Preliminary Proxy Statement
 o Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
 [X] Definitive Proxy Statement
 o Definitive Additional Materials
 o Soliciting Material under Rule 14a-12

KINGSWAY FINANCIAL SERVICES INC.

(Name of the Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

[X] No fee required.

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(1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (Set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

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o Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

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(3) Filing Party:

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL AND SPECIAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS OF
KINGSWAY FINANCIAL SERVICES INC.
MANAGEMENT INFORMATION CIRCULAR AND PROXY STATEMENT
FOR THE MEETING TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 30, 2018

DATED APRIL 30, 2018

NOTICE OF ANNUAL AND SPECIAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT an annual and special meeting (the “Meeting”) of the shareholders of Kingsway Financial Services Inc. (the “Corporation”) will be held at 1:00 p.m. (Toronto time) on Wednesday, May 30, 2018 at the offices of Norton Rose Fulbright Canada LLP, Suite 3800, Royal Bank Plaza, South Tower, Toronto, Ontario, M5J 2Z4, for the following purposes:

- 1) To receive and consider the consolidated financial statements of the Corporation for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017 together with the report of the auditors thereon;
- 2) To elect six directors of the Corporation to hold office for a term of one (1) year or until their successors are duly appointed;
To approve the appointment of BDO USA, LLP as the auditors of the Corporation for the fiscal year ending
- 3) December 31, 2018 and to authorize the board of directors of the Corporation (the “Board”) to set the auditors’ remuneration;
- 4) To approve amendments to the Corporation’s 2013 Equity Incentive Plan, as more fully described in the accompanying management information circular and proxy statement;
- 5) To approve, on a non-binding and advisory basis, the compensation of the named executive officers of the Corporation (say-on-pay);
- 6) To approve, on a non-binding and advisory basis, the frequency of future advisory votes on the compensation of our named executive officers (say-on-frequency); and
- 7) To transact such other business as may properly come before the Meeting, and any postponements or adjournments thereof.

The accompanying management information circular and proxy statement provides additional information relating to the matters to be dealt with at the Meeting and is deemed to form part of this Notice of Meeting.

Only shareholders of record at the close of business on April 12, 2018 are entitled to notice of the Meeting and to vote at the Meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof.

SHAREHOLDERS WHO ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE MEETING IN PERSON SHOULD COMPLETE, DATE AND SIGN THE ENCLOSED FORM OF PROXY, AND RETURN IT IN THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED FOR THAT PURPOSE, OR VOTE BY TELEPHONE OR OVER THE INTERNET.

Proxies to be used at the Meeting must be deposited with Computershare Investor Services Inc., Proxy Department, 100 University Avenue, 8th Floor, Toronto, Ontario, M5J 2Y1, before 1:00 p.m. (Toronto time) on May 28, 2018, or if the Meeting is adjourned or postponed, no later than 5:00 p.m. (Toronto time) on the second business day preceding the day to which the Meeting is adjourned or postponed. The proxy voting cut-off may be waived or extended by the Chairman of the Board at his discretion without notice.

By Order of the Board of Directors

“Terence M. Kavanagh”

Terence M. Kavanagh

Chairman of the Board of Directors

Toronto, Ontario

April 30, 2018

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE INTERNET AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS FOR THE ANNUAL AND SPECIAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS TO BE HELD ON MAY 30, 2018.

The management information circular and proxy statement and Annual Report on Form 10-K, including all amendments thereto, are available on our website, www.kingsway-financial.com.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTER TO SHAREHOLDERS	<u>1</u>
GENERAL PROXY INFORMATION	<u>2</u>
Solicitation of Proxies	<u>2</u>
Quorum	<u>2</u>
Voting Securities and Principal Holders Thereof	<u>2</u>
Q&A on Proxy Voting	<u>5</u>
PARTICULARS OF MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON	<u>10</u>
Financial Statements	<u>10</u>
Election of Directors	<u>10</u>
Executive Officers who are not Directors	<u>15</u>
Appointment of Auditors	<u>16</u>
Approval of Amendments to 2013 Equity Incentive Plan	<u>17</u>
Advisory Vote to Approve the Compensation of the Named Executive Officers	<u>18</u>
Advisory Vote on the Frequency of Future Advisory Votes to Approve the Compensation of the Named Executive Officers	<u>18</u>
STATEMENT OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE PRACTICES	<u>19</u>
Board Committees	<u>20</u>
Communications with the Board	<u>23</u>
Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation	<u>24</u>
Board Leadership Structure and Role in Risk Oversight	<u>24</u>
Compensation Discussion and Analysis	<u>24</u>
EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION	<u>28</u>
Named Executive Officers for 2017	<u>28</u>
2017 Summary Compensation Table	<u>29</u>
2017 Grants of Plan-Based Awards	<u>29</u>
2017 Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End	<u>30</u>
Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control	<u>30</u>
CEO Pay Ratio	<u>32</u>
Director Compensation	<u>32</u>
Securities Authorized for Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans	<u>33</u>
Indebtedness of Directors and Officers	<u>35</u>
Directors' and Officers' Insurance	<u>35</u>
INTERESTS OF INFORMED PERSONS AND OTHERS IN MATERIALS TRANSACTIONS	<u>35</u>
INTEREST OF CERTAIN PERSONS IN MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON	<u>35</u>
OTHER MATTERS	<u>36</u>
HOUSEHOLDING OF PROXY MATERIALS	<u>36</u>
ANNUAL REPORT	<u>36</u>
SECTION 16(A) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE	<u>36</u>
SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS FOR 2019 ANNUAL MEETING	<u>37</u>
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	<u>38</u>
SCHEDULE "A" - Amendment No. 1 to the Kingsway Financial Services Inc. 2013 Equity Incentive Plan	<u>A-1</u>
SCHEDULE "B" - Corporate Governance Procedures	<u>B-1</u>
SCHEDULE "C" - Audit Committee Procedures	<u>C-1</u>

LETTER TO SHAREHOLDERS

Dear Shareholder,

I would like to invite you to join the board of directors and senior management of Kingsway Financial Services Inc. at our next annual meeting, which convenes at 1:00 p.m. (Toronto time) on Wednesday, May 30, 2018, at the offices of Norton Rose Fulbright Canada LLP, Suite 3800, Royal Bank Plaza, South Tower, Toronto, Ontario, M5J 2Z4. At the meeting, you will be asked to receive and consider the consolidated financial statements, elect six directors, approve the appointment of BDO USA, LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm, approve certain amendments to the existing equity incentive plan and consider the approval of the compensation of the named executive officers on a non-binding and advisory basis as well as how often such approvals should be held.

Whether or not you plan to attend the meeting, please complete, date, sign and return, as promptly as possible, the enclosed form of proxy in the accompanying reply envelope, or vote by telephone or the Internet. If you have Internet access, we encourage you to record your vote via the Internet. If you attend the annual meeting and vote in person, your vote in person will revoke any proxy previously submitted.

I appreciate your participation, and I look forward to seeing you on May 30, 2018 in Toronto.

Sincerely,

“Larry G. Swets, Jr.”

Larry G. Swets, Jr.

Chief Executive Officer

GENERAL PROXY INFORMATION

SOLICITATION OF PROXIES

This management information circular and proxy statement (the “Circular”) is furnished in connection with the solicitation of proxies by or on behalf of the management and the board of directors (the “Board”) of Kingsway Financial Services Inc. (the “Corporation,” “Kingsway,” “us,” or “we”) for use at the annual and special meeting (the “Meeting” of shareholders of the Corporation (the “shareholders”) to be held on Wednesday, May 30, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. (Toronto time) at the offices of Norton Rose Fulbright Canada LLP, Suite 3800, Royal Bank Plaza, South Tower, Toronto, Ontario, M5J 2Z4, or any adjournment or postponement thereof, for the purposes set out in the accompanying notice of meeting (the “Notice of Meeting”). The form of proxy and this Circular are being sent to shareholders on or about May 2, 2018.

The solicitations will be made primarily by mail, but proxies may also be solicited personally or by telephone by directors, officers and regular employees of the Corporation, none of whom will receive additional compensation for assisting with the solicitation, and the estimated cost of which will be nominal. Banks, brokers, custodians, nominees and fiduciaries will be requested to forward the proxy soliciting materials to beneficial owners, and the Corporation will reimburse such persons for such reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred by them. The expenses of soliciting proxies, including the cost of preparing, assembling and mailing this Circular and proxy material to shareholders, will be borne by the Corporation.

All of the dollar amounts in this Circular are expressed in U.S. dollars, except where otherwise indicated. References to “dollars” or “\$” are to U.S. dollars, and any references to “CAD\$” are to Canadian dollars.

QUORUM

A quorum is required in order for the Meeting to be properly constituted. Two (2) or more shareholders personally present and representing, either in their own right or by proxy, not less than twenty-five percent (25%) of the issued and outstanding common shares of the Corporation shall constitute a quorum of the Meeting.

VOTING SECURITIES AND PRINCIPAL HOLDERS THEREOF

The authorized capital of the Corporation consists of an unlimited number of common shares (the “Shares” or “Common Shares”) and an unlimited number of Class A Preferred Shares issuable in series. As of the close of business on April 12, 2018, the record date for the Meeting (the “Record Date”), 23,660,855 Common Shares were outstanding of which 1,952,665 Common Shares are currently restricted from voting (each a “Restricted Common Share”) pursuant to the Corporation’s 2013 Equity Incentive Plan dated December 4, 2013 (as amended) (the “2013 Equity Incentive Plan”). The Restricted Common Shares represent 8.3% of the Common Shares; therefore, there are 21,708,190 Common Shares entitled to vote at the Meeting. Each Common Share is entitled to one (1) vote at the Meeting. The Common Shares are listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange (the “TSX”) and the New York Stock Exchange (the “NYSE”) under the symbol “KFS.” As of the close of business on April 12, 2018, there were 222,876 class A convertible preferred shares, series 1 (the “Preferred Shares”) issued and outstanding. Each Preferred Share is convertible into 6.25 Common Shares at a conversion price of \$4.00 per Common Share at the option of the holder at any time prior to April 1, 2021. The outstanding Preferred Shares are not entitled to vote at the Meeting. Holders of Preferred Shares have no right to participate if a takeover bid is made for the Common Shares.

The Restricted Common Shares shall become fully vested, and the Restriction Period (as defined below) shall lapse, as of the tenth anniversary of the date of grant if the holders thereof remain in continuous employment with the Corporation through such anniversary (the “Vesting Date”). During the period between the date of grant and the Vesting Date (the “Restriction Period”), the holders of Restricted Common Shares may not sell, transfer, assign, pledge, hypothecate, or otherwise encumber or dispose of the Restricted Common Shares, except as provided in the 2013 Equity Incentive Plan. The holders of Restricted Common Shares have all rights as shareholders of the Corporation during the Restriction Period in respect of the Restricted Common Shares, including, but not limited to, the right to receive dividends and the right to participate in any capital adjustment applicable to all holders of Common Shares; provided, however, that they may not vote the Restricted Common Shares until the Vesting Date. Pursuant to the terms

of the 2013 Equity Incentive Plan, if a Change of Control occurs, as that term is defined in the 2013 Equity Incentive Plan, all outstanding Restricted Common Shares immediately shall become fully vested and the Restriction Period applicable to such Restricted Common Shares shall lapse.

As of the Record Date, to the knowledge of the Corporation's directors and executive officers, no person or company beneficially owns or exercises control or direction over, directly or indirectly, voting securities of the Corporation carrying more than 10% of the voting rights attached to any class of voting securities of the Corporation, except as set out below.

Principal Security Holder	Number of Common Shares Owned or Controlled	Approximate Percentage of Issued and Outstanding Common Shares Entitled to be Voted at the Meeting
Joseph D. Stilwell (1)	3,943,389	18.2%

(1) Excludes 13,143 Preferred Shares currently convertible into 82,143 Common Shares of the Corporation and 708,347 Common Shares currently issuable upon exercise of the Corporation's series B warrants ("Series B Warrants"). As of the date hereof, Mr. Stilwell, a director of the Corporation, owns 162,500 Common Shares directly and is the owner and managing member of Stilwell Value LLC, which is the General Partner of each of Stilwell Activist Fund, L.P. (which owns 316,714 Common Shares), Stilwell Activist Investments, L.P. (which owns 2,561,109 Common Shares) and Stilwell Associates, L.P. (which owns 903,066 Common Shares).

In accordance with U.S. securities laws, the following table sets forth certain information regarding beneficial ownership or control or direction, directly or indirectly, of the Common Shares as of April 12, 2018, by: (i) each shareholder known by the Corporation to be a beneficial owner of more than 5% of the Corporation's outstanding Common Shares; (ii) each director and director nominee of the Corporation; (iii) the Chief Executive Officer and each additional executive officer named under the heading "2017 Summary Compensation Table" in this Circular; and (iv) all directors, director nominees and executive officers of the Corporation as a group. The Corporation believes that, except as otherwise noted, each individual named has sole investment and voting power with respect to the Common Shares indicated as beneficially owned by such individual. Unless otherwise indicated, the business address of each named person is: 150 Pierce Road, 6th Floor, Itasca, IL, 60143.

Beneficial Owner	Number of Common Shares, Including Restricted Common Shares	Percent of Common Shares, Including Restricted Common Shares, Outstanding (1)
John T. Fitzgerald	411,189 ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	1.73% ⁽³⁾
Gregory P. Hannon	2,515,787 ⁽⁴⁾	10.39%
Terence M. Kavanagh	2,502,787 ⁽⁴⁾	10.34%
Oakmont Capital	2,468,037 ⁽⁵⁾	10.2%
Doug Levine	952,886 ⁽⁶⁾	4.03%
Joseph D. Stilwell	4,733,879 ⁽⁷⁾	19.36% ⁽⁸⁾
Larry G. Swets, Jr.	2,674,504 ⁽⁹⁾	11.03%
Gary R. Schaevitz	960,830 ⁽¹⁰⁾	3.97%
William A. Hickey, Jr.	431,092 ⁽¹¹⁾	1.81%
Hassan R. Baqar	201,036 ⁽¹²⁾	*
Long Meadow Holdings, L.P.	1,210,000 ⁽¹³⁾	5.11%
Fundamental Global Investors, LLC	1,867,487 ⁽¹⁴⁾	7.89%
Yorkmont Capital Management, LLC	1,952,830 ⁽¹⁵⁾	8.25%
All Directors, Director Nominees and Executive Officers as a Group (9 persons)	12,915,953	49.00%

* Indicates less than 1%.

All percentages in this column are calculated based upon: (i) the total number of Common Shares, including Restricted Common Shares, held by the beneficial owner (or all directors and executive officers as a group); plus the number of options, Series B Warrants and Preferred Shares, held by the beneficial owner (or all directors and executive officers as a group), exercisable or convertible within sixty (60) days; divided by (ii) 23,660,855, being the total number of Common Shares, including Restricted Common Shares, outstanding as of April 12, 2018; plus (1) the number of options, Series B Warrants and Preferred Shares, held by the beneficial owner (or all directors and executive officers as a group), exercisable or convertible within sixty (60) days. Accordingly, this calculation is not based upon maximum dilution and instead assumes that only the beneficial owner (or all directors and executive officers as a group) exercises or converts all options, Series B Warrants and Preferred Shares exercisable or convertible within sixty (60) days.

(2) Mr. Fitzgerald owns 371,189 Common Shares, including zero Restricted Common Shares, plus 40,000 options that are currently exercisable.

(3) Does not include 500,000 Restricted Stock Units granted to Mr. Fitzgerald pursuant to a Restricted Stock Unit Agreement dated August 24, 2016.

(4) Includes 13,143 Preferred Shares currently convertible into 82,143 Common Shares held by Oakmont Capital Inc., an Ontario corporation ("Oakmont"). According to a Schedule 13D/A filed with the SEC on September 16, 2013 jointly on behalf of Oakmont, E.J.K. Holdings Inc., an Ontario corporation ("EJK"), 1272562 Ontario Inc., an Ontario corporation ("1272562"), Gregory P. Hannon and Terence M. Kavanagh, each of EJK and 1272562 owns 50% of the outstanding voting stock of Oakmont. As such, Mr. Hannon and Mr. Kavanagh share voting and dispositive control over 1,922,500 Common Shares owned directly by Oakmont. EJK directly owns 6,000 Common Shares, and Mr. Kavanagh has shared voting power and shared dispositive power with respect to these Common Shares by virtue of his ownership of all of the outstanding voting stock of EJK. 1272562 directly owns 3,000 Common Shares, and Mr. Hannon has shared voting and shared dispositive power with respect to these Common Shares by virtue of his ownership of all of the outstanding voting stock of 1272562. Mr. Kavanagh has sole voting power and sole dispositive power with respect to 26,875 Common Shares owned through a self-directed Retirement Savings Plan, 1,750 Common Shares owned directly and 125 Common Shares owned directly by a trust for his nephew (of which Mr. Kavanagh is the sole trustee). Mr. Hannon has sole voting power and sole dispositive power with respect to 22,500 Common Shares owned directly by him or through a

self-directed Retirement Savings Plan and 4,500 Common Shares owned directly by two trusts for Mr. Hannon's children (Mr. Hannon is the sole trustee of both of these trusts). In addition, Mr. Hannon has shared voting power and shared dispositive power with respect to 4,000 Common Shares owned directly by Gilter Inc., an Ontario corporation of which all of the outstanding voting stock is owned by the Gregory Hannon Family Trust (Mr. Hannon is one of two trustees of this trust). Mr. Hannon may also be deemed the beneficial owner of 13,750 Common Shares owned directly by Mr. Hannon's spouse. The business address of these shareholders is 45 St. Clair Avenue West, Suite 400, Toronto, Ontario, M4V 1K9 Canada.

(5) Mr. Hannon and Mr. Kavanagh share voting and dispositive control over 1,922,500 Common Shares owned directly by Oakmont, 13,143 Preferred Shares currently convertible into 82,143 Common Shares and 463,394 Common Shares currently issuable upon exercise of Series B Warrants. The business address of this shareholder is 45 St. Clair Avenue West, Suite 400, Toronto, Ontario, M4V 1K9 Canada.

- (6) Mr. Levine directly owns 868,584 Common Shares. Mr. Levine indirectly owns 31,200 Common Shares, through the holdings of family members, and 53,102 Common Shares via a trust. Includes 13,143 Preferred Shares currently convertible into 82,143 Common Shares and 708,347 Common Shares currently issuable upon exercise of Series B Warrants. According to a Schedule 13D/A filed with the SEC on December 15, 2017 on behalf of Stilwell Value Partners III, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership, subsequently dissolved on December 27, 2017 (“Stilwell Value Partners III”); Stilwell Activist Fund, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership (“Stilwell Activist Fund”); Stilwell Activist Investments, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership (“Stilwell Activist Investments”); Stilwell Associates, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership (“Stilwell Associates”); Stilwell Value LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (“Stilwell Value LLC”); and Joseph D. Stilwell, a U.S. citizen,
- (7) Stilwell Value Partners III, Stilwell Activist Fund, Stilwell Activist Investments, and Stilwell Associates (the “Investment Partnerships”) are private investment partnerships engaged in the purchase and sale of securities for their own accounts. Stilwell Value LLC is the general partner of each of the Investment Partnerships, and Mr. Stilwell is the managing member and owner of Stilwell Value LLC. The Investment Partnerships and the management of Stilwell Value LLC have shared voting and shared dispositive power over 3,943,389 Common Shares as well as the Common Shares reported above. The business address of this shareholder is 111 Broadway, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10006. Stilwell Value Partners IV, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership (“Stilwell Value Partners IV”), Stilwell Activist Fund, Stilwell Activist Investments, Stilwell Associates and Joseph Stilwell (each a “Warrantholder” and collectively the “Warrantholders”) entered into an undertaking with the Corporation pursuant to which each Warrantholder holding Series B Warrants undertook not to exercise the Series B Warrants held by it, and the Corporation acknowledged that it will not give effect to any such exercise, if and to the extent that, after giving effect to such exercise, such Warrantholder (individually or together with the other Warrantholders and any other persons whose
- (8) beneficial ownership of the Common Shares would be aggregated with such Warrantholders for the purposes of Section 13(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or otherwise under any applicable statute) would in the aggregate beneficially own Common Shares representing more than 19.95% of the total number of issued and outstanding Common Shares or voting power. Subsequent to the execution of the undertaking, Stilwell Value Partners IV was dissolved. The undertaking will terminate on July 15, 2018, unless sooner terminated by written agreement of all parties. Mr. Swets owns 2,091,968 Common Shares, including 1,382,665 Restricted Common Shares; 182,536 Common
- (9) Shares currently issuable upon exercise of Series B Warrants; and 400,000 Common Shares currently issuable upon exercise of options. Mr. Schaevitz directly owns 202,096 Common Shares; 40,000 Preferred Shares currently convertible into 250,000 Common Shares; and 273,750 Common Shares currently issuable upon exercise of Series B Warrants. Mr. Schaevitz indirectly owns, through the holdings of family members, 186,376 Common Shares and 41,608
- (10) Common Shares currently issuable upon exercise of Series B Warrants. Mr. Schaevitz also indirectly owns 7,000 Common Shares via a trust. Mrs. Sandra Schaevitz has voting and dispositive control over the Common Shares held by the trust. Mr. Hickey owns 305,592 Common Shares, including 229,500 Restricted Common Shares; 25,500 Common
- (11) Shares currently issuable upon exercise of Series B Warrants; and 100,000 Common Shares currently issuable upon exercise of options. Mr. Baqar owns 153,536 Common Shares, including 115,500 Restricted Common Shares; 12,500 Common
- (12) Shares currently issuable upon exercise of Series B Warrants; and 35,000 Common Shares currently issuable upon exercise of options. (13) According to a Schedule 13G/A filed with the SEC on January 16, 2018 on behalf of Long Meadow Holdings, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership (“LMH”), Long Meadow Investors, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (“LMI”), Michael J. Moss, a U.S. citizen, and Jonathan W. Old, III, a U.S. citizen, LMH holds 1,210,000 Common Shares. LMI is the general partner of LMH, and Messrs. Moss and Old are managing members of LMI. LMH, LMI and Messrs. Moss and Old may be deemed the beneficial owners of the Common Shares held by LMH by virtue of the fact that they have the shared power to vote and dispose of such Common Shares. Mr. Moss also

controls 2,000 Common Shares personally, so he may be deemed to be the beneficial owner of 1,212,000 Common Shares. Mr. Old also controls 110,000 Common Shares personally, so he may be deemed to be the beneficial owner of 1,320,000 Common Shares. The business address of this shareholder is 1200 High Ridge Road, Stamford, CT 06905.

According to a Schedule 13D/A filed with the SEC on September 13, 2016 on behalf of Fundamental Global Partners, LP (the "Fund"), a Delaware limited partnership, Fundamental Global Partners Master Fund, LP (the "Master Fund"), a Cayman Islands exempted limited partnership, FGI Global Asset Allocation Fund, Ltd. (the "Asset Allocation Fund"), a Cayman Islands exempted company, FGI Global Asset Allocation Master Fund, LP (the "Asset Allocation Master Fund"), a Cayman Islands exempted limited partnership, Fundamental Global Investors LLC (the "Investment Manager"), a North Carolina limited liability company, FGI International USVI, (14) LLC, a U.S. Virgin Islands limited liability company, FGI Funds Management, LLC, a Florida limited liability company, Mr. D. Kyle Cerminara, Mr. Lewis M. Johnson, and Mr. Joseph H. Moglia, the Fund holds 557,808 Common Shares, the Master Fund holds 1,295,679 Common Shares, the Asset Allocation Fund owns 5,770 Common Shares and the Asset Allocation Master Fund owns 8,230 Common Shares. The Investment Manager may be deemed to beneficially own the Common Shares held directly by the Fund, the Master Fund, the Asset Allocation Fund and the Asset Allocation Master Fund. The business address of this shareholder is 4201 Congress Street, Suite 140, Charlotte, NC 28209.

According to a Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on March 6, 2018 on behalf of Yorkmont Capital Partners, LP ("YCP"), a Texas limited partnership, Yorkmont Capital Management, LLC ("YCM"), a Texas limited liability company, and Graeme P. Rein, YCP beneficially owns 1,870,230 Common Shares. Mr. Rein is the managing (15) member of YCM, which is the general partner of YCP. YCM beneficially owns 1,952,830 Common Shares and Mr. Rein beneficially owns 1,952,830 Common Shares. The business address of this shareholder is 2313 Lake Austin Blvd., Austin, TX 78703.

Q&A ON PROXY VOTING

Q: What am I voting on?

Shareholders are voting on the following: (i) the election of directors of the Corporation; (ii) the approval of the appointment of the auditors of the Corporation; (iii) the approval of certain amendments to the 2013 Equity A: Incentive Plan; (iv) the approval of an advisory non-binding resolution approving the 2017 compensation of the named executive officers, as disclosed in this Circular; and (v) the approval of an advisory non-binding resolution setting forth how frequently the Corporation should conduct a shareholder advisory vote on executive

compensation.

Q: Who is entitled to vote?

A: Shareholders as of the close of business on the Record Date are entitled to vote. Each Common Share is entitled to one (1) vote on those items of business identified in the Notice of Meeting. Holders of the outstanding Preferred Shares and Restricted Common Shares are not entitled to vote at the Meeting. The form of proxy you received indicates the number of Common Shares that you own and are entitled to vote.

Q: How do I vote?

A: If you are a registered shareholder there are a number of ways you can vote your Shares:

• In Person: You may vote in person at the Meeting.

• By Mail: You may sign the enclosed form of proxy appointing the named persons or some other person you choose, who need not be a shareholder, to represent you as proxyholder and vote your Shares at the Meeting. Return the form of proxy by mail to:

Computershare Investor Services
100 University Avenue, 8th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M5J 2Y1

• By Telephone: Shareholders located in Canada or in the United States may vote by telephone by calling 1-866-732-8683. You will need to enter the 15-digit control number provided on the form of proxy to vote your Shares over the phone.

• By Internet: You may vote over the Internet by going to www.investorvote.com. You will need to enter the 15-digit control number provided on the form of proxy to vote your Shares over the Internet.

Voting by telephone or on the Internet is fast, convenient and your vote is immediately confirmed and tabulated. If you choose to vote by telephone or on the Internet, instructions to do so are set forth on the form of proxy. The telephone and Internet voting procedures are designed to authenticate votes cast by use of a control number, which appears on the form of proxy. These procedures allow shareholders to appoint a proxy to vote their Shares and to confirm that their instructions have been properly recorded. If you vote by telephone, you will not be able to appoint a proxyholder. If you vote by telephone or on the Internet, your vote must be received by 1:00 p.m. (Toronto time), on May 28, 2018.

If you are a beneficial shareholder, the intermediary (usually a bank, trust company, broker, securities dealer or other financial institution) through which you hold your Shares will send you instructions on how to vote your Shares.

Please follow the instructions on your voting instruction form.

Q: What if I plan to attend the Meeting and vote in person?

A: If you are a registered shareholder and plan to attend the Meeting on May 30, 2018 and wish to vote your Shares in person at the Meeting, do not complete or return the form of proxy. When you arrive to vote in person at the Meeting, please register with the transfer agent, Computershare Investor Services Inc. ("Computershare"), and your vote will be counted in person. If your Shares are held in the name of a nominee and you wish to attend the Meeting, refer to the answer to the question "If my Shares are not registered in my name but are held in the name of a nominee (a bank, trust company, securities broker, trustee or other), how do I vote my Shares?" for voting instructions.

Q: Who is soliciting my proxy?

A: Your proxy is being solicited by or on behalf of management and the Board. The associated costs will be borne by the Corporation. The solicitations will be made primarily by mail, but proxies may also be solicited personally or by telephone by directors, officers and regular employees of the Corporation, none of whom will receive additional compensation for assisting with the solicitation, and the estimated cost of which will be nominal.

Q: What happens if I sign the form of proxy enclosed with this Circular?

A: Signing the enclosed form of proxy gives authority to Terence M. Kavanagh, Chairman of the Board, or failing him, Larry G. Swets, Jr., Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation, respectively, or to another person you have appointed, to vote your Shares at the Meeting.

Q: Can I appoint someone other than these representatives to vote my Shares?

A: Yes, you may appoint a person or company to represent you at the Meeting other than the persons assigned in the form of proxy. Write the name of this person or entity, who need not be a shareholder, in the blank space provided in the form of proxy. It is important to ensure that any other person you appoint is attending the Meeting and is aware that he or she has been appointed to vote your Shares. Proxyholders should, upon arrival at the Meeting, register with Computershare.

Q: What do I do with my completed proxy?

A: Return it to Computershare in the envelope provided or at Computershare Investor Services Inc., Proxy Department, 100 University Avenue, 8th Floor, Toronto, Ontario, M5J 2Y1. Your form of proxy must be received by Computershare by no later than 48 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays) before the time and the date of the Meeting, or in the case of any adjournment or postponement thereof, no later than 48 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays) before the time and the date at which the Meeting is reconvened. This will ensure that your vote is recorded. The proxy voting cut-off may be waived or extended by the Chairman of the Board at his discretion without notice.

Q: How will my Shares be voted if I give my proxy?

A: On the form of proxy, you can indicate how you want your proxyholder to vote your Shares, or you can let your proxyholder decide for you. Your proxyholder must vote or withhold from voting in accordance with your instructions on any ballot that may be called for, and if you have specified on the form of proxy how you want your Shares to be voted on any matter to be acted upon, your Shares will be voted accordingly.

If you have not specified on the form of proxy how you want your Shares to be voted on a particular issue, then your proxyholder can vote your Shares as he or she sees fit in accordance with their best judgment.

In the absence of such directions, however, the management nominees will vote your Shares in favor of: (i) the election of each of the six director nominees set forth in the form of proxy; (ii) the appointment of BDO USA, LLP as the auditors of the Corporation; (iii) the amendment to the 2013 Equity Incentive Plan; and (iv) the approval of an advisory non-binding resolution approving the 2017 compensation of the named executive officers, as disclosed in this Circular and as having selected to hold future advisory non-binding votes to approve the compensation of the named executive officers annually.

Q: If I change my mind, can I revoke or change my proxy once I have given it?

A: Yes. You may revoke your proxy and change your vote at any time before the Meeting in one of four ways:

Send a written notice that is received by the deadline specified below stating that you revoke your proxy to Kingsway's Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer at the following address: 45 St. Clair Avenue West, (i) Suite 400, Toronto, Ontario, M4V 1K9 Canada. The statement must be signed by you or your attorney as authorized in writing or, if the shareholder is a corporation, signed under its corporate seal or by a duly authorized officer or attorney of the corporation;

(ii) If you returned a proxy by mail, complete a new form of proxy bearing a later date and properly submit it so that it is received before the deadline set forth below;

(iii) Log onto the Internet website specified on the form of proxy in the same manner you would to submit your proxy electronically or call the toll-free number specified on the form of proxy prior to the Meeting, in each case if you are eligible to do so, and follow the instructions on the form of proxy; or

(iv) Appear in person at the Meeting, declare your prior proxy to be revoked and then vote in person at the Meeting (although merely attending the Meeting will not revoke your proxy).

Any revocation of a proxy must be delivered either to the registered office of the Corporation at any time up to and including the last business day preceding the day of the Meeting or any adjournment or postponement of the Meeting, or to the Chairman of the Board on the day of the Meeting, Wednesday, May 30, 2018, or any adjournment or postponement of the Meeting, prior to the time of the Meeting.

Q: What if amendments are made to these matters or if other matters are brought before the Meeting?

The persons named in the form of proxy will have discretionary authority with respect to amendments or variations to matters identified in the Notice of Meeting and with respect to other matters which may properly come before the Meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof, whether or not the amendment, variation or other matter that comes before the Meeting is or is not routine, and whether or not the amendment, variation or other matter that comes before the Meeting is contested.

As of the date of this Circular, management of the Corporation and the Board know of no such amendment, variation or other matter expected to come before the Meeting. If any other matter properly comes before the Meeting, the persons named in the accompanying form of proxy will vote on such matter in accordance with their best judgment.

Q: How many Shares are entitled to vote?

A: As of the Record Date, there were 21,708,190 Common Shares entitled to be voted at the Meeting. Each registered shareholder has one (1) vote for each Common Share held at the close of business on the Record Date.

Q: How will the votes be counted?

Each item of business brought before the Meeting requires a majority of votes cast on such matter for approval. In the case of equal votes, the Chairman of the Meeting is not entitled to a second or casting vote. Abstentions from voting and broker non-votes will not be counted and will have no effect on the approval of matters to be considered at the Meeting. A "broker non-vote" occurs when a broker does not vote on some matter on the form of proxy because the broker does not have discretionary voting power for that particular item and has not received instructions from the beneficial owner. No holders of any Shares are entitled to cumulative voting rights.

Given the multiple voting choices available to shareholders under the advisory resolution setting how frequently the Corporation should conduct a shareholder advisory vote on executive compensation, it is possible that none of the alternatives of one, two or three years will receive a majority vote. Nevertheless, the Board considers this vote the equivalent of a poll of the shareholders and will consider the number of votes each alternative receives when making future decisions as to the timing of say-on-pay votes.

Q: Who counts the votes?

A: The Corporation's transfer agent, Computershare, counts and tabulates the proxies.

Q: If I need to contact the transfer agent, how do I reach them?

A: You can contact the transfer agent as follows:

by mail:	by telephone or email:
Computershare Investor Services Inc.	within Canada and the United States at 1-800-564-6253
Proxy Department	all other countries at (416) 981-9633
100 University Avenue, 8th Floor	or by email: service@computershare.com
Toronto, Ontario, M5J 2Y1	

Q: If my Shares are not registered in my name but are held in the name of a nominee (a bank, trust company, securities broker, trustee or other), how do I vote my Shares?

A: Generally, your Shares may be voted in one of two ways:

(i) Unless you have previously informed your nominee that you do not wish to receive material relating to the Meeting, you will have received this Circular from your nominee, together with a request for voting instructions for the number of Shares you hold. If you do not plan on attending the Meeting, or do not otherwise wish to vote in person at the Meeting, please follow the voting instructions provided by your nominee.

(ii) If you wish to attend and vote your Shares at the Meeting, the Corporation will have no record of your shareholdings or of your entitlement to vote unless your nominee has appointed you as proxyholder. Therefore, if you wish to vote in person at the Meeting, insert your own name in the space provided on the voting instruction form sent to you by your nominee. Then sign and return the voting instruction form by following the signing and returning instructions provided by your nominee. By doing so, you are instructing your nominee to appoint you as proxyholder. Do not otherwise complete the voting instruction form as your vote will be taken at the Meeting.

Please register with the transfer agent, Computershare, upon arrival at the Meeting.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, shareholders must explicitly follow any instructions provided by their nominee.

Q: Is the vote on the say-on-pay proposal and say-on-frequency proposal binding on the Board?

A: No. Because your vote is advisory, it will not be binding upon the Board; however, the Board values the opinions of our shareholders and will take into account the outcome of the vote when considering future executive compensation arrangements and the frequency of advisory votes thereon as it deems appropriate.

Q: How can I obtain additional information about Kingsway?

A: Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017, and all amendments thereto (the "Form 10-K"), can be found under the Corporation's name on the System for Electronic Document Analysis and Retrieval ("SEDAR") at www.sedar.com, on the Securities and Exchange Commission's ("SEC") Electronic Data Gathering, Analysis, and Retrieval System ("EDGAR") at www.sec.gov, or on our website at www.kingsway-financial.com. We will furnish to any shareholder, upon written request, any exhibit described in the list accompanying the Form 10-K without charge. Any such requests should include a representation that the shareholder was the beneficial owner of Common Shares on the Record Date, and should be directed to Kingsway Financial Services Inc., Attention: Investor Relations, 45 St. Clair Avenue West, Suite 400, Toronto, Ontario M4V 1K9 Canada. You may also access the exhibits described in the Form 10-K through the SEC website at www.sec.gov.

We are subject to the reporting requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), which requires that we file reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. The SEC maintains a website on the Internet that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding registrants, including us, that file electronically with the SEC. The SEC's website address is www.sec.gov. In addition, our Exchange Act filings, proxy statements and other information can be inspected and copied at the public reference facilities maintained by the SEC at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20549. Copies of such materials may also be obtained by mail from the Public Reference Section of the SEC at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20549, upon payment of the SEC's customary fees. Information regarding the public reference facilities may be obtained from the SEC by telephoning 1-800-SEC-0330.

**PARTICULARS OF MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Shareholders will consider the audited financial statements of the Corporation for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017 together with the auditors' report thereon. These documents are available on the Corporation's website at www.kingsway-financial.com and on SEDAR at www.sedar.com, and are also included in the Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017, which is found on the EDGAR website at www.sec.gov.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Our articles of incorporation (as amended) (the "Articles") provide that the Board shall consist of not fewer than one (1) and not more than ten (10) directors. The Board has determined that the number of directors constituting the Board currently be set at six.

With the exception of Doug Levine, all director nominees are currently members of the Board and have been since the dates indicated in their respective profiles set forth below. It is contemplated that all of the nominees will be able to serve as directors; however, if a nominee should be unable to so serve for any reason prior to the Meeting, the persons named in the enclosed form of proxy reserve the right to vote for another nominee in their discretion. Each director elected will hold office until the next annual meeting or until his successor is appointed, unless his office is earlier vacated in accordance with the Business Corporations Act (Ontario) ("OBCA") and the by-laws of the Corporation. In order to be elected, a director nominee must receive a majority of votes cast.

We have adopted a "Majority Election of Directors Policy" that provides that a director nominee who does not receive a majority (50% +1) of "FOR" votes cast at the Meeting in favor of his election in an uncontested election will be required to immediately submit his resignation to the Audit Committee and the resignation will be effective when accepted by the Board. A contested meeting is defined as a meeting at which the number of directors nominated for election is greater than the number of seats available on the Board. The Audit Committee must make a recommendation to the Board to accept or reject the resignation and the Board must act on the Audit Committee's recommendation within 90 days of the Meeting. The Board shall accept the resignation absent extenuating circumstances. The Corporation shall promptly issue a news release with the Board's decision, and if the Board determines not to accept a resignation, the news release will state in full the reasons for that decision. A director who tenders a resignation pursuant to this Policy will not participate in any meeting of the Board or any sub-committee of the Board at which the resignation is considered.

Management and the Board unanimously recommend that shareholders vote FOR the election of all of the nominees whose names are set forth on the following pages. In the absence of contrary instructions, the persons designated by management of the Corporation in the enclosed form of proxy intend to vote FOR the election of all of the nominees whose names are set forth on the following pages.

Information set out below is as of April 12, 2018, unless otherwise indicated. Total compensation paid to the directors of the Corporation for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017 is set out in the section entitled "Director Compensation" of this Circular.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John T. Fitzgerald joined Kingsway as Executive Vice President on April 21, 2016 following Kingsway's acquisition of Argo Management Group, a private equity investment partnership co-founded by Mr. Fitzgerald in 2002. Effective March 8, 2017, Mr. Fitzgerald was appointed President and Chief Operating Officer of Kingsway. Prior to co-founding Argo Management Group, Mr. Fitzgerald was managing director of Adirondack Capital, LLC, a financial futures and derivatives trading firm, and he was a seat-owner on the Chicago Board of Trade. Mr. Fitzgerald was previously the CEO of Hunter MFG, LLP and, from 2006 to 2016, Mr. Fitzgerald served as its Chairman. Mr. Fitzgerald received a Bachelor of Science degree from DePaul University and is an MBA graduate of the Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University. Mr. Fitzgerald's education, background and experience qualify him for his role with Kingsway.

John T. Fitzgerald
 Age: 46
 Residence:
 Illinois, United States of
 America
 Director Since: April 21,
 2016
 Not independent

Board
 Committee Attendance⁽¹⁾ Public Board Membership:
 Membership:
 Director, Atlas Financial Holdings, Inc. since May 2013
 Board 15/15 100%
 Director, Itasca Capital, Ltd., since June 2016

Shareholdings:

Common Shares Value of Common Shares ⁽²⁾
 371,189 \$1,410,518

Options⁽³⁾:

Date Granted	Expiry Date	Number Granted	Exercise Price	Total Unexercised	Value of Unexercised Options ⁽⁴⁾
4-20-16	4-20-20	40,000	\$4.67	40,000	\$—
TOTALS:	--	40,000	--	40,000	\$—

Gregory P. Hannon has been a Vice-President and Director of Oakmont Capital Inc., a Toronto-based private investment company, since 1997. He previously was a founding partner of Lonrisk, a Toronto-based specialty insurer and subsidiary of the London Insurance Group, where he was the Chief Financial Officer. Prior to that, Mr. Hannon worked for the Continental Bank of Canada in commercial credit and as auditor for Arthur Andersen and Company, Chartered Accountants. Mr. Hannon received a Bachelor of Commerce degree from Queen's University in 1978 and an M.B.A. from The Harvard Business School in 1987. Mr. Hannon brings to the Board entrepreneurial experience, as well as expertise in accounting, auditing and financial reporting.

Gregory P. Hannon Age: 63 Residence: Ontario, Canada Director Since: September 16, 2009 Independent ⁽⁵⁾	Board Committee Attendance ⁽¹⁾ Membership: Public Board Membership: Board 15/15 100% Audit 16/16 100% Committee Nominating and Corporate Governance 4/4 100% Committee Shareholdings: Common Shares ⁽⁶⁾ Value of Common Shares ⁽²⁾ 1,970,250 \$7,486,950 Options: <table border="0" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td>Date Granted</td> <td>Expiry Date</td> <td>Number Granted</td> <td>Exercise Price</td> <td>Total Unexercised</td> <td>Value of Unexercised Options</td> </tr> <tr> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="6">TOTALS: -- -- -- -- --</td> </tr> </table>	Date Granted	Expiry Date	Number Granted	Exercise Price	Total Unexercised	Value of Unexercised Options	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	TOTALS: -- -- -- -- --					
Date Granted	Expiry Date	Number Granted	Exercise Price	Total Unexercised	Value of Unexercised Options														
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A														
TOTALS: -- -- -- -- --																			

Terence M. Kavanagh has, since 1997, served as President and a Director of Oakmont Capital Inc., a Toronto-based private investment company. Prior to co-founding Oakmont Capital, Mr. Kavanagh's previous experience includes managing the Brentwood Pooled Investment Fund, a North American based investment fund, and managing a number of family-owned operating businesses in the real estate, property management and building services industries. Mr. Kavanagh was previously an investment banker in New York and Toronto with The First Boston Corporation and Lehman Brothers. Mr. Kavanagh received a Bachelor of Law degree from Western University in 1978, and an M.B.A. from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College in 1982. Mr. Kavanagh brings extensive knowledge of the financial services industry to the Board.

Terence M. Kavanagh Age: 63 Residence: Ontario, Canada Director Since: April 23, 2009 Independent ⁽⁵⁾	Board Committee Attendance ⁽¹⁾ Membership: Public Board Membership: Board 15/15 100% Compensation & Management Resources 5/5 100% None
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Committee

Audit Committee 16/1600%

Investment Committee 4/4 100%

Plan Committee 0/0 N/A

Shareholdings:

Common Shares ⁽⁶⁾	Value of Common Shares ⁽²⁾
1,957,250	\$7,437,550

Options:

Date Granted	Expiry Date	Number Granted	Exercise Price	Total Unexercised	Value of Unexercised Options
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
TOTALS:	--	--	--	--	--

Doug Levine has been the President of Levine Management, a real estate developer, since January 2013. He graduated in 1980 from Tufts University with a Bachelor's Degree in Economics.

Doug Levine
Age: 59
Residence:
Florida, United States of
America
Director Since: N/A
Independent⁽⁵⁾

Board
Committee Attendance Public Board Membership:
Membership:
N/A

N/A/A None

Shareholdings:

Common Shares ⁽⁷⁾	Value of Common Shares ⁽²⁾
952,886	\$3,620,967

Options:

Date	Expiry	Number	Exercise	Total	Value of Unexercised
Granted	Date	Granted	Price	Unexercised	Options
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
TOTALS:	--	--	--	--	--

Joseph D. Stilwell is the owner and managing member of Stilwell Value LLC, the General Partner of a group of funds known as The Stilwell Group. Mr. Stilwell started his first fund in 1993 and has been reviewing and analyzing financial statements and managing investment funds for well over 20 years. He graduated in 1983 from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Science in Economics.

Joseph D. Stilwell
Age: 56
Residence:
New York, United States of
America
Director Since: April 23, 2009
Independent⁽⁵⁾

Board
Committee Attendance⁽¹⁾Public Board Membership:
Membership:
Board

15/1500 %

Audit
Committee 16/1500 %

Compensation & Management
& Management None

Resources 5/5 100 %

Committee
Plan 0/0 N/A
Committee

Shareholdings:

Common Shares ⁽⁸⁾	Value of Common Shares ⁽²⁾
3,943,389	\$14,984,878

Options:

Date	Expiry	Number	Exercise	Total	Value of Unexercised
Granted	Date	Granted	Price	Unexercised	Options
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
TOTALS:	--	--	--	--	--

Larry G. Swets, Jr. has served as our Chief Executive Officer since July 2010 and as our President from July 2010 until March 2017. Before joining Kingsway in January 2010, Mr. Swets founded Itasca Financial, LLC, an advisory and investment firm specializing in the insurance industry. Prior to his work at Itasca Financial, Mr. Swets served as an insurance company executive and advisor, including the role of Director of Investments and Fixed Income Portfolio Manager for Kemper Insurance. Mr. Swets graduated from Valparaiso University in 1997 and earned a Master’s degree in Finance from DePaul University in 1999. He also holds the Chartered Financial Analyst designation. Mr. Swets is qualified to serve on our Board of Directors due to his extensive understanding of Kingsway, and his considerable operating, investment and management experience in companies in the insurance industry.

<p>Larry G. Swets, Jr. Age: 43 Residence: Illinois, United States of America Director Since: September 16, 2013 Not independent</p>	<p>Board Committee Membership:</p>	<p>Attendance⁽¹⁾ Public Board Membership:</p>	<p>Director, Atlas Financial Holdings, Inc. since December 31, 2010 Director, 1347 Property Insurance Holdings, Inc. since November 2013 Director, Limbach Holdings, Inc. (formerly 1347 Capital Corp.), since April 2014 Director, Itasca Capital, Ltd., since June 2016</p>																		
	<p>Board</p>	<p>15/1500 %</p>																			
	<p>Shareholdings: Common Shares ⁽⁹⁾ 2,091,968 Options⁽³⁾:</p>	<p>Value of Common Shares⁽²⁾ \$7,949,478</p>																			
	<table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date Granted</th> <th>Expiry Date</th> <th>Number Granted</th> <th>Exercise Price</th> <th>Total Unexercised</th> <th>Value of Unexercised Options ⁽⁴⁾</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>3-28-2014</td> <td>3-27-2018 ₍₁₀₎</td> <td>400,000</td> <td>\$4.50</td> <td>400,000</td> <td>\$—</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTALS:</td> <td>--</td> <td>400,000</td> <td>--</td> <td>400,000</td> <td>\$—</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Date Granted	Expiry Date	Number Granted	Exercise Price	Total Unexercised	Value of Unexercised Options ⁽⁴⁾	3-28-2014	3-27-2018 ₍₁₀₎	400,000	\$4.50	400,000	\$—	TOTALS:	--	400,000	--	400,000	\$—		
Date Granted	Expiry Date	Number Granted	Exercise Price	Total Unexercised	Value of Unexercised Options ⁽⁴⁾																
3-28-2014	3-27-2018 ₍₁₀₎	400,000	\$4.50	400,000	\$—																
TOTALS:	--	400,000	--	400,000	\$—																

Notes:

- (1) All of the directors attended the 2017 annual meeting of shareholders.
- (2) The value of the Common Shares is based on the closing price of the Common Shares on the NYSE as of April 12, 2018: \$3.80.
- (3) Upon the recommendation of the Compensation & Management Resources Committee and the Plan Committee, the Board awarded an aggregate of 651,875 stock options to certain officers of the Corporation pursuant to the 2013 Equity Incentive Plan.
- (4) The value of unexercised options is calculated by multiplying (i) the number of Common Shares underlying the unexercised options, by (ii) the difference between the closing price of the Common Shares on the NYSE as of April 12, 2018 of \$3.80 and the exercise price of the options.
- (5) “Independent” refers to the standards of independence established under Sections 1.4 and 1.5 of the Canadian Securities’ Administrators National-Instrument 52-110 - Audit Committees (“NI 52-110”), and section 301 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (“SOX”) and the criteria for independence established by the NYSE and SEC.
- (6) This aggregate number includes Common Shares beneficially owned, controlled or directed. As discussed above under “Voting Securities and Principal Holders Thereof,” Mr. Hannon and Mr. Kavanagh share voting and

dispositive control over 1,922,500 Common Shares owned directly by Oakmont.

(7) Mr. Levine directly owns 868,584 Common Shares and indirectly owns, through the holdings of family members, 31,200 Common Shares. Mr. Levine also indirectly holds 53,102 Common Shares via a trust.

(8) Mr. Stilwell owns 162,500 Common Shares directly and is the managing member and the owner of Stilwell Value LLC, the General Partner of each of Stilwell Activist Fund, L.P. (which owns 316,714 Common Shares), Stilwell Activist Investments, L.P. (which owns 2,561,109 Common Shares) and Stilwell Associates, L.P. (which owns 903,066 Common Shares).

(9) Includes 1,382,665 Restricted Common Shares issued to Mr. Swets pursuant to the 2013 Equity Incentive Plan.

(10) The expiry date has been extended due to the Corporation being in a blackout on the stated expiry date.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS WHO ARE NOT DIRECTORS

Name (Age)	Executive Officer Since	Current Position	Previous Business Experience
William A. Hickey, Jr. (59)	August 30, 2010	EVP and CFO	Mr. Hickey has served as Executive Vice President of the Corporation since August 2010, as CFO since April 2011, and as Chief Operating Officer from August 2010 to March 2017. Before joining the Corporation, Mr. Hickey was a Managing Director at the Chicago office of Macquarie Capital, a corporate finance and investment firm, from 2009 to 2010. Mr. Hickey earned his Bachelor of Business Administration degree in accountancy from the University of Notre Dame in 1981 and a Master of Management degree in finance and management policy from the J.L. Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University in 1986. He was awarded the Chartered Financial Analyst designation in 1989 and the Certified Public Accountant designation in 1981.
Hassan R. Baqar (40)	January 9, 2014	VP, Finance	Mr. Baqar has served as Vice President - Finance of the Corporation since January 2014 and as a Vice President of subsidiary Kingsway America Inc. since 2010. Before joining the Corporation, Mr. Baqar was the Director of Finance at Itasca Financial, LLC from 2008 to 2009. He earned a Bachelor of Accounting and Business Administration from Monmouth College in 2000 and a Masters of Business Administration from Northeastern Illinois University in 2009.

CEASE TRADE ORDERS, BANKRUPTCIES, PENALTIES OR SANCTIONS

Except as disclosed below, to the knowledge of management, no nominee for election as a director of the Corporation is, or has been within ten years before the date of this Circular:

a director, chief executive officer (“CEO”) or chief financial officer (“CFO”) of any company (including the Corporation) that (i) was subject to an order that was issued while the nominee was acting in the capacity as 1) director, CEO or CFO or (ii) was subject to an order that was issued after the nominee ceased to be a director, CEO or CFO and which resulted from an event that occurred while that person was acting in the capacity as director, CEO or CFO;

a director or executive officer of any company (including the Corporation) that, while such nominee was acting in that capacity, or within one (1) year of such nominee ceasing to act in that capacity, became bankrupt, made a 2) proposal under any legislation relating to bankruptcy or insolvency or was subject to or instituted any proceedings, arrangements or compromise with creditors or had a receiver, receiver manager or trustee appointed to hold its assets; or

became bankrupt, made a proposal under any legislation relating to bankruptcy or insolvency, or became subject to 3) or instituted any proceedings, arrangements or compromise with creditors, or had a receiver, receiver manager or trustee appointed to hold the assets of such nominee.

For the purposes of the foregoing, the term “order” means a cease trade order, an order similar to a cease trade order, or an order that denied the relevant company access to any exemption under securities legislation, that was in effect for a period of more than 30 consecutive days.

Mr. Hannon was a director of Delhi Solac Inc., which was placed into bankruptcy on June 6, 2014.

Mr. Fitzgerald is a director of Hunter Licensed Sports Distributing Corporation, which was the subject of a receivership order from the Superior Court of Quebec dated March 3, 2017. The receivership ended on September 27, 2017 following a Court order.

Except as disclosed below, to the knowledge of management, no nominee for election as a director of the Corporation has been subject to:

1) any penalties or sanctions imposed by a court relating to securities legislation or by a securities regulatory authority or has entered into a settlement agreement with a securities regulatory authority; or

2) any other penalties or sanctions imposed by a court or regulatory body that would likely be considered important to a reasonable securityholder in deciding whether to vote for a proposed director.

In March of 2015, Mr. Stilwell and his affiliate, Stilwell Value LLC, an SEC-registered investment adviser (“Value”), consented to the entry of an administrative SEC order (the “Order”) that alleged civil violations of certain securities regulations for, among other things, failing to adequately disclose conflicts of interest presented by inter-fund loans between certain private investment partnerships managed by Value or Mr. Stilwell, which loans were repaid in full without monetary loss to investors from the alleged conduct. Under the Order, among other things, 1) Mr. Stilwell was suspended from March 2015 to March 2016 from association with Value or any other SEC-regulated investment business and paid a civil money penalty of \$100,000; and 2) Value paid a civil money penalty of \$250,000 and repaid certain management fees. All obligations under the Order have been satisfied.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

The Board recommends approval of the appointment of BDO USA, LLP of Grand Rapids, Michigan (“BDO USA”), the present auditors, as the auditors of the Corporation until the close of the next annual meeting of shareholders and the authorization of the Board to set the auditors’ remuneration. BDO USA provides services in connection with the audit of the Corporation’s financial statements as well as assistance with our Annual Report on Form 10-K submitted to the SEC and consultation on matters relating to accounting and financial reporting. Representatives of BDO USA are not expected to be present at the Meeting but will be available to respond to appropriate questions in writing.

AUDIT FEES

The aggregate fees billed by BDO USA for professional services rendered for the audit of the consolidated financial statements of the Corporation and its subsidiaries, and for the reviews of the Corporation's quarterly financial statements, including expenses reimbursed, were \$584,294 in fiscal year 2017 and \$566,773 in fiscal year 2016.

AUDIT-RELATED FEES

The aggregate audit-related fees, including expenses reimbursed, billed by BDO USA for services rendered to the Corporation and its subsidiaries pertaining to the audit of the 401(k) plan were \$16,550 in fiscal year 2017 and \$15,744 in fiscal year 2016.

TAX FEES

The aggregate fees, including expenses reimbursed, billed by BDO USA for tax compliance, tax advice and tax planning services were zero in fiscal years 2017 and 2016.

ALL OTHER FEES

The aggregate fees, including expenses reimbursed, billed by BDO USA for services other than the services reported above under "Audit Fees," "Audit-Related Fees" and "Taxes" were zero in fiscal years 2017 and 2016.

The Audit Committee Charter provides for the Audit Committee to establish the auditors' fees. Such fees have been based upon the complexity of the matters in question and the time incurred by the auditors. Management believes that the fees negotiated in the past with the auditors of the Corporation were reasonable in the circumstances and would be comparable to fees charged by other auditors providing similar services.

As discussed in the "Report of the Audit Committee" in this Circular, the Audit Committee has reviewed and considered whether the provision of services other than audit services is compatible with maintaining the auditors' independence. The Audit Committee has considered and pre-approved expenditure limits for the Corporation's auditors and established a system to review and pre-approve the provision of audit and non-audit services by the Corporation's auditors to ensure they are consistent with maintaining the auditors' independence. In 2017 and 2016, all audit and non-audit services were pre-approved by the Audit Committee.

Management and the Board unanimously recommend that shareholders vote FOR the approval of the appointment of BDO USA as auditors of the Corporation. In the absence of contrary instructions, the persons designated by management of the Corporation in the enclosed form of proxy intend to vote FOR the approval of the appointment of BDO USA as auditors of the Corporation.

APPROVAL OF ADMENDMENTS TO 2013 EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN

The 2013 Equity Incentive Plan, in its current form, was last approved by shareholders at a meeting held on May 13, 2013. For a description of the principal terms of the 2013 Equity Incentive Plan, see "2013 Equity Incentive Plan - Background" below. Pursuant to the 2013 Equity Incentive Plan, the Corporation granted 1,972,345 Restricted Common Shares to certain officers of the Corporation on March 28, 2014. As of the Record Date, there remain 1,952,665 Restricted Common Shares outstanding, being 8.3% of the Common Shares. There are no Common Shares that remain available for future Restricted Common Share grants under the 2013 Equity Incentive Plan. On April 27, 2018, the Board approved amendments (the "2013 Equity Incentive Plan Amendments") to increase the number of Common Shares reserved for issuance by the Board as Restricted Common Shares under the 2013 Equity Incentive Plan by

600,000 Common Shares (the "2018 Restricted Common Shares"). The proposed amendments to the 2013 Equity Incentive Plan are necessary in anticipation of the Board issuing (i) 500,000 2018 Restricted Common Shares to Mr. Fitzgerald in exchange for the cancellation of 500,000 restricted stock units previously granted to Mr. Fitzgerald pursuant to the Corporation's acquisition of Argo Management Group LLC ("Argo") in April 2016, and (ii) 100,000 2018 Restricted Common Shares to Stephen Harrison, the president of one of the Corporation's subsidiaries.

If issued, the 2018 Restricted Common Shares shall be issued under the same terms and conditions as the existing Restricted Common Shares. Each 2018 Restricted Common Share shall fully vest on March 28, 2024 (the tenth anniversary of the date of grant of the existing Restricted Common Shares) if the holders thereof remain in continuous employment with the Corporation through such date. During the period between the date of grant and the vesting date,

the holders of 2018 Restricted Common Shares may not sell, transfer, assign, pledge, hypothecate, or otherwise encumber or dispose of the 2018 Restricted Common Shares, except as provided in the 2013 Equity Incentive Plan. The holders of 2018 Restricted Common Shares have all rights as shareholders of the Corporation during the Restriction Period in respect of the 2018 Restricted Common Shares, including, but not limited to, the right to receive dividends and the right to participate in any capital adjustment applicable to all holders of Common Shares; provided, however, that they may not vote the 2018 Restricted Common Shares until the vesting date and any distributions with respect to the 2018 Restricted Common Shares will be deposited with the Corporation and will be subject to the same restrictions as the 2018 Restricted Common Shares. Pursuant to the terms of the 2013 Equity Incentive Plan, if a Change of Control occurs, as that term is defined in the 2013 Equity Incentive Plan, all outstanding 2018 Restricted Common Shares immediately shall become fully vested and the Restriction Period applicable to such 2018 Restricted Common Shares shall lapse.

Any award of 2018 Restricted Common Shares will be evidenced by an agreement containing such provisions not inconsistent with the 2013 Equity Incentive Plan as the Plan Committee approves. See "The Plan Committee" below. If the 2013 Equity Incentive Plan Amendments are approved by shareholders at the Meeting, the maximum number of Restricted Common Shares that may be granted under the 2013 Equity Incentive Plan will increase to 2,552,665, representing 11.8% of the Common Shares entitled to vote at the Meeting. The 2013 Equity Incentive Plan Amendments are set forth in Amendment No. 1 to the Kingsway Financial Services Inc. 2013 Equity Incentive Plan attached as Schedule "A" hereto.

At the Meeting, Shareholders will be asked to consider the following resolution to approve the 2013 Equity Incentive Plan Amendments.

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED that:

- 1) The 2013 Equity Incentive Plan Amendments as disclosed in this Circular be and are hereby ratified, confirmed and approved;
- 2) The issuance of up to 600,000 Common Shares as 2018 Restricted Common Share awards as contemplated in the 2013 Equity Incentive Plan Amendments and as disclosed in this Circular be and is hereby approved;
- 3) The Board of Directors of the Corporation be and is hereby authorized on behalf of the Corporation to make any amendments to the 2013 Equity Incentive Plan Amendments as may be required by regulatory authorities or otherwise made necessary by applicable legislation, without further approval of the shareholders of the Corporation, in order to ensure the adoption and efficient function of the 2013 Equity Incentive Plan Amendments; and
- 4) Any director or officer of the Corporation be and is hereby authorized to do such things and to sign, execute and deliver all documents that such director and officer may, in their discretion, determined to be necessary in order to give full effect to the intent and purpose of this resolution.

Management and the Board unanimously recommend that shareholders vote FOR the approval of the 2013 Equity Incentive Plan Amendments. In the absence of contrary instructions, the persons designated by management of the Corporation in the enclosed form of proxy intend to vote FOR the approval of the 2013 Equity Incentive Plan Amendments.

Pursuant to the rules of the TSX, insiders of the Corporation who are entitled to receive a benefit under the 2013 Equity Incentive Plan Amendments are not eligible to vote Common Shares held by them in respect of the approval of the 2013 Equity Incentive Plan Amendments. As of the Record Date, insiders holding an aggregate of 478,350 Common Shares will not be eligible to vote in respect of the approval of the 2013 Equity Incentive Plan Amendments.

ADVISORY VOTE TO APPROVE THE COMPENSATION OF THE NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The Corporation is providing shareholders with a non-binding advisory vote to approve the compensation of the named executive officers, commonly known as a “say-on-pay” vote, as required by Section 14A of the Exchange Act. Section 14A of the Exchange Act was amended in response to the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

At the 2012 annual meeting, shareholders were asked to cast a non-binding advisory vote on whether the say-on-pay vote should be held every year, every two years or every three years. A majority of shareholders voting on the matter indicated a preference for holding the say-on-pay vote on an annual basis, in accordance with the recommendations of the Board. Accordingly, the Board resolved that the non-binding advisory vote to approve the compensation of our named executive officers was to be held on an annual basis. In this Circular, we are again asking our shareholders to cast a non-binding advisory vote on the frequency with which we should hold a say-on-pay vote.

RESOLUTION

The advisory vote on executive compensation is a non-binding vote on the compensation of the Corporation’s named executive officers, as described in “Executive Compensation” below. Shareholders may abstain from voting, if they so choose. Accordingly, the Corporation is asking its shareholders to approve the following resolution at the Meeting: RESOLVED that the compensation paid to the Corporation’s named executive officers, including the compensation tables and narrative discussion as contained in the Corporation’s Management Information Circular and Proxy Statement dated April 30, 2018, be and is hereby approved.

As an advisory vote, the result of the say-on-pay vote is non-binding on the Corporation and the Board; however, the Board and the Compensation & Management Resources Committee value the opinions of shareholders and will consider the outcome of the vote when making future compensation decisions for our named executive officers. Management and the Board unanimously recommend that shareholders vote FOR the approval of the advisory resolution approving the 2017 compensation of the named executive officers, as disclosed in this Circular. In the absence of contrary instructions, the persons designated by management of the Corporation in the enclosed form of proxy intend to vote FOR the approval of the advisory resolution approving the 2017 compensation of the named executive officers. The outcome of our say-on-frequency proposal and the Board’s decision with respect thereto will determine when the next advisory vote on the approval of the compensation of our named executive officers will occur.

ADVISORY VOTE ON THE FREQUENCY OF FUTURE ADVISORY VOTES TO APPROVE THE COMPENSATION OF THE NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Pursuant to the Exchange Act, the Corporation is also providing shareholders with a non-binding advisory vote on the frequency with which the Corporation's shareholders will have a non-binding, advisory vote on executive compensation (a “say-on-frequency vote”). The say-on-frequency vote is a non-binding vote as to how often the say-on-pay vote should occur: every year, every two years or every three years. In addition, shareholders may abstain from voting, if they so choose. The Dodd-Frank Act requires the Corporation to hold a say-on-frequency vote at least once every six years. Accordingly, the following resolution will be submitted for a shareholder vote at the Meeting: RESOLVED, that the highest number of votes cast by the shareholders of the Corporation for the option set forth below shall be the preferred frequency with which the Corporation is to hold a non-binding advisory vote on the approval of the compensation of its named executive officers included in the Circular:
every year _____ every two years _____ every three years _____

As an advisory vote, the result of the say-on-frequency vote is non-binding on the Corporation and the Board. However, the Board and the Compensation Committee will carefully review and consider the voting results when determining the frequency with which future say-on-pay votes will be included in the Corporation's proxy statement.

Shareholders are not voting to approve or disapprove of the Board's recommendation. Instead, the form of proxy provides shareholders with four choices with respect to this proposal: annually, every two years, every three years or to abstain from voting on the proposal. The option of annually, every two years or every three years that receives the highest number of votes cast by the holders of the shares of the Common Shares present in person or by proxy at the Meeting will constitute shareholder non-binding approval with respect to the frequency of submission to shareholders of say-on-pay proposals.

In formulating its recommendation, the Board considered that an annual non-binding advisory vote on executive compensation is advisable for a number of reasons, including:

An annual say-on-pay vote will allow the Board to obtain shareholder input on the Corporation's executive compensation program on a more consistent basis which aligns more closely with the Board's objective to engage in regular dialogue with shareholders on corporate governance matters, including the Corporation's executive compensation philosophy, policies and practices;

A one-year frequency provides the highest level of accountability and communication by enabling the say-on-pay vote to correspond with the most recent executive compensation information presented in the Corporation's proxy statement for the annual meeting;

A longer approach may make it more difficult for the Compensation Committee to understand and respond to the voting results because it may be unclear whether the shareholder vote pertains to the most recent executive compensation information presented in the Corporation's proxy statement for the annual meeting or to pay practices from the previous two years or both; and

Holding say-on-pay votes annually reflects sound corporate governance principles and is consistent with a majority of institutional investor policies.

Management and the Board unanimously recommend that shareholders vote to include a non-binding advisory vote on the compensation of the named executive officers in the Corporation's form of proxy EVERY YEAR. In the absence of contrary instructions, the persons designated by management of the Corporation in the enclosed form of proxy intend to vote to include a non-binding advisory vote on the on the compensation of the named executive officers in the Corporation's form of proxy EVERY YEAR.

STATEMENT OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE PRACTICES

The Canadian securities regulatory authorities have adopted National Instrument 58-101 - Disclosure of Corporate Governance Practices ("NI 58-101"), which requires disclosure of the approach of the Corporation to corporate governance, and National Policy 58-201 - Effective Corporate Governance ("NP 58-201"), which provides guidance on corporate governance practices. In the U.S., SOX as well as the NYSE listing standards and corporate governance requirements (the "NYSE Provisions") require similar disclosure.

Except for Mr. Swets, the Chief Executive Officer, and Mr. Fitzgerald, the President and Chief Operating Officer, the current and proposed directors are independent as determined in accordance under Sections 1.4 and 1.5 of National Instrument 52-110 - Audit Committees ("NI 52-110"), and section 301 of SOX and the criteria for independence established by the NYSE. Accordingly, the majority of the current and proposed directors are independent.

During 2017, the Board met 15 times, including in-person and telephonic meetings. In addition, the independent directors held one meeting of the independent directors. Each director attended at least 75% of the total meetings of the Board and committees of the Board on which he served. Additionally, the directors often communicate informally to discuss our affairs and, when appropriate, take formal action by written consent of all directors, in accordance with the Articles, bylaws and applicable law.

The Corporation has adopted a Statement of Corporate Governance Practices which complies with NI 58-101 and with the NYSE Provisions. The Statement of Corporate Governance Practices was amended and adopted by the Board

on March 17, 2017 and is periodically reviewed. The Statement of Corporate Governance Practices can be found on the Corporation's website at www.kingsway-financial.com/corporate-governance and is also attached as Schedule "B" to this Circular.

The Corporation has also adopted a written code of ethics, which was amended and adopted by the Board on March 17, 2017, applicable to our directors, principal executive officer, principal financial officer, and other senior financial personnel. The Code of Business Conduct & Ethics is posted on the Corporation's website at www.kingsway-financial.com/corporate-governance. Any future amendments to the Corporation's code of ethics for senior financial personnel and any grant of waiver from a provision of the code requiring disclosure under applicable SEC rules will be disclosed in the "Corporate Governance" section of our website. The Corporation will provide to any person, without charge, a copy of the code of ethics, upon written request to the Corporation, Attention: Legal Department, 150 Pierce Road, 6th Floor, Itasca, Illinois 60143.

The board has five (5) standing committees: the Audit Committee, the Compensation & Management Resources Committee, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, the Investment Committee and the Plan Committee.

The following are reports of Board committees which summarize the mandates and activities of each committee.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMITTEES

THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Board has a standing Audit Committee which operates pursuant to a written charter adopted by the Board. The Audit Committee consists of three or more directors, each of whom is an outside director who is unrelated to the Corporation, free from any relationship that would interfere with the exercise of his or her independent judgment and each of whom is “independent” under the listing rules of the New York Stock Exchange. Audit Committee members meet the requirements of the Business Corporations Act (Ontario), all applicable securities laws, and the Toronto Stock Exchange and the New York Stock Exchange. All members of the Audit Committee are financially literate, being defined as able to read and understand basic financial statements, and the Chair of the Audit Committee has accounting or related financial management expertise. At least one member of the Audit Committee is an “audit committee financial expert” as defined in the rules and regulations of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”). Pursuant to the Audit Committee charter, members of the Audit Committee may not simultaneously serve on the audit committees of more than two other public companies without the approval of the Audit Committee.

The primary purpose of the Audit Committee is to:

- (i) Identify and monitor the management of the principal risks that could impact the financial reporting of the Corporation;
- (ii) Monitor the integrity of the Corporation’s financial reporting process and system of internal controls regarding financial reporting and accounting appropriateness and compliance;
- (iii) Appoint, replace and monitor the independence and performance of the Corporation’s external auditors;
- (iv) Provide an avenue of communication among the external auditors, management and the Board; and
- (v) Review the annual audited and quarterly unaudited financial statements with management and the external auditors.

As of December 31, 2017, the Audit Committee was comprised of Gregory P. Hannon (Chair), Terence M. Kavanagh and Joseph D. Stilwell. The Board has determined that each member of the Audit Committee is “independent” and meets the financial literacy requirements of the NYSE listing standards, and that each member of the Audit Committee meets the enhanced independence standards established by the SEC (including Section 10A(m)(3) of and Rule 10A-3 under the Exchange Act). The following is a description of the education and experience of each member of the Audit Committee that is relevant to the performance of his responsibilities as a member of the Audit Committee:

Gregory P. Hannon has been a Vice-President and Director of Oakmont Capital Inc. since 1997. He previously was a founding partner of Lonrisk, a Toronto-based specialty insurer and subsidiary of the London Insurance Group, where he was the Chief Financial Officer. Prior to that, Mr. Hannon worked for the Continental Bank of Canada in commercial credit and as an auditor for Arthur Andersen and Company, Chartered Accountants. Mr. Hannon received a Bachelor of Commerce degree from Queen’s University in 1978 and a Master of Business Administration from The Harvard Business School in 1987. Mr. Hannon qualifies as an “audit committee financial expert” as that term is defined in the rules and regulations established by the SEC.

Terence M. Kavanagh has served as President and a Director of Oakmont Capital Inc. since 1997. Prior to his cofounding of Oakmont Capital Inc., he managed the Brentwood Pooled Investment Fund and worked as an investment banker in New York and Toronto. Mr. Kavanagh earned a Bachelor of Law degree from Western University and a Master of Business Administration from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College. Joseph D. Stilwell, is the owner and managing member of Stilwell Value LLC, the General Partner of a group of funds known as The Stilwell Group. Mr. Stilwell started his first fund in 1993 and has been reviewing and analyzing financial statements and managing investment funds for well over 20 years. He graduated in 1983 from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Science in Economics.

The Audit Committee held sixteen (16) meetings in the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017. The responsibilities and duties of the Audit Committee are set out in the Audit Committee’s charter, which was amended and adopted by the

Board on March 17, 2017 and is available on the Corporation's website at www.kingsway-financial.com. The Audit Committee charter is also attached as Schedule "C" to this Circular.

Report of the Audit Committee

The Audit Committee has met and held discussions with management and the independent auditors. Management represented to the Audit Committee that the Corporation's consolidated financial statements were prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and the Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed the consolidated financial statements with management and the independent auditors. The Audit Committee discussed with the independent auditors the matters required to be discussed by Auditing Standard No. 1301 (Communications with Audit Committees).

The Corporation's independent auditors also provided to the Audit Committee the written disclosures required by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding the independent auditors' communications with the Audit Committee concerning independence, and the Audit Committee discussed with the independent auditors that firm's independence. The Audit Committee also considered whether the provision of non-audit services by the independent auditors is compatible with their independence.

Based upon the Audit Committee's discussion with management and the Corporation's independent auditors and the Audit Committee's review of the representation of management and the report of the independent auditors to the Audit Committee, the Audit Committee recommended that the Board include the audited consolidated financial statements in the Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017 filed with the SEC.

Members of the Audit Committee

Gregory P. Hannon (Chair)

Terence M. Kavanagh

Joseph D. Stilwell

THE COMPENSATION & MANAGEMENT RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Board has a standing Compensation & Management Resources Committee (the "Compensation Committee") which operates pursuant to a written charter adopted by the Board. The Compensation Committee shall consist of two or more directors, each of whom must satisfy the applicable independence requirements of the Toronto Stock Exchange, the New York Stock Exchange and any other regulatory authorities. At least two members of the Committee also must qualify as "outside" directors within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code") Section 162(m) and as "non-employee" directors within the meaning of Rule 16b-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. The Board has determined that each member of the Compensation Committee in the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017 was independent under the criteria established by the applicable regulatory authorities.

The Compensation Committee held five (5) meetings in the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017. The responsibilities and duties of the Compensation Committee are set out in the Compensation Committee's charter, which was amended and adopted by the Board on March 17, 2017 and is available on the Corporation's website at www.kingsway-financial.com.

The primary purpose of the Compensation Committee is to:

- (i) Assist the Board in discharging its responsibilities in respect of compensation of the Corporation's executive officers and subsidiary Presidents;
- (ii) Provide recommendations to the Board in connection with directors' compensation;
- (iii) Provide recommendations to the Board in connection with succession planning for senior management of the Corporation; and
- (iv) Produce an annual report for inclusion in the Circular and Annual Report on Form 10-K.

In making its compensation decisions and recommendations, the Compensation Committee may take into account the recommendations of the Chief Executive Officer with respect to the other senior officers of the Corporation and the President of each of the Corporation's subsidiaries. Other than giving such recommendations, however, the Chief Executive Officer has no formal role and no authority to determine the amount or form of executive and director compensation.

The Compensation Committee shall have the sole authority to retain and terminate (or obtain the advice of) any adviser to assist it in the performance of its duties, but only after taking into consideration all factors relevant to the adviser's independence from management, including those specified in Section 303A.05(c) of the New York Stock Exchange Listed Company Manual. The Compensation Committee shall evaluate and determine whether any compensation consultant retained or to be retained by it has any conflict of interest in accordance with Item 407(e)(3)(iv) of Regulation S-K under the rules and regulations of the SEC. As currently constituted, the Compensation Committee has never engaged a compensation consultant nor does it have any plans to ever do so.

As of December 31, 2017, the Compensation Committee was comprised of Joseph D. Stilwell (Chair) and Terence M. Kavanagh.

THE NOMINATING AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

The Board has a standing Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee which operates pursuant to a written charter adopted by the Board. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee consists of no fewer than two directors, each of whom satisfies the applicable independence requirements of the Toronto Stock Exchange, the New York Stock Exchange and any other regulatory authorities. The Board has determined that each member of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee in the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017 was independent under the criteria established by the applicable regulatory authorities.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee held four (4) meetings in the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017. The responsibilities and duties of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee are set out in the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee's charter, which was amended and adopted by the Board on March 17, 2017 and is available on the Corporation's website at www.kingsway-financial.com.

The primary purpose of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is to:

- Identify, evaluate and recommend individuals qualified to become members of the Board, consistent with criteria approved by the Board, and select or recommend that the Board select the director nominees to stand for election at
- (i) each annual or special meeting of shareholders of the Corporation in which directors will be elected or to fill vacancies on the Board;
- (ii) Develop and recommend to the Board a set of corporate governance principles applicable to the Corporation;
- (iii) Oversee the annual performance evaluation of the Board and its committees and management; and
- (iv) Otherwise take a leadership role in shaping and providing oversight of the corporate governance of the Corporation, including recommending directors eligible to serve on all committees of the Board.

The Corporation believes that the current Board has the mix of the industry knowledge, experience and financial expertise required to provide strong oversight of the Corporation. As of the date of this Circular, no members of the Board of the Corporation are women. The Corporation has one female officer, being 20% of the officers of the Corporation. The Board has not adopted targets, goals or written policies for Board membership or officer positions based on race, gender, sexual orientation, religion or national origin. The Board does not necessarily consider the level of female representation on the Board or in officer positions, and believes that the nomination of individuals to the Board and the appointment of individuals as officers should be made on the basis of the skills, knowledge, experience and character of individual candidates and would strongly consider any substantial equity owner with industry or financial expertise. The Board is of the view that adopting targets could compromise its ability to be responsive to the needs of the Corporation which may arise over time.

In considering a candidate for nomination as a member of the Board, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will consider criteria such as equity ownership; an entrepreneurial mindset; independence; occupational background; level and type of business experience; and the number of boards on which the individual serves. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will consider recommendations for director candidates submitted by shareholders. Such questions, comments or recommendations should be submitted in writing to the

Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee in care of the Office of the Secretary at 150 Pierce Road, 6th Floor, Itasca, IL 60143.

Page 22

As of December 31, 2017, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee was comprised of Gregory P. Hannon (Chair) and Gary R. Schaevtiz.

THE INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

The Board has a standing Investment Committee which operates pursuant to a written charter adopted by the Board. The Investment Committee consists of two or more directors, the majority of whom must satisfy the applicable independence requirements of the Toronto Stock Exchange and other applicable regulatory authorities. The Board has determined that each member of the Investment Committee in the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017 was independent under the criteria established by the applicable regulatory authorities.

The Investment Committee held four (4) meeting in the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017. In addition, matters relating to the mandate of the Investment Committee in respect of the Corporation were addressed by the Board in the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017. The responsibilities and duties of the Investment Committee are set out in the Investment Committee's charter, which was amended and adopted by the Board on March 17, 2017 and is available on the Corporation's website at www.kingsway-financial.com.

The primary purpose of the Investment Committee is to:

- (i) Assist the Board and management in respect of the management of the invested assets of the Corporation and its subsidiary companies;
- (ii) Develop and monitor investment policies and guidelines for the Corporation;
- (iii) Select and retain external investment managers; and
- (iv) Monitor the performance of external investment managers, if any.

As of December 31, 2017, the Investment Committee was comprised of Gary R. Schaevtiz (Chair) and Terence M. Kavanagh.

THE PLAN COMMITTEE

The 2013 Equity Incentive Plan is administered by the Plan Committee, consisting of Terence M. Kavanagh and Joseph D. Stilwell. Each member of the Plan Committee is (i) a "non-employee director" within the meaning of Rule 16b-3 under the Exchange Act; (ii) an "outside director" within the meaning of Section 162(m) of the Code; and (iii) "independent" within the meaning of the rules of the TSX and the NYSE. The Plan Committee held zero meetings in the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017.

All awards are evidenced by an agreement containing such provisions not inconsistent with the 2013 Equity Incentive Plan as the Plan Committee approves. The Plan Committee also has the authority to establish rules and regulations for administering the 2013 Equity Incentive Plan and to decide questions of interpretation or application of any provision of the 2013 Equity Incentive Plan. The Plan Committee is authorized to take any action such that all or a portion of the restriction or vesting period on any Restricted Common Shares will lapse.

The Plan Committee may delegate some or all of its power and authority under the 2013 Equity Incentive Plan to the Board, the Chief Executive Officer or such other executive officer of the Corporation as the Plan Committee deems appropriate, except that (i) it may not delegate its power and authority to the Board, the Chief Executive Officer or any other executive officer with regard to awards to persons who are "covered employees" within the meaning of Section 162(m) of the Code or are likely to become such while an award is outstanding; and (ii) it may not delegate its power and authority to the Chief Executive Officer or any other executive officer with regard to awards to persons subject to Section 16 of the Exchange Act.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

It is the Corporation's policy to forward to the directors any correspondence it receives that is addressed to them. Shareholders, or other interested parties, who wish to communicate with the directors may do so by sending their correspondence addressed to the director or directors as follows: Kingsway Financial Services Inc., Attention: Investor Relations, 45 St. Clair Avenue West, Suite 400, Toronto, Ontario M4V 1K9 Canada.

Our directors' attendance at annual meetings can provide shareholders with an opportunity to communicate with directors about issues affecting the Corporation. Our Statement of Corporate Governance Practices encourages our directors to attend the annual meeting of shareholders. All of our directors attended our 2017 annual meeting.

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE INTERLOCKS AND INSIDER PARTICIPATION

The Board determined that each member of the Compensation Committee in 2017 was independent under the criteria established by the NYSE. As of December 31, 2017, the Compensation Committee was comprised of Joseph D. Stilwell and Terence M. Kavanagh. All members of the Compensation Committee were independent directors, and no member was an employee or former employee of the Corporation. During 2017, none of our executive officers served on the Compensation Committee or board of directors of another entity whose executive officer served on our Compensation Committee.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE AND ROLE IN RISK OVERSIGHT

Our Chief Executive Officer, Larry G. Swets, Jr., joined our Board on September 16, 2013. Since September 16, 2013, Terence M. Kavanagh has been serving as our independent non-executive Chairman of the Board. The Chairman focuses on the overall strategy of the business and leadership of the Board, including presiding at all Board meetings and the annual meeting of shareholders; establishing Board meeting agendas in consultation with the Chairs of the Board committees; acting as a liaison between the directors and the Corporation's management; advising the Chief Executive Officer of the quality, quantity and timeliness of the flow of information from management to enable the directors to effectively and responsibly perform their duties; facilitating communication among directors; and maintaining frequent contact with the Chief Executive Officer.

The Corporation's management is primarily responsible for managing risk and informing the Board of the material risks confronting the Corporation. The Board has oversight responsibility of the processes established to monitor and manage such risks. The Board believes that such oversight function is the responsibility of the entire Board through frequent reports and discussions at regularly scheduled Board meetings. In addition, the Board has delegated specific risk management oversight responsibility to the Audit Committee and to the independent members of the Board. In particular, the Audit Committee oversees the management of risks related to accounting, auditing and financial reporting and maintaining effective internal controls for financial reporting. The independent members of the Board oversee risk management related to the Corporation's corporate governance practices and the Corporation's executive compensation plans and arrangements. These specific risk categories and the Corporation's risk management practices are regularly reviewed by the entire Board in the ordinary course of regular Board meetings.

COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

This section discusses the principles underlying our executive compensation policies and decisions. It provides qualitative information regarding the manner in which compensation is earned by the four executive officers whose compensation is disclosed in the compensation tables following this discussion. We refer to these executive officers as "named executive officers." Our named executive officers for 2017 were:

- ✚ Larry G. Swets, Jr., Chief Executive Officer
- ✚ William A. Hickey, Jr., Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
- ✚ John T. Fitzgerald, President and Chief Operating Officer
- ✚ Hassan R. Baqar, Vice President

Determination of Compensation

Our Compensation Committee is responsible for overseeing our executive compensation program. The Compensation Committee meets periodically throughout the year to review and consider adjustments, if any, to our named executive officers' compensation. Our Chief Executive Officer evaluates the individual performance and contributions of each other named executive officer and, at least annually, reports to the Compensation Committee his recommendations regarding each element of the other named executive officers' compensation. Our Chief Executive Officer does not participate in any formal discussions with the Compensation Committee or the Board regarding his own compensation.

The Compensation Committee does not generally adjust base salary and equity-based compensation but rather focuses each year on annual performance-based cash compensation to motivate and reward individual named executive officers within the context of our desire to attain financial and operational goals. Subjective factors considered by the Compensation Committee in determining annual performance-based cash compensation include each named executive officer's skills and capabilities, contributions as a member of the executive management team and contributions to our overall performance.

The Compensation Committee has the authority to engage its own consultants and advisors to assist it in carrying out its responsibilities; however, it did not engage any consultants or advisors in determining named executive officer compensation for fiscal year 2017 and has no such plans going forward.

Executive Compensation Philosophy and Objectives

We believe that executive officer compensation should be structured to provide adequate base salaries and benefits, as well as the opportunity to participate in our Corporation's continued growth, in order to motivate our executives to increase shareholder value.

In determining the form and amount of compensation payable to the named executive officers, we are guided by the following objectives and principles:

- Base salaries and benefits should be adequate to attract and retain key executives.

- Compensation should relate directly to performance, and incentive compensation should constitute a significant portion of total compensation.

- Long-term incentive compensation should align executives' interests with our shareholders' interests, and should reinforce a culture of ownership and excellence.

- Compensation should enable executives to share in the success that they help create.

Each of the primary elements of our executive compensation program is discussed in more detail below.

Elements of Executive Compensation Program

In order to align executive compensation with our compensation philosophy, our executive compensation package contains three principal components: (i) base salary, (ii) annual performance-based cash compensation and (iii) long-term equity incentive compensation.

Base Salary

The base salaries of our executive officers are initially negotiated at the time of their recruitment or promotion and with reference to their experience, expected contribution and market factors. The base salaries of our named executive officers are reviewed annually by the Compensation Committee. No base salary increases were approved for our named executive officers during 2017.

The total base salaries paid to our named executive officers in 2017 are set forth in the "2017 Summary Compensation Table" section of the Circular.

Annual Performance-Based Cash Compensation

We use cash bonuses to motivate our named executive officers to achieve financial and strategic objectives. The Compensation Committee generally intends to determine a cash bonus pool each year based upon the amount of the Corporation's net income that exceeds 10% of the Corporation's stockholders' equity, subject to a "high-water mark" and adjustment in the discretion of the Compensation Committee. Once a cash bonus pool, if any, has been determined by the Compensation Committee, allocation of individual cash bonuses among named executive officers is completely discretionary on the part of the Compensation Committee, based in part upon input from the Chief Executive Officer with respect to the other named executive officers. Individual named executive officers do not have specific annual objectives or specific target bonuses.

After applying the criteria described in the preceding paragraph to the Corporation's 2017 financial performance, the Compensation Committee determined not to fund a cash bonus pool for 2017. As a result, no cash bonus was awarded to any named executive officer for 2017, as reflected in the "2017 Summary Compensation Table" section of the Circular.

Long-Term Equity-Based Incentives

We do not currently have any formal stock ownership requirements or guidelines for our named executive officers. We have in the past granted long-term equity-based awards in order to reward and encourage long-term corporate performance based on the value of our common stock and, thereby, align the interests of our executive officers, including our named executive officers, with those of our shareholders. At the 2013 annual meeting, the shareholders approved the 2013 Equity Incentive Plan, which replaced the prior plan with respect to the granting of future equity awards. Under the 2013 Equity Incentive Plan, the Corporation was able to grant stock options that replaced out-of-the-money stock options held by our current employees under the prior plan. Such replacement options have a term of four years and an exercise price of \$4.50, which is equal to the exercise price of warrants for the purchase of Common Shares that the Corporation issued in connection with a capital raise that occurred in 2013. In addition, the Corporation was able to grant to key employees selected by the Corporation new stock options, having the same terms that apply to the replacement options described above, to purchase up to an additional 300,000 Common Shares. As of the Record Date and as of the date of this Circular, the Corporation has granted all 300,000 of the “new” stock options to purchase Common Shares available under the 2013 Equity Incentive Plan. Including the replacement options and the “new” stock options, a total of 651,875 stock options are outstanding under the 2013 Equity Incentive Plan, representing 2.8% of the Common Shares.

Also, pursuant to the 2013 Equity Incentive Plan, the Corporation granted 1,972,345 Restricted Common Shares to certain officers of the Corporation on March 28, 2014. At December 31, 2017, there were 1,952,665 Restricted Common Shares outstanding, representing 8.3% of the Common Shares. The Restricted Common Shares vest on the tenth anniversary of the date of grant of the Restricted Common Shares, subject to the officer’s continued employment through the vesting date.

Pursuant to the Corporation’s acquisition of Argo in April 2016, the Corporation issued to Mr. Fitzgerald 500,000 restricted stock units scheduled to vest on March 28, 2024 and 40,000 “new” stock options scheduled to expire four years from the date of grant, both with other terms and conditions substantially similar to those pertaining to the other named executive officers under the 2013 Equity Incentive Plan. The “new” stock options issued to Mr. Fitzgerald were issued pursuant to the 2013 Equity Incentive Plan while the 500,000 restricted stock units issued to Mr. Fitzgerald constituted an “employment inducement award” for purposes of NYSE rules. The Corporation, on the recommendation and approval of the Board, is proposing to amend the 2013 Equity Incentive Plan. On April 27, 2018, the Board approved, among other things, amendments to the existing limits of Common Shares reserved for issuance as Restricted Common Shares under the 2013 Equity Incentive Plan which are subject to shareholder approval. See “Particulars Of Matters To Be Acted Upon - Approval of Amendments to 2013 Equity Incentive Plan.” If the 2013 Equity Incentive Plan Amendments are approved by shareholders at the Meeting, it is anticipated that the Board will issue 500,000 2018 Restricted Common Shares to Mr. Fitzgerald and that the 500,000 restricted stock units previously granted to Mr. Fitzgerald shall be cancelled.

The 2013 Equity Incentive Plan is the Corporation’s only compensation plan providing for the issuance of securities of the Corporation as compensation. At this time, there are no securities under the 2013 Equity Incentive Plan remaining to be granted; however, the Corporation, on the recommendation and approval of the Board, is proposing to amend the 2013 Equity Incentive Plan to increase the existing limits of Common Shares reserved for issuance as Restricted Common Shares under the 2013 Equity Incentive Plan. See “Particulars Of Matters To Be Acted Upon - Approval of Amendments to 2013 Equity Incentive Plan.”

The actual long-term equity-based incentives granted to named executive officers during 2017 by the Compensation Committee are set forth in the “2017 Grants of Plan-Based Awards” section of the Circular.

Retirement Savings

We maintain a qualified retirement savings plan under section 401(k) of the Code, to provide retirement benefits to our eligible employees, including our named executive officers. Eligible employees may defer a portion of their compensation, within limits prescribed under the Code, on a pre-tax basis to the 401(k) plan. The Corporation matches 50% of the first 5% of an eligible employee’s compensation that is contributed to the 401(k) plan.

Employee Stock Purchase Plan

The Corporation has an employee share purchase plan (“ESPP Plan”) whereby qualifying employees, including our named executive officers, can choose each year to have up to 5% of their annual base earnings withheld to purchase Common Shares. In 2014, the ESPP Plan was amended and restated to allow qualifying employees to be eligible for matching Corporation contributions. After one year of employment, the Corporation matches 100% of the employee

contribution amount, and the contributions vest immediately. All contributions are used by the plan administrator to purchase Common Shares in the open market.

Employee Benefits and Perquisites

All of our full-time employees, including our named executive officers, are eligible to participate in our health and welfare plans, including:

- medical, dental and vision benefits;
- medical and dependent care health savings accounts;
- short-term disability and long-term disability insurance; and
- life insurance.

Our employee benefit programs are designed to be affordable and competitive in relation to the market.

Severance and Change in Control Benefits

As described more fully below in the section entitled “Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control,” (i) Mr. Hickey and Mr. Baqar are entitled to receive severance benefits pursuant to the terms of their respective severance and employment arrangements consisting of twelve months of base salary for a termination of employment by the Corporation other than for “cause” or by such executive officer for “good reason” (each as defined in the respective severance agreement) and (ii) the named executive officers have accelerated vesting of their restricted stock and restricted stock units under certain scenarios.

Impact of Say-On-Pay Advisory Vote

At our annual meeting of shareholders held on May 24, 2017, approximately 89.58% of the Common Shares that were voted in person or by proxy voted to approve the compensation of the named executive officers. Although this “say-on-pay” vote is advisory and non-binding, the Compensation Committee values the input of our owners.

Tax and Accounting Considerations

Internal Revenue Code Section 162(m). Section 162(m) of the Code generally disallows a tax deduction to public companies for compensation paid in excess of \$1 million for any fiscal year to certain specified covered employees. Under the rules in effect before 2018, compensation that qualified as “performance-based compensation” under Section 162(m) was deductible without regard to this \$1 million limit. The recent Tax Cuts and Jobs Act generally eliminated the performance-based compensation exception under Section 162(m), effective January 1, 2018, subject to a special rule that “grandfathers” certain awards and arrangements that were in effect on or before November 2, 2017. To date, the IRS has not issued guidance interpreting the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. While the Compensation Committee intended that certain incentive awards granted to our NEOs on or prior to November 2, 2017 be deductible as “performance-based compensation,” it cannot assure that result. Our Compensation Committee considers all elements of the cost to us of providing such compensation, including the potential impact of Section 162(m) of the Code; however, our Compensation Committee has in the past, and may in the future, in its judgment, authorize compensation payments that are not deductible under Section 162(m) of the Code in light of the Corporation’s significant U.S. Federal income tax net operating loss carryforwards or when it believes that such payments are appropriate to attract and retain executive talent.

Internal Revenue Code Section 280G. Section 280G of the Code disallows a tax deduction with respect to excess parachute payments to certain executives of companies that undergo a change in control. Excess parachute payments are payments linked to a change in control (such as accelerated vesting of equity awards) that exceed a threshold determined under Section 280G of the Code based on the executive's prior compensation. In approving the compensation arrangements for our named executive officers, our Compensation Committee considers all elements of the cost to the Corporation of providing such compensation, including the potential impact of Section 280G of the Code; however, our Compensation Committee has in the past and may in the future, in its judgment, authorize compensation arrangements that may not be fully deductible under Section 280G of the Code in light of the Corporation’s significant U.S. Federal income tax net operating loss carryforwards or when it believes that such arrangements are appropriate to attract and retain executive talent.

Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation. We follow Accounting Standards Codification (“ASC”) Topic 718, for our stock-based compensation awards. ASC Topic 718 requires companies to calculate the grant date “fair value” of their stock-based awards using a variety of assumptions. ASC Topic 718 also requires companies to recognize the

compensation cost of their stock-based awards in their income statements over the period that an employee is required to render service in exchange for the award. Grants of stock options, restricted stock, restricted stock units and other equity-based awards under our equity incentive award plans will be accounted for under ASC Topic 718. Our Compensation Committee regularly considers the accounting implications of significant compensation decisions, particularly in connection with decisions that relate to our equity incentive award plans and programs.

Compensation Policies and Practices as Related to Risk Management

The Compensation Committee does not believe the Corporation's compensation policies and practices create risks that are reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on the Corporation. The Compensation Committee has determined that the Corporation's executive compensation program does not encourage unnecessary or excessive risk taking as a result of the following factors:

As discussed elsewhere in this Circular, our executive officer compensation includes a mix of cash and long-term equity-based incentives.

Base salaries do not encourage risk-taking as they are fixed in amount.

Performance-based cash compensation focuses on achievement of annual goals; however, the Compensation Committee believes that the long-term equity-based incentives appropriately balance risk and the desire to focus named executive officers on specific annual financial goals important to the Corporation's success.

Performance-based cash compensation is awarded at the discretion of the Compensation Committee, which allows the Compensation Committee to evaluate whether the named executive officers are engaging in activities that create risks prior to awarding any such cash bonuses. This discretion mitigates the likelihood that named executive officers will engage in activities that create risk, and allows the Compensation Committee the ability to refrain from rewarding any such risk-taking.

Compensation provided to the named executive officers in the form of long-term equity-based incentives further aligns named executive officers' interests with those of the Corporation's shareholders. The Compensation Committee believes that these awards do not encourage unnecessary or excessive risk taking because the ultimate value of the awards is tied to the Corporation's stock price over the long-term. In addition, the awards are subject to long-term vesting schedules to help ensure that executives have significant value tied to long-term stock price performance.

The Corporation has adopted a securities trading policy that prohibits directors, officers and employees from entering into hedging or monetization transactions or similar arrangements with respect to the Corporation's securities.

Report of the Compensation Committee

The Compensation Committee has reviewed and discussed with management the "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" contained in this Circular. Based on this review and discussion, the Compensation Committee recommended to our Board that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this Circular and incorporated by reference into our 2017 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Members of the Compensation Committee

Joseph D. Stilwell (Chair)

Terence M. Kavanagh

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS FOR 2017

In 2017, the Corporation's named executive officers consisted of the Corporation's Chief Executive Officer, its Chief Financial Officer and the other two of its executive officers who were serving the Corporation on December 31, 2017. The following individuals, holding the respective positions set forth opposite their names, are the named executive officers for 2017:

Name	Title
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Larry G. Swets, Jr. Chief Executive Officer⁽¹⁾
William A. Hickey, Jr. Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer⁽²⁾
John T. Fitzgerald President & Chief Operating Officer⁽³⁾
Hassan R. Baqar Vice President

Notes:

Page 28

- (1) Mr. Swets has served as Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation since July 2010 and as President from July 2010 until March 2017.
- (2) Mr. Hickey has served as Executive Vice President of the Corporation since August 2010, as CFO since April 2011, and as Chief Operating Officer from August 2010 to March 2017.
- (3) Mr. Fitzgerald has served as President & Chief Operating Officer of the Corporation since March 2017 and as Executive Vice President from April 2016 to March 2017.

2017 SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE

The following table provides information regarding the compensation of our named executive officers for the last three completed fiscal years.

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary (\$)	Bonus (\$)	Stock Awards (\$)	Option Awards (\$)	All Other Compensation ⁽¹⁾ (\$)	Total (\$)
Larry G. Swets, Jr., CEO	2017	500,000	—	—	—	39,359	539,359
	2016	500,000	340,000 ⁽²⁾	—	—	32,296	872,296
	2015	500,000	1,243,000 ⁽³⁾	—	—	34,042	1,777,042
William A. Hickey, Jr., Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer	2017	360,000	—	—	—	25,782	385,782
	2016	360,000	30,000 ⁽²⁾	—	—	26,340	416,340
	2015	360,000	262,500 ⁽³⁾	—	—	26,559	649,059
John T. Fitzgerald, President and Chief Operating Officer ⁽⁴⁾	2017	350,000	—	—	—	20,235	370,235
	2016	209,231	185,000 ⁽²⁾	2,865,000 ⁽⁵⁾	71,764 ⁽⁶⁾	1,772	3,332,767
	2017	205,000	—	—	—	12,177	217,177
Hassan R. Baqar, Vice President	2016	170,000	200,000 ⁽²⁾	—	—	16,783	386,783
	2015	170,000	375,000 ⁽³⁾	—	—	16,761	561,761

Notes:

For each named executive officer, amounts reported in this column include employer-paid life insurance premiums (1) and contributions to the Corporation's 401(k) retirement plan and Employee Stock Purchase Plan. The Corporation also paid for executive wellness physicals for Messrs. Swets, Hickey, Fitzgerald and Baqar.

(2) This amount represents a discretionary cash bonus paid to Messrs. Swets, Hickey and Baqar in 2017 for work performed in 2016.

(3) This amount represents a discretionary cash bonus paid to Messrs. Swets, Hickey and Baqar in 2016 for work performed in 2015.

(4) Mr. Fitzgerald joined the Corporation in April 2016 following the Corporation's acquisition of Argo Management Group LLC.

(5) Amount reflects the aggregate grant date fair value of Restricted Stock Units. The amount was determined by multiplying the grant date fair value of the award by the number of Restricted Stock Units granted. This amount represents Restricted Stock Units awarded August 24, 2016, which become fully vested on March 28, 2024 if Mr. Fitzgerald remains in continuous employment with the Corporation through such date. The actual value that Mr. Fitzgerald may receive depends on market prices, and there can be no assurance that the amounts reflected will actually be realized.

(6) Amount represents the aggregate grant date fair value of options. The amount does not represent the realized or unrealized earnings or value earned in the year. The actual value that the named executive officer may receive depends on market prices, and there can be no assurance that the amounts reflected will actually be realized.

2017 GRANTS OF PLAN-BASED AWARDS

There were no grants of awards made to the Corporation's named executive officers during 2017.

2017 OUTSTANDING EQUITY AWARDS AT FISCAL YEAR-END

Name	Option Awards		Option Exercise Price (\$)	Option Expiration Date	Stock Awards	
	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options Exercisable (#)	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options Unexercisable (#)			Number of Unearned Shares or Units That Have Not Vested (#)	Market Value of Shares or Units That Have Not Vested (\$) ⁽¹⁾
Larry G. Swets, Jr.	400,000 ⁽²⁾	n/a	4.50	March 27, 2018 ⁽³⁾	1,382,665 ⁽⁴⁾	\$6,982,458
William A. Hickey, Jr.	100,000 ⁽⁵⁾	n/a	4.50	March 27, 2018 ⁽³⁾	229,500 ⁽⁴⁾	\$1,158,975
John T. Fitzgerald	40,000 ⁽⁶⁾	n/a	4.67	April 20, 2020	500,000 ⁽⁷⁾	\$2,525,000
Hassan R. Baqar	35,000 ⁽⁸⁾	n/a	4.50	March 27, 2018 ⁽³⁾	115,500 ⁽⁴⁾	\$583,275

Notes:

(1) The value of the Common Shares is based on the closing price of the Common Shares on the NYSE of \$5.05 as of December 29, 2017, the last trading day of the fiscal year.

(2) This amount represents 150,000 options granted March 28, 2014, which were immediately vested and exercisable as of that date, plus 250,000 options granted pursuant to the Option Exchange Program on March 28, 2014, which were immediately vested and exercisable as of that date and replaced previously awarded options.

(3) The expiration date has been extended due to the Corporation being in a blackout on the stated expiration date.

(4) This amount represents Restricted Common Shares awarded March 28, 2014, which become fully vested as of the tenth anniversary of the date of grant if the participant remains in continuous employment with the Corporation through such anniversary.

(5) This amount represents 50,000 options granted March 28, 2014, which were immediately vested and exercisable as of that date, plus 50,000 options granted pursuant to the Option Exchange Program on March 28, 2014, which were immediately vested and exercisable as of that date and replaced previously awarded options.

(6) This amount represents 40,000 options granted April 20, 2016, which were immediately vested and exercisable as of that date.

(7) This amount represents Restricted Stock Units awarded August 24, 2016, which become fully vested on March 28, 2024 if Mr. Fitzgerald remains in continuous employment with the Corporation through such date.

(8) This amount represents 10,000 options granted March 28, 2014, which were immediately vested and exercisable as of that date, plus 25,000 options granted pursuant to the Option Exchange Program on March 28, 2014, which were immediately vested and exercisable as of that date and replaced previously awarded options.

POTENTIAL PAYMENTS UPON TERMINATION OR CHANGE IN CONTROL

The Corporation maintains a severance policy for the payment of certain benefits to certain eligible employees of the Corporation, including the named executive officers. Benefits are paid under this policy following a termination of employment in connection with a reduction in work force. Under the policy, upon a qualifying termination of employment, the named executive officers are entitled to two weeks of severance pay for each full year of service with the Corporation, with a minimum of twelve weeks of severance pay and a maximum of 39 weeks of severance pay. Participants are also entitled to receive subsidized benefits as provided under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) during the severance period.

Mr. Hickey and Mr. Baqar are entitled to receive severance benefits consisting of twelve months of base salary for a termination of employment by the Corporation, other than for “cause” or by such executive officer for “good reason,” pursuant to the terms of their respective severance and employment arrangements. As defined in each of Messrs. Hickey and Baqar’s respective severance agreements, (A) “cause” means the executive’s involuntary termination due to commission of fraud, embezzlement, theft or other illegal or unethical act likely to materially damage the Corporation;

commission of a terminable offense under the Corporation's policies and procedures; conviction of certain crimes; breach of the executive's confidentiality obligations or duty of loyalty; or the executive's willful failure to follow the lawful directions of the Corporation and (B) "good reason" means the executive's voluntary termination of employment due to a material reduction in the executive's salary or authority or the Corporation's breach of the severance agreement.

Page 30

The named executive officers have accelerated vesting of their restricted stock and restricted stock units under certain scenarios.

The following table shows potential amounts payable to each of the Corporation's named executive officers had their employment terminated on December 31, 2017 based on the following scenarios: change in control, involuntary termination due to reduction in force, involuntary termination without cause, voluntary termination for good reason and departure due to death or disability. No amounts would be due any of the named executive officers were their employment to terminate due to a voluntary termination without good reason or an involuntary termination for cause.

Name	Payment Elements	Change in Control (\$)	Involuntary Termination Due to Reduction in Force (\$)	Involuntary Termination Without Cause (\$)	Voluntary Termination for Good Reason (\$)	Departure Due to Death or Disability (\$)
	Salary	—	153,846	—	—	—
Larry G. Swets, Jr.	Restricted Stock Awards	6,982,458	6,982,458	2,618,422	—	2,618,422
	Totals					