



**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
ESSENTIAL ENERGY SERVICES LTD. SHAREHOLDERS**

**to be held May 10, 2018**

**and**

**INFORMATION CIRCULAR**

**March 26, 2018**

*The deadline for the receipt of proxies for the Meeting is 10:00 a.m. (Calgary time) on May 8, 2018*

**ESSENTIAL ENERGY SERVICES LTD.**

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS OF  
ESSENTIAL ENERGY SERVICES LTD. TO BE HELD MAY 10, 2018**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that an annual general meeting (the “**Meeting**”) of the holders (“**Shareholders**”) of common shares (“**Shares**”) of Essential Energy Services Ltd. (“**Essential**” or the “**Company**”) will be held at the Livingston Club Conference Centre, Plus 15, 222 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue S.W., Calgary, Alberta, on May 10, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. (Calgary time) for the following purposes:

- (a) to receive the consolidated audited financial statements of Essential for the year ended December 31, 2017 and the auditors’ report thereon;
- (b) to fix the number of directors of Essential to be elected at the Meeting at six;
- (c) to elect the directors of Essential;
- (d) to appoint the auditors of Essential and to authorize the directors to fix their remuneration as such; and
- (e) to transact such other business as may properly be brought before the Meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Specific details of the matters to be put before the Meeting are set forth in the accompanying management information circular dated March 26, 2018 (the “**Circular**”).

The record date (the “**Record Date**”) for determination of Shareholders entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the Meeting is March 22, 2018. Only Shareholders whose names are entered in the Company’s register of Shares at the close of business on the Record Date will be entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the Meeting provided that, to the extent a Shareholder transfers the ownership of any of his or her Shares after the Record Date and the transferee of those Shares establishes that he or she owns such Shares and requests, at least 10 days before the Meeting, to be included in the list of Shareholders eligible to vote at the Meeting, such transferee will be entitled to vote those Shares at the Meeting. Each Share entitled to be voted at the Meeting will entitle the holder to one vote at the Meeting.

**Registered Shareholders may vote in person at the Meeting or any adjournment thereof, or they may appoint another person, who need not be a Shareholder, as their proxy to attend and vote in their place. Registered Shareholders who are unable to attend the Meeting or any adjournment thereof in person are requested to date, sign and return the accompanying form of proxy for use at the Meeting or any adjournment thereof. To be effective, the proxy must be received by Computershare Trust Company of Canada, 8th floor, 100 University Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M5J 2Y1 (Attention: Proxy Department) not later than 48 hours, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and statutory holidays in the Province of Alberta, prior to the time set for the Meeting or any adjournment thereof. Shareholders that are not registered Shareholders, such as Shareholders that hold their Shares in an account with an intermediary, such as a broker or financial institution, should review the Circular accompanying this notice for voting information.**

Dated at the City of Calgary, in the Province of Alberta, this 26th day of March, 2018.

**BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
ESSENTIAL ENERGY SERVICES LTD.**

(signed) “*Garnet K. Amundson*”  
Garnet K. Amundson, President and Chief Executive Officer  
Essential Energy Services Ltd.

**INFORMATION CIRCULAR FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS TO BE HELD ON MAY 10, 2018**

**This Management Information Circular (the “Circular”) is furnished in connection with the solicitation of proxies by and on behalf of the management of Essential Energy Services Ltd. (“Essential” or the “Company” or the “Corporation”) for use at the annual general meeting (the “Meeting”) of the holders of common shares (“Shareholders”) of Essential to be held at 10:00 a.m. (Calgary time) on May 10, 2018 at the Livingston Club Conference Centre, Plus 15, 222 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue S.W., Calgary, Alberta, and at any adjournment(s) thereof, for the purposes set forth in the accompanying Notice of Meeting.** No person has been authorized to give any information or make any representation in connection with any matters to be considered at the Meeting other than those contained in this Circular and, if given or made, any such information or representation must not be relied upon as having been authorized. Information contained in this Circular is given as at March 26, 2018 unless otherwise stated and all dollar amounts are expressed in Canadian dollars.

**SOLICITATION OF PROXIES**

**Persons Making the Solicitation**

**Management of Essential is soliciting proxies from Shareholders for the Meeting.** The costs incurred in the preparation and mailing of the form of proxy, notice of meeting and this Circular will be borne by Essential. In addition to solicitation by mail, proxies may be solicited by personal interviews, telephone or other means of communication and by directors, officers and employees of Essential, who will not be specifically remunerated therefore.

**Record Date**

The record date (the “**Record Date**”) for determination of Shareholders entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the Meeting is March 22, 2018. Only Shareholders of record as at the Record Date are entitled to receive notice of the Meeting and to vote their common shares (“**Shares**”) at the Meeting provided that, to the extent a Shareholder transfers the ownership of any of his or her Shares after the Record Date and the transferee of those Shares establishes that he or she owns such Shares and requests, at least 10 days before the Meeting, to be included in the list of Shareholders eligible to vote at the Meeting, such transferee will be entitled to vote those Shares at the Meeting.

**Appointment of Proxies and Proxy Voting**

A Shareholder whose name appears on Essential’s records as a Shareholder (a “**Registered Shareholder**”) may vote in person at the Meeting or they may appoint another person, who does not have to be a Shareholder, as their proxy to attend and vote in their place. The persons named in the enclosed form of proxy are directors and/or officers of Essential.

**Each Registered Shareholder submitting a proxy has the right to appoint a proxyholder other than the persons designated in the form of proxy furnished by Essential, who need not be a Shareholder to attend and act for the Registered Shareholder and on the Registered Shareholder’s behalf at the Meeting. To exercise such right, the names of the persons designated by management should be crossed out and the name of the Registered Shareholder’s appointee should be legibly printed in the blank space provided in the enclosed form of proxy or by submitting another appropriate form of proxy.**

In order to be effective and used at the Meeting, the completed form of proxy must be sent so as to be deposited at the offices of Essential’s transfer agent, Computershare Trust Company of Canada, 8th floor, 100 University Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M5J 2Y1 (Attention: Proxy Department) not less than 48 hours, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and statutory holidays in the Province of Alberta, before the time set for the holding of the Meeting or any adjournment(s) thereof. No instrument appointing a proxy shall be valid after the expiration of 12 months from the date of its execution. The completed form of proxy shall be in writing and shall be executed by the Registered Shareholder or his or her attorney authorized in writing or, if the Registered Shareholder is a corporation, under its corporate seal or by a director, officer or attorney thereof duly authorized.

Registered Shareholders may also use the internet at [www.investorvote.com](http://www.investorvote.com) to vote their Shares at the Meeting. The website may also be used to appoint a proxy holder to attend and vote at the Meeting on the Registered Shareholder's behalf and convey voting instructions.

### **Revocability of Proxies**

A Registered Shareholder who has submitted a proxy for the Meeting may revoke it by attending the Meeting personally and registering with the scrutineers prior to commencement of the Meeting as a Shareholder personally present at the Meeting and voting in person. In addition to revocation in any other manner permitted by law, a proxy may be revoked by instrument in writing executed by the Registered Shareholder or his or her attorney authorized in writing or, if the Registered Shareholder is a corporation, under its corporate seal and by a director, officer or attorney thereof duly authorized, and deposited either: (i) at the offices of Essential's transfer agent, Computershare Trust Company of Canada, 8th floor, 100 University Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M5J 2Y1 (Attention: Proxy Department) not less than 48 hours, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and statutory holidays in the Province of Alberta, before the time set for the holding of the Meeting or any adjournment(s) thereof; (ii) at the head office of Essential at any time up to and including the last business day preceding the day of the Meeting, or any adjournment thereof, at which the proxy is to be used; or (iii) with the chairman of the Meeting on the day of the Meeting, or any adjournment thereof.

### **Exercise of Discretion by Proxy Holders**

All Shares represented at the Meeting by properly completed forms of proxy will be voted or withheld from voting in accordance with the specifications of the Registered Shareholder contained in the proxy. **In the absence of such specification, such Shares will be voted in favour of the matters set forth in the Circular.** All Shares represented at the Meeting will be voted or withheld from voting in accordance with the instructions of the Shareholder on any ballot that may be called. The enclosed form of proxy confers discretionary authority upon the persons named therein 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(s) thereof. At the time of printing this Circular, management of Essential knows of no such amendments or variations or other matters to come before the Meeting.

### **Advice to Beneficial Holders of Shares**

**The information set forth in this section is of significant importance to many Shareholders of Essential, as a substantial number of Shareholders do not hold their Shares in their own name.** Shareholders who do not hold their Shares in their own name (referred to in this Circular as "**Beneficial Shareholders**") should note that only proxies deposited by Shareholders whose names appear on the records of Essential as the registered holders of Shares can be recognized and acted upon at the Meeting. If Shares are held in an account with an intermediary such as a broker or a financial institution, then in almost all cases those Shares will not be registered in the Beneficial Shareholder's name on the records of Essential. Such Shares will more likely be registered under the name of the intermediary or its agent. In Canada, the vast majority of such Shares are registered under the name of CDS & Co. (the registration name for CDS Clearing and Depository Services Inc. ("**CDS**"), which acts as nominee for many Canadian brokerage firms). Such Shares can only be voted (for or against resolutions) upon the instructions of the Beneficial Shareholder. Without specific instructions, the intermediary and its agents and nominees are prohibited from voting such Shares for their clients. **Therefore, Beneficial Shareholders should ensure that instructions respecting the voting of their Shares are communicated to the appropriate person.** Essential does not know for whose benefit the Shares registered in the name of CDS & Co. are held. The majority of Shares held in the United States are registered in the name of Cede & Co., the nominee for the Depository Trust Company, which is the United States equivalent of CDS.

Applicable regulatory policy requires intermediaries/brokers to seek voting instructions from Beneficial Shareholders in advance of Shareholder meetings. Every intermediary/broker has its own mailing procedures and provides its own return instructions to its clients, which should be carefully followed by Beneficial Shareholders in order to ensure that their Shares are voted at the Meeting. Often, the form of proxy supplied to a Beneficial Shareholder by its broker or other intermediary or agent is similar or identical to the form of proxy provided to Registered Shareholders; however, its purpose is limited to instructing the Registered Shareholder (the broker or other intermediary or agent) how to vote on behalf of the Beneficial Shareholder. The majority of brokers now

delegate responsibility for obtaining instructions from clients to Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. (“**Broadridge**”). Broadridge typically mails a scannable voting instruction form (the “**Voting Instruction Form**”) in lieu of the form of proxy provided by Essential and asks Beneficial Shareholders to complete and return the Voting Instruction Form to Broadridge. Alternatively, the Beneficial Shareholder can call a toll-free telephone number (1-800-474-7493) or access Broadridge’s dedicated voting website at [www.proxyvote.com](http://www.proxyvote.com) to deliver their voting instructions. Broadridge then tabulates the results of all instructions received and provides appropriate instructions respecting the voting of Shares to be represented at the Meeting. Meeting materials may also be provided electronically and Beneficial Shareholders should follow the instructions provided for how to vote their Shares. **A Beneficial Shareholder receiving a Voting Instruction Form cannot use that Voting Instruction Form to vote Shares directly at the Meeting as the Voting Instruction Form must be returned as directed by Broadridge well in advance of the Meeting in order to have the Shares voted.**

Although a Beneficial Shareholder may not be recognized directly at the Meeting for the purposes of voting Shares registered in the name of its broker or other intermediary, the Beneficial Shareholder may attend the Meeting as proxyholder for the Registered Shareholder and vote the Shares in that capacity. If the Beneficial Shareholder wishes to attend the Meeting and vote its own Shares, it must do so as proxyholder for the Registered Shareholder. To do this, the Beneficial Shareholder should enter its own name in the blank space on the form of proxy provided and return the same to its broker or other intermediary (or the agent of such broker or other intermediary) in accordance with the instructions provided by such broker, intermediary or agent well in advance of the Meeting.

### **Notice-and-Access Regime**

Essential has elected to use the “notice-and-access” provisions (“**Notice-and-Access**”) under National Instrument 54-101 – *Communication with Beneficial Owners of Securities of a Reporting Issuer* (“**NI 54-101**”) for the Meeting in respect of the delivery of meeting materials, the annual financial statements and related management’s discussion and analysis (the “**Annual Materials**”).

Under the Notice-and-Access regime, reporting issuers are permitted to deliver the Annual Materials by posting them on SEDAR as well as a website other than SEDAR and sending a notice package to each Shareholder receiving the Annual Materials under this regime. The notice package must include: (1) the relevant form of proxy or voting instruction form; (2) basic information about the Meeting and the matters to be voted on; (3) instructions on how to obtain a paper copy of the Annual Materials; and (4) a plain-language explanation of how the Notice-and-Access system operates and how the Annual Materials can be accessed online (collectively, the “**Notice Package**”). Notice-and-Access substantially reduces the quantity of material that must be printed and mailed to Shareholders by allowing for the posting of Annual Materials online, thus reducing costs and the environmental impact.

Essential has adopted Notice-and-Access in respect of the delivery of the Annual Materials to Beneficial Shareholders (i.e. Shareholders who hold their Shares in the name of a broker or other intermediary or agent) but not in respect of the delivery of the Annual Materials to Registered Shareholders (i.e. Shareholders whose name appears on Essential’s records as a holder of Shares). Accordingly, Essential will send the Notice Package to Beneficial Shareholders.

Notwithstanding the Notice-and-Access regime, under the *Business Corporations Act* (Alberta) (the “**Act**”), Essential is required to (1) deliver a paper copy of its annual financial statements and related management’s discussion and analysis to a Registered Shareholder unless such Registered Shareholder has informed Essential in writing that they do not want a copy of the annual financial statements and related management’s discussion and analysis or provides written consent to electronic delivery; and (2) deliver a paper copy of the Circular to a Registered Shareholder unless such Registered Shareholder provides written consent to electronic delivery. In order to comply with the Act, Essential will mail paper copies of the Circular and meeting materials to Registered Shareholders that have not consented to electronic delivery together with a solicitation for consent from Registered Shareholders to electronic delivery in future years. Registered Shareholders that consented to electronic delivery will receive instructions via email on where to access the Circular and meeting materials on Essential’s website at [www.essentialenergy.ca](http://www.essentialenergy.ca). A paper copy of Essential’s annual financial statements and related management’s discussion and analysis for the most recently completed financial year will be mailed to Registered Shareholders who have not informed Essential in writing that they do not want to receive a copy of such items or who have not consented to electronic delivery. This will be sent together with a solicitation for consent from Registered Shareholders to electronic delivery in future years. Registered Shareholders that consented to electronic delivery will

receive instructions via email on where to access Essential's annual financial statements and related management's discussion and analysis for the most recently completed financial year on Essential's website.

Essential will not send its proxy-related meeting materials directly to non-objecting beneficial owners under NI 54-101. Essential intends to pay for proximate intermediaries to forward the proxy-related materials and voting instruction form to objecting beneficial owners under NI 54-101.

### **INTEREST OF CERTAIN PERSONS AND COMPANIES IN MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON**

Management of Essential is not aware of any material interest, direct or indirect, by way of beneficial ownership of securities or otherwise, of any director or nominee for director, executive officer, or anyone who has held office as such since the commencement of the last completed fiscal year of the Company, or of any associate or affiliate of any of the foregoing individuals, in any matter to be acted on at the Meeting, except as set forth in this Circular.

### **VOTING SHARES AND PRINCIPAL HOLDERS THEREOF**

Essential is authorized to issue an unlimited number of Shares. As at March 26, 2018, an aggregate of 141,856,813 Shares were issued and outstanding. Shareholders are entitled to one vote for each Share held.

As of the date hereof, to the knowledge of the directors and executive officers of the Corporation, no person or company that beneficially owns, or controls or directs, directly or indirectly, Shares carrying 10% or more of the voting rights attached to all of the issued and outstanding Shares, except as outlined below:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Number of Shares</b>	<b>Percent Outstanding <sup>(1)</sup></b>
EdgePoint Investment Group Inc.	15,345,200	10.8%

*Note:*

(1) Calculated based on the number of issued and outstanding Shares of the Corporation on March 26, 2018.

### **APPROVAL REQUIREMENTS**

All of the matters to be considered at the Meeting are ordinary resolutions requiring approval by more than 50% of the votes cast in respect of the resolution by or on behalf of Shareholders present in person or represented by proxy at the Meeting.

### **MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON AT THE MEETING**

#### **Item 1 - Presentation of Financial Statements**

Essential will present to Shareholders the consolidated audited financial statements of Essential for the year ended December 31, 2017 and the auditors' report thereon. The financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2017 have been approved by the board of directors of the Company (the "**Board of Directors**" or the "**Board**") and no formal action will be taken at the Meeting to approve the financial statements.

#### **Item 2 - Fixing the Number of Directors**

Shareholders will be asked to fix the number of directors of Essential at six. There are presently six directors of Essential, each of whom will stand for re-election at the Meeting. See "Item 3 - Election of Directors". At the Meeting it is proposed that Shareholders approve an ordinary resolution to fix the number of directors to be elected at the Meeting at six.

#### **Item 3 - Election of Directors**

Shareholders will be asked to elect the proposed directors set forth below to hold office until the next annual meeting of Shareholders or until their successors are elected or appointed. There are presently six directors of

Essential, each of whom will retire from office at the Meeting and each of whom are proposed for re-election at the Meeting.

Voting for the election of directors will be conducted on an individual, and not on a “slate”, basis. Management of Essential recommends that Shareholders vote “for” each of the appointments. The persons named in the enclosed proxy intend to vote “for” the election of each of the nominees unless the Shareholder specifies authority to vote “withhold”.

The Board of Directors has a majority voting policy such that if a nominee for director receives a greater number of “withhold” votes than “for” votes, the director shall promptly, following the certification of the Shareholder vote, submit his resignation to the Board of Directors. The Compensation and Governance Committee (“**C&G Committee**”) shall consider the offer of resignation and recommend to the Board of Directors whether it should accept such resignation. The director will not participate in any deliberations on his resignation. The Board of Directors is required to act on the recommendation within 90 days of the Shareholder vote and will publicly disclose its decision. If such resignation is accepted by the Board of Directors, the Board of Directors may fill the vacancy created.

The names and places of residence of the persons nominated for election as directors of Essential, the offices held by each in Essential, the period served as director, the age and the principal occupation of each are as follows:

<b>Name and Place of Residence</b>	<b>Position Held</b>	<b>Director Since<sup>(4)</sup></b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Principal Occupation and Positions for the Past Five Years</b>
<b>Garnet K. Amundson<sup>(1)</sup></b> Alberta, Canada	Director, President and Chief Executive Officer	April 2008	56	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director of Essential since 2008.
<b>James A. Banister<sup>(2)</sup></b> Alberta, Canada	Director	April 2008	73	Independent businessman. President and Chief Executive Officer of BanCor Inc., a private investment company since 1997.
<b>Michael J. Black<sup>(1)</sup></b> Alberta, Canada	Director	June 2012	58	Senior partner practicing energy law at Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP, a law firm, since 2010.
<b>Robert T. German<sup>(1)(3)</sup></b> Alberta, Canada	Director	May 2011	58	Vice President, Finance at Oculus Transport Ltd., a private oilfield hauling company, since 2015. Formerly the President, Chief Executive Officer and Director of Horizon North Logistics Inc., a publicly traded oilfield services company (2010 - 2014).
<b>Nicholas G. Kirton<sup>(2)(3)</sup></b> Alberta, Canada	Director	May 2009	73	Independent businessman. Formerly a partner with KPMG LLP, an accounting firm, until 2004.
<b>Robert B. Michaleski<sup>(2)(3)</sup></b> Alberta, Canada	Director	June 2013	64	Independent businessman. Formerly the Chief Executive Officer of Pembina Pipeline Corporation, a transportation and midstream service provider (2000 – 2013) and President of Pembina Pipeline Corporation (2000 – 2012). Director of Pembina Pipeline Corporation (2000 – present).

*Notes:*

(1) *Member of the Health, Safety and Environment (“HSE”) Committee.*

(2) *Member of the C&G Committee.*

(3) *Member of the Audit Committee.*

(4) *The periods of service of the director on the Board of Directors and its committees may include service as a director of Essential Energy Services Operating Corp., the manager of Essential Energy Services Trust, the predecessor of Essential, prior to its conversion to a corporation.*

### ***Share Ownership and Share-Based and Share Option-Based Awards***

The following table presents Share ownership and Share-based and Share Option-based awards outstanding at December 31, 2017 for the nominee directors. Share-based awards include awards under the Deferred Share Unit (“DSU”) Plan and the Restricted Share Unit (“RSU”) Plan.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Number of Shares</u>	<u>Number of DSUs</u>	<u>Number of RSUs</u>	<u>Total Value</u> <sup>(1)</sup>	<u>Meets Share Ownership Requirements</u> <sup>(2)</sup>	<u>Number of Share Options</u>
Garnet Amundson	805,827	1,555,769	795,061	\$2,272,793	n/a	1,820,000
James Banister	1,071,230	362,842	n/a	\$1,032,532	Yes	n/a
Michael Black	53,875	255,228	n/a	\$222,554	Yes	n/a
Robert German	42,000	272,878	n/a	\$226,712	Yes	n/a
Nicholas Kirton	235,500	255,228	n/a	\$353,324	Yes	n/a
Robert Michaleski	160,000	278,761	n/a	\$315,908	Yes	n/a

*Notes:*

(1) *Based on December 29, 2017 Share price of \$0.72 and includes the number of Shares, DSUs and, if applicable, the number of RSUs.*

(2) *Share ownership requirements apply to non-employee directors and are discussed below.*

The Board of Directors has guidelines for minimum share ownership requirements for non-employee directors. Within a three year time frame, starting from the latter of March 2012 or appointment to the Board of Directors, each non-employee director is expected to own a minimum of three times the annual retainer received, based on the greater of the cost of the Shares when purchased or the market value of the Shares at time of measure. Upon assessment in the fourth quarter of 2017, each director met the minimum ownership requirement.

It is the intention of the management designees, if named as proxyholder, to vote for the election of the above mentioned persons to the Board of Directors unless otherwise directed. Management does not contemplate that any of such nominees will be unable to serve as a director. However, if for any reason any of the proposed nominees does not stand for election or is unable to serve as such, the management designees, if named as proxyholder, reserve the right to vote for any other nominee at their discretion.

### ***Cease Trade Orders, Bankruptcies, Penalties or Sanctions***

No proposed director is, or was within the last 10 years prior to March 26, 2018, a director, chief executive officer or chief financial officer of any company (including Essential) that: (i) was subject to a cease trade or similar order or an order that denied the relevant company access to any exemption under Canadian securities legislation that lasted for a period of more than 30 consecutive days that was issued while the proposed director was acting in the capacity as director, chief executive officer or chief financial officer; or (ii) was subject to a cease trade or similar order or an order that denied the relevant company access to any exemption under Canadian securities legislation that lasted for a period of more than 30 consecutive days that was issued after the proposed director ceased to be a director, chief executive officer or chief financial officer and which resulted from an event that occurred while that person was acting in the capacity as director, chief executive officer or chief financial officer.

Except as outlined below, no proposed director: (i) is, or was within the last 10 years prior to March 26, 2018, a director or executive officer of any company (including Essential) that, while that person was acting in that capacity,

or within a year of the person ceasing to act in that capacity, became bankrupt, made a proposal under any legislation relating to bankruptcy or insolvency or was subject to or instituted any proceedings, arrangement or compromise with creditors or had a receiver, receiver manager or trustee appointed to hold its assets; or (ii) has within the last 10 years prior to March 26, 2018, become bankrupt, made a proposal under any legislation relating to bankruptcy or insolvency, or become subject to or instituted any proceedings, arrangement or compromise with creditors, or had a receiver, receiver manager or trustee appointed to hold the assets of the director.

- Until January 28, 2016, Michael J. Black was a director of High North Resources Ltd. (“**High North**”). On January 28, 2016, High North consented to an application by its principal lender to place High North into receivership and appoint PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc. as receiver. The directors and management of High North all resigned on January 28, 2016.

No proposed director has been subject to: (i) 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 (ii) 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.

### ***Shareholder Engagement***

Management typically meets, either in person or via telephone, with its largest known institutional Shareholders on an annual basis, at a minimum. Management welcomes more frequent dialogue, when requested by the Shareholder. When items of significant concern are raised by Shareholders, management ensures these items are brought to the attention of the Board of Directors. In addition, management regularly engages with the investment community through quarterly conference calls open to all investors, the investment community and media; attendance at investor-focused conferences; and availability to meet, as requested, with Shareholders and potential Shareholders.

With regard to certain of the items at the 2017 annual general meeting of Shareholders that received a large number of Shareholder votes contrary to management’s recommendation, the Board of Directors, directly and through management, sought dialogue with such Shareholders. It is not always possible to know the identity of the Shareholder that voted contrary to management recommendation. Those Shareholders that were identified were consulted and their concerns were shared with the remainder of the Board of Directors.

**Governance Scorecard**

<b>Board Composition and Policies</b>	
Number of independent directors <sup>(1)</sup>	4 of 6 (67%)
Every meeting has an in-camera session without the employee director (see page 38)	Yes
Share ownership policy for directors (see page 8)	Yes
Formal Board assessment process (see page 44)	Yes
Director attendance at 100% of the Board / committee meetings <sup>(2)</sup> (see page 39)	Yes
Directors that are on an excessive number of other public company boards (see page 38)	None
<b>Governance</b>	
Fully independent chair of the Board, Audit and Compensation & Governance Committees (includes Board nominations) (see page 38 and 39)	Yes
Fully independent Audit and Compensation & Governance Committees (includes Board nominations) (see page 38)	Yes
Separate Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer	Yes
Anti-hedging policy (see page 21)	Yes
Directors elected individually (not by slate)	Yes
Majority voting policy (see page 7)	Yes
Board succession planning (see page 42)	Yes
Regular engagement with Shareholders (see page 9)	Yes
<b>Audit</b>	
Percentage of Audit Committee members that are financial experts <sup>(3)</sup>	100%

*Notes:*

- (1) Mr. Amundson, by virtue of his role as President & Chief Executive Officer of Essential is considered non-independent. Mr. Black, by virtue of his position as a partner of the law firm that provides legal services to Essential, is considered non-independent.
- (2) Each of the Board members had 100% attendance at all Board and committee meetings (for the committees they are a member of).
- (3) All of the Board members are financially literate, four of the six Board members are financial experts (CPA, CA designated) and each of the Audit Committee members are financial experts (CPA, CA designated).

**Item 4 - Appointment of Auditors**

Effective March 19, 2018, Ernst & Young LLP, Chartered Accountants (“EY”) resigned as the auditor of the Corporation. Effective March 21, 2018, KPMG LLP, Chartered Accountants (“KPMG”) was appointed as the auditor of the Corporation. KPMG is independent with respect to Essential in accordance with the Rules of Professional Conduct of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Alberta. EY was previously the auditor of Essential and its predecessor, Essential Energy Services Trust, since its formation. The appointment of KPMG has been considered and approved by the Audit Committee and the Board of Directors. There were no “reportable events” within the meaning of National Instrument 51-102 - *Continuous Disclosure Obligations* (“NI 51-102”) between Essential and EY.

In accordance with Section 4.11 of NI 51-102, a notice of change of auditor was sent to EY and KPMG, each of which provided a letter to the securities regulatory authority in each province where Essential is a reporting issuer stating that they agree with the statements in the notice of change of auditor. Those statements include (i) that there have been no reservations in the reports of EY on the financial statements of the Corporation for the two most recently completed fiscal years and (ii) that there have been no “reportable events” (as defined in NI 51-102) that have occurred in connection with the audits conducted for the two most recently completed fiscal years or in the subsequent period preceding the date of the notice of change of auditor.

A reporting package, as defined in NI 51-102, is attached as Appendix “B” to this Circular and includes the notice of change of auditor and the above-mentioned letters from EY and KPMG to the applicable securities regulatory authorities.

The persons named in the accompanying form of proxy will, in the absence of specifications or instructions to withhold from voting on the form of proxy, vote “for” the appointment of KPMG as the auditor of the Corporation, to hold office until the next annual meeting of Shareholders and to authorize the Board of Directors to fix such auditor’s remuneration.

Certain information regarding the Audit Committee that is required to be disclosed in accordance with National Instrument 52-110 - *Audit Committees* (“**NI 52-110**”) of the Canadian Securities Administrators is contained in the current Annual Information Form dated March 7, 2018 and is incorporated by reference herein. The current Annual Information Form is available on the internet on Essential’s SEDAR profile at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com). The Annual Information Form is also available to Shareholders, free of charge, upon request at Essential Energy Services Ltd., Livingston Place West, 1100, 250 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Street S.W., Calgary, Alberta T2P 0C1, attention: Corporate Secretary, by telephone at (403) 513-7272 or by email at [service@essentialenergy.ca](mailto:service@essentialenergy.ca).

## **Item 5 – Other Business**

The directors and officers of Essential are not aware of any matters, other than those indicated above, which may be submitted to the Meeting for action. However, if any other matters should properly be brought before the Meeting, the enclosed proxy confers discretionary authority to vote on such other matters according to the best judgment of the person holding the proxy at the Meeting.

## **EQUITY COMPENSATION PLANS**

### **Share Option Plan**

Essential has a share option plan (the “**Share Option Plan**”) that is designed to provide officers and employees of, and consultants to, the Company and its subsidiaries (collectively, the “**Optionees**”) with long term equity based performance incentives, which are a key component of Essential’s compensation strategy. Under the Share Option Plan, the Board of Directors or a committee of the Board of Directors appointed from time to time (if appointed, such committee is referred to as the “**Committee**”) has the ability to grant options to purchase Shares (“**Share Options**”) to Optionees. On May 10, 2016 the Shareholders approved the unallocated Share Options under the Share Option Plan and provided authorization for Essential to grant any unallocated options under the Share Option Plan until May 10, 2019.

A copy of the Share Option Plan can be found at Essential’s SEDAR profile at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com). The terms of the Share Option Plan are summarized as follows:

*Purpose:* The Share Option Plan is intended to afford persons who provide services to the Company an opportunity to acquire a proprietary interest in the Company by permitting them to purchase Shares and to aid in attracting as well as retaining and encouraging the continued involvement of such persons with the Company. The Share Option Plan permits the granting of Share Options to Optionees which includes officers, employees of, and consultants to the Company and its subsidiaries. “Non-employee directors”, as such term is defined in the Share Option Plan, are not eligible to receive Share Options.

*Limitations:* The maximum number of Shares issuable on exercise of the Share Options and pursuant to all other security based compensation arrangements of the Company shall be limited, in the aggregate, to 9% of the issued and outstanding Shares. The number of Shares issuable pursuant to the Share Options granted under the Share Option Plan or any other security based compensation arrangements of the Company: (i) issuable to insiders at any time may not exceed 9% of the issued and outstanding Shares; and (ii) issued to insiders within any one year period may not exceed 9% of the issued and outstanding Shares. The Share Options granted under the Share Option Plan are personal to the Optionee and are not assignable, except in the case of death of an Optionee.

*Term and Vesting:* The Share Options will have a term not to exceed five years and, subject to the terms of the Share Option Plan, will vest in such manner as determined by the Committee. If a Share Option is set to expire within any "Black Out Period" (as such term is defined in the Share Option Plan) or within 10 business days following the end of a Black Out Period, the expiry date of the Share Option shall, without any further action, be extended to the date that is 10 business days following the end of such Black Out Period. The Black Out Period is self-imposed by the Company.

*Exercise of Options:* The exercise price of any Share Options granted will be determined by the Committee at the time of grant, provided that the exercise price shall not be less than the volume weighted average trading price of the Shares on the Toronto Stock Exchange ("TSX") (or such other stock exchange on which the Shares may be listed and if the Shares are listed on more than one stock exchange, such stock exchange as may be designated by the Committee) for the five trading days immediately preceding the date of grant.

The Share Option Plan provides Optionees with an election, if permitted by the Committee, for a cashless exercise ("**Cashless Exercise**") of an Optionee's vested and exercisable Share Options. If an Optionee elects a Cashless Exercise the Optionee shall surrender its Share Options in exchange for the issuance by the Company of that number of Shares with a dollar value equal to the number that is the sum of the market price (calculated as at the date of exercise) less the exercise price of such Share Option (as defined in the Share Option Plan), multiplied by the number of Shares subject to the Share Options to be exercised.

*Termination of Options:* If an Optionee ceases to be an officer or employee of, or consultant to the Company or a subsidiary of the Company for any reason, the Optionee shall, unless otherwise provided in the Share Option agreement or otherwise determined by the Committee, have a period not in excess of 90 days (12 months in the case of death), after ceasing to be an officer or employee of, or consultant to the Company or its subsidiaries to exercise the Share Options held to the extent that the Optionee was entitled to exercise the Share Options at the date of such cessation and to the extent the initial expiry date of the Option is not exceeded. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the case of the death of an Optionee, all unvested Share Options shall immediately vest. In the event that an Optionee is terminated "For Cause" (as such term is defined in the Share Option Plan), all unvested Share Options and any Share Options that have not yet been exercised, shall be cancelled as of the Optionee's date of termination.

*Change of Control or Take-Over Proposal:* In the case of a Change of Control or Take-Over Proposal (as such terms are defined in the Share Option Plan) the Committee shall have the authority to take all necessary steps so as to ensure the preservation of economic interests of the Optionees, including ensuring that the Company or any successor entity will provide each Optionee with new or replacement or amended Share Options which will continue to vest and be exercisable following the Change of Control or Take-Over Proposal on similar terms and conditions as provided for in the Share Option Plan or causing all or a portion of the outstanding Share Options to become vested prior to the Change of Control or Take-Over Proposal, or any combination thereof. If the Optionee's employment is terminated by the Company or a subsidiary as a result of constructive dismissal within six months following a Change of Control or Take-Over Proposal, all of the Optionee's unvested Share Options shall vest as of the date of termination and be exercisable in accordance with the Share Option Plan.

*Amendment Provisions:* Without the prior approval of the Shareholders, as may be required by the TSX or such other exchange as the Shares may be listed on, the Committee may not:

- (i) make any amendment to the Share Option Plan to increase the maximum number or percentage of Shares issuable on exercise of outstanding Share Options at any time;
- (ii) reduce the exercise price of any outstanding Share Options (including the reissue of a Share Option within 90 days of cancellation);

- (iii) extend the expiry date of an outstanding Share Option beyond the original expiry date of such Share Option;
- (iv) remove or increase the maximum limit on the number of securities that may be issued to insiders;
- (v) make amendments to eligible participants that may permit the introduction or reintroduction of non-employee directors on a discretionary basis or amendments that increase the limits previously imposed on non-employee director participation;
- (vi) make any amendment to the Share Option Plan to permit an Optionee to transfer or assign the Share Options other than for normal estate settlement purposes; or
- (vii) amend the amendment provisions in the Share Option Plan.

Subject to the restrictions set out above, the Committee may amend, suspend or discontinue the Share Option Plan and the Share Options granted thereunder without Shareholder approval provided that any amendment to the Share Option Plan that requires approval of any stock exchange on which the Shares are listed for trading may not be made without approval of such stock exchange. In addition, no amendment to the Share Option Plan or the Share Options granted pursuant to the Share Option Plan may be made without the consent of the Optionee, if it adversely alters or impairs in an adverse manner any Share Option previously granted to such Optionee.

### **Restricted Share Unit Plan**

Essential has an RSU Plan that is intended as a compensation tool for the Company to recognize the contribution of officers, employees and consultants (the “**Participants**”) to the growth of the Company, to provide a longer term incentive element in the Company’s overall compensation package and to retain and attract employees. Essential believes it is important to align the interests of the Participants with Shareholder interests and to link performance compensation to enhancement of Shareholder value. The Board of Directors or the Committee shall have absolute discretion to approve the Participants entitled to participate in the RSU Plan and the number of RSUs to be awarded to each Participant. The RSU Plan does not provide for the grant of RSUs to non-employee directors.

On December 9, 2015, the Board of Directors approved amendments to the previous RSU Plan (“**2013 RSU Plan**”) so that all awards granted on or after December 9, 2015 under the revised RSU Plan (the “**2016 RSU Plan**”) could only be settled by payment of cash and could not be settled through the issuance of Shares from treasury or with Shares acquired by the Corporation on the TSX. This amendment was approved by the TSX. In addition, there were amendments of a housekeeping nature that were approved.

Any RSUs granted under the 2013 RSU Plan can be settled with a cash payment to the Participant, issuance of Shares from treasury, or by Shares acquired on the market. Any RSUs granted under the 2016 RSU Plan can only be settled with a cash payment to the Participant.

Any references in this Circular to the “**RSU Plan**” are to the current version of the plan and are meant to capture the commonalities of the 2013 RSU Plan and the 2016 RSU Plan. Where differentiation exists and is relevant, reference to the specific 2013 RSU Plan or the 2016 RSU Plan is made.

The terms of the RSU Plan are summarized as follows:

*Vesting:* The vesting provisions of any RSUs granted under the RSU Plan will be subject to the sole discretion of the Committee and may be based on (i) a Participant’s continued employment with, or services to, the Company or a subsidiary of the Company, and/or (ii) any criteria established by the Committee in order to measure the Company’s or a Participant’s performance over time. The vesting dates with respect to each grant of RSUs shall be determined by the Committee.

*Limitations:* Under the 2013 RSU Plan, the maximum number of Shares issuable pursuant to the RSUs granted or any other security based compensation arrangements of the Company: (i) issuable at any time may not exceed 9% of the issued and outstanding Shares; (ii) issuable to insiders at any time may not exceed 9% of the issued and outstanding Shares; and (iii) issued to insiders within any one year period may not exceed 9% of the issued and

outstanding Shares. The RSUs issued under the 2013 RSU Plan will still be included in the above measures for Essential. As any RSUs granted under the 2016 RSU Plan can only be settled with cash, those RSUs are not relevant for the above measures.

The RSUs granted under the RSU Plan represent an entitlement held directly by the Participant and are not assignable, except in the case of death of a Participant.

*Term:* The term of RSUs shall be determined by the Committee provided it shall not exceed December 31 of the third calendar year following the year of the Participant's service in respect of which the RSUs were granted. Subject to the terms of the RSU Plan, RSUs will vest in such manner as determined by the Committee.

*Dividends:* Should the Company issue dividends, the Participant's RSU account will be credited with additional RSUs in respect of such dividends paid by the Company.

*Settlement of RSUs:* Under the 2013 RSU Plan, the Company may elect to redeem RSUs by (i) cash payment to the Participant, (ii) the issuance of Shares from treasury, or (iii) through a broker designated by the Participant to acquire Shares equal to that number of whole RSUs that have vested. Under the 2016 RSU Plan, the Company may only redeem RSUs by cash payment to the Participant.

The value of each RSU will be equal to the volume weighted average trading price of the Shares on the TSX (or such other stock exchange on which the Shares may be listed and if the Shares are listed on more than one stock exchange, such stock exchange as may be designated by the Board of Directors) for the five trading days immediately preceding the vesting date, less any applicable withholding taxes. Under the 2013 RSU Plan, an election to issue Shares or acquire Shares in the market pursuant to the 2013 RSU Plan may not be made during a "Black-Out Period" (as such term is defined in the 2013 RSU Plan). The Black-Out Period is self-imposed by the Company. If an election would otherwise be required to be made within a Black-Out Period, the deadline for making such election will be extended to the 10<sup>th</sup> business day following expiry of the Black-Out Period. If the Black-Out Period continues to and includes December 31 of a calendar year, no election to issue Shares may be made by the Company. The foregoing extension shall not be considered an extension of the term of the RSUs that requires Shareholder approval.

*Termination of RSUs:* If a Participant is terminated "For Cause" (as such term is defined in the RSU Plan) or resigns, all unvested RSUs and any vested RSUs that have not been paid shall be cancelled. If a Participant ceases to be an officer or employee of, or consultant to the Company or its subsidiaries for any other reason, except in the case of death of the Participant, subject to any resolution passed by the Committee, any RSUs which have not become vested RSUs within a period of 90 days succeeding such Participant ceasing to be an officer or employee of, or consultant to the Company shall be cancelled and of no further effect. In the case of the death of a Participant, all unvested RSUs shall immediately vest and be paid to the Participant's designated beneficiary as soon as possible following 90 days from the date of the Participant's death, or such earlier or later date as may be agreed to with the beneficiary.

*Change of Control or Take-Over Proposal:* In the case of a Change of Control or Take-Over Proposal (as such terms are defined in the RSU Plan), the Committee shall have the authority to take all necessary steps so as to ensure the preservation of the economic interests of the Participants in, and to prevent the dilution or enlargement of, any RSUs, including, without limitation, ensuring that the RSUs become vested prior to such Change of Control or Take-Over Proposal or ensuring the Participant is provided with new or replacement or amended RSUs which will continue to vest following such event, merger, amalgamation or certain other transactions or a take-over bid, or any combination thereof. If the employment of a Participant is terminated by the Company or its subsidiaries or by the Participant as a result of Constructive Dismissal (as defined in the RSU Plan) within six months following a Change of Control or Take-Over Proposal, all unvested RSUs credited to the Participant shall become vested as of the Participant's termination date and the Participant shall be entitled to payments (in cash or Shares for RSUs issued under the 2013 RSU Plan or in cash for RSUs issued under the 2016 RSU Plan) in accordance with the terms of the RSU Plan.

*Amendment Provisions:* For RSUs issued under the 2013 RSU Plan, without the prior approval of Shareholders, as may be required by the TSX or such other exchange as the Shares may be listed on, the Committee may not:

- (i) make any amendment to the 2013 RSU Plan to increase the number or percentage of Shares issuable on exercise of outstanding RSUs at any time;
- (ii) extend the expiry date of an outstanding RSU beyond the original expiry date of such RSU;
- (iii) remove or increase the maximum limit on the number of securities that may be issued to insiders;
- (iv) make amendments to eligible Participants that may permit the participation of non-employee directors in the 2013 RSU Plan;
- (v) make any amendment to the 2013 RSU Plan to permit a Participant to transfer or assign the RSUs other than for normal estate settlement purposes; or
- (vi) amend the restrictions on amendments that are provided in the 2013 RSU Plan.

Subject to the restrictions set out above, the Committee may amend, suspend or discontinue the RSU Plan and the RSUs granted thereunder without Shareholder approval provided that any amendment to the RSU Plan that requires approval of any stock exchange on which the Shares are listed for trading may not be made without approval of such stock exchange. In addition, no amendment to the RSU Plan or the RSUs granted pursuant to the RSU Plan may be made without the consent of the applicable Participant, if it adversely alters or impairs in an adverse manner any RSU previously granted to such Participant.

#### Shares Authorized for Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans

The following tables set forth information with respect to Essential's long-term incentive plans ("LTIP") including Essential's Share Option Plan and Essential's 2013 RSU Plan as at December 31, 2017:

Plan Category	Number of Shares to be issued upon exercise of outstanding Share Options / RSUs at December 31, 2017	Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding Share Options	Number of Shares remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans <sup>(2)</sup>
Equity compensation plans approved by Shareholders:			
Share Option Plan	6,398,249	\$1.11	5,493,909
2013 RSU Plan <sup>(1)</sup>	874,955	n/a	Nil
Equity compensation plans not approved by Shareholders	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total	7,273,204	n/a	5,493,909

*Notes:*

- (1) RSUs issued under the 2013 RSU Plan may be settled with cash or equity, at the discretion of the Committee. All RSUs granted under this plan that have not been exercised or cancelled, are included in this table. RSUs issued under the 2016 RSU Plan may only be settled with cash payment. Any RSUs granted under the 2016 RSU Plan have been excluded from this table.
- (2) The maximum number of Shares that can be issued by the Company on the exercise of Share Options and RSUs granted under the 2013 RSU Plan is 9% of issued and outstanding Shares. At December 31, 2017, this was 12,767,113 Shares. There is no allocation of the number of Shares remaining available for future issuance between Share Options and RSUs issued under the 2013 RSU Plan.

	Maximum Awards		Outstanding Awards		Remaining Awards	
	Issuable		at December 31, 2017		at December 31, 2017	
	at December 31, 2017		at December 31, 2017		at December 31, 2017	
	Number	% of Shares <sup>(1)</sup>	Number	% of Shares <sup>(1)</sup>	Number	% of Shares <sup>(1)</sup>
Equity compensation plans approved by Shareholders:						
Share Option Plan	11,892,158	8.4%	6,398,249	4.5%	5,493,909	3.9%
2013 RSU Plan <sup>(2)</sup>	874,955	0.6%	874,955	0.6%	-	-
Total	12,767,113	9.0%	7,273,204	5.1%	5,493,909	3.9%

*Notes:*

(1) Calculated as a percentage of Shares outstanding at December 31, 2017 (141,856,813).

(2) RSUs issued under the 2013 RSU Plan may be settled with cash or equity, at the discretion of the Committee. All RSUs granted under this plan that have not been exercised or cancelled, are included in this table. RSUs issued under the 2016 RSU Plan (i.e. any RSUs issued subsequent to December 9, 2015) may only be settled with cash payment. Any RSUs granted under the 2016 RSU Plan have been excluded from this table.

### Share Option Burn Rate

Essential's 2017 burn rate is calculated as follows:

	<u>2017</u>
Equity compensation plans approved by Shareholders: <sup>(1)</sup>	
Share Option Plan grants	1,315,000
Weighted average shares outstanding	<u>141,856,813</u>
Burn rate	0.9%

*Note:*

(1) The Share Option Plan was the only security-based compensation plan under which grants could be made in 2017. All RSUs granted subsequent to December 9, 2015, may only be settled with cash payment.

## **EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

### **Mandate and Composition of the C&G Committee**

The C&G Committee of the Board of Directors provides oversight of Essential's executive compensation program. The purpose of the C&G Committee is to assist the Board of Directors in fulfilling its oversight obligations relating to human resources, compensation and governance matters with a view toward making recommendations to the Board of Directors as appropriate. Such matters are set out in the Mandate of the C&G Committee (the "**Mandate**") and include the compensation philosophy, compensation for the executive team, bonus and benefit plans, and succession planning. Matters related to compensation of the Named Executive Officers ("**NEOs**") are recommended by the C&G Committee to the Board of Directors for approval.

The C&G Committee is composed of three directors or such greater number as the Board of Directors may from time to time determine. As set out in the Mandate, a majority of the members must be independent. The Board of Directors appoints the Chairman of the C&G Committee.

The C&G Committee may retain legal, compensation, accounting, financial or other consultants or advisors to advise the C&G Committee at the Company's expense and shall have sole authority to retain and terminate any such consultants or advisors and to approve any such consultants or advisors fees and terms.

The members of the C&G Committee are:

	<u><b>Independent<sup>(1)</sup></b></u>	<u><b>Experience Relevant for Executive Compensation</b></u>
Robert Michaleski, Chair	Yes	14 years as the Chief Executive Officer of a publicly traded entity representing management on executive compensation matters.
James Banister	Yes	Over 25 years of experience managing executive compensation in oilfield service companies; specifically with small market capitalization companies in the past 21 years.
Nicholas Kirton	Yes	In the past 13 years has sat on the compensation committee of four public companies, including Essential. Holds the ICD.D (Institute of Corporate Directors) Certification which includes education regarding executive compensation.

*Note:*

*(1) Independent for the purposes of section 1.4 of NI 52-110.*

The C&G Committee has not engaged a compensation consultant since 2015. In the period from 2012 to 2015, Lane Caputo Compensation Inc. was engaged to review and provide a strategy for Essential's compensation structure for the executive and the Board of Directors. This included consideration of the various pay elements to align them with market practices and Essential's compensation philosophy and development of a strategy regarding Essential's LTIP arrangements.

Cost reductions in 2015 and 2016, driven by the industry downturn, resulted in a significant reduction in cash compensation for the NEOs in 2015 and 2016 and the C&G Committee determined that the retention of a compensation consultant was not necessary. See "Oilfield Services Challenges and Compensation Realities during the Industry Downturn". In 2017, as Essential started to move out of the industry downturn, the C&G Committee largely reverted to the 2014 compensation philosophy and processes with adjustments where deemed appropriate.

## Compensation Discussion and Analysis

This section describes Essential's NEO compensation philosophy and objectives and provides an overview of the process that the C&G Committee undertakes in deciding how to compensate the NEOs.

### *Compensation Philosophy, Objectives and Components*

Essential's NEO compensation program is designed to align the interests of NEOs with the interests of Shareholders, link NEO compensation to Essential's strategic business objectives and attract and retain high-performing NEOs in a competitive market for talent. Essential's philosophy is to pay for performance and compensate NEOs in consideration of the following:

- business performance;
- health, safety and environment performance; and
- achievement of individual annual qualitative and quantitative goals.

Essential's NEO compensation program is generally consistent with its senior management and employee programs in relative terms. Where certain programs, such as certain perquisites, are only provided to NEOs or senior management, they reflect competitive practice and particular business needs.

Essential's NEO compensation program typically includes four components: salary, annual bonus plan ("ABP"), LTIP and benefits. Essential does not have a target ratio for each of the four individual components but the C&G Committee does consider the relative ratio of each element of pay. These elements also vary in size and proportion each year depending on cash availability of the Company and the individual's performance.

Essential's LTIP includes Share Options, RSUs and/or DSUs.

The C&G Committee reviews the NEO compensation program to ensure that it supports Essential's continued ability to attract and retain high-performing NEOs to achieve Essential's business objectives.

The NEOs of the Company for the year ended December 31, 2017 were:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
Garnet Amundson	President and Chief Executive Officer ("CEO")
Allan Mowbray	Vice President, Finance and Chief Financial Officer
Jeff Newman	Senior Vice President, Business Development
Eldon Heck <sup>(1)</sup>	Vice President, Downhole Tools & Rentals
Karen Perasalo	Vice President, Investor Relations & Corporate Secretary

*Note:*

*(1) Mr. Heck was promoted to Vice President, Downhole Tools & Rentals on December 12, 2017. He has been with Essential and predecessor companies since 2005, most recently as Director, Downhole Tools & Rentals.*

### *NEO Compensation Strategy*

The NEO compensation strategy has fixed components, such as salary, typically positioned at market median levels, while variable components, such as annual bonus and LTIP, are structured to provide the opportunity for above-market total compensation for high levels of corporate and individual performance.

The components of NEO compensation are:

<b><u>Type of Compensation</u></b>	<b><u>Component</u></b>	<b><u>Objective</u></b>	<b><u>Form</u></b>	<b><u>Performance Period</u></b>
Fixed Compensation	Salary <sup>(1)</sup>	Compensates NEOs for performing day-to-day responsibilities	Cash	Ongoing
Variable Compensation	Short-term incentive (ABP)	Rewards accomplishment of annual business, safety and individual goals	Cash	One year
	Medium-term incentive (LTIP)	Aligns compensation with medium-term corporate performance and the interests of shareholders	RSUs (time and/or performance-vested)	One to three years
	Long-term incentive (LTIP)	Aligns compensation with long-term corporate performance and the interests of shareholders	DSUs (time-vested) Share Options	Indefinite <sup>(2)</sup> One to five years
Other Compensation <sup>(3)</sup>	Savings plan	Assist with saving including establishing investment in Essential's Shares	Match employee savings plan contributions	Ongoing
	Benefits	Provide market competitive benefits	Life and accidental death and dismemberment insurance, disability insurance, health, vision and dental coverage	Ongoing
	Perquisites	Market competitive perquisites that vary based on seniority	Taxable allowances or perquisites	Ongoing

*Notes:*

(1) While salary is considered a "fixed" component, NEOs are subject to downside risk. In 2015, 2016 and 2017, the NEOs accepted salary rollbacks. NEO salaries remain below 2014 levels.

(2) Cash payment is not received until the NEO departs the organization.

(3) Essential does not have a pension plan.

### ***Compensation Approval Process***

In 2014 and prior years, the C&G Committee considered peer data, for similar positions within the peer group when determining an NEO's salary, annual bonus and LTIP grant. In 2017, given the rollbacks and compensation reductions for 2015 and 2016, the C&G Committee placed greater emphasis on reinstating programs from 2014 and considering internal relativity, individual contribution and performance.

The C&G Committee reviews the various compensation elements both individually and in total, to ensure they align with the program objectives. The C&G Committee then recommends all NEO compensation components to the Board of Directors for their approval. Typically, this process begins in the fall with any LTIP grants occurring in January and ABP payments typically occurring in March or April for performance from the previous year. Salaries are typically reviewed in June after peer information circular documents are available.

Adjustments to this process are discussed under “Oilfield Services Challenges and Compensation Realities during the Industry Downturn”.

### ***Oilfield Services Challenges and Compensation Realities during the Industry Downturn***

#### **2015 and 2016**

The rapid and significant decline in the price of oil starting in mid-2014 and the persistently low price of natural gas negatively impacted the cash flow and capital spending budgets of Canadian exploration & production (“**E&P**”) companies. These E&P companies are Essential’s customers and Essential experienced reduced demand and significant price reductions for its services. A number of steps were taken early in 2015 by Essential that negatively, and significantly, impacted NEO, employee and Board of Director compensation. As the downturn continued into 2016, incremental steps to reduce compensation were taken in early 2016. During this time, as a result of demands from customers to reduce the price of Essential’s services, and further weakening in oilfield services activity, the following steps were taken, among other cost reduction measures throughout the organization, to minimize cash flow losses and avoid accumulation of incremental debt:

- *Salary:* All salaried employees were subject to a salary rollback, effective March, 2015. The NEOs agreed to a voluntary 20% salary rollback effective March, 2015. In 2016, most salaried employees were subject to a further salary rollback effective March, 2016 and most of the NEOs accepted a further salary rollback of up to 10%.
- *Annual Bonus Plan:* The ABP was suspended in 2015 and 2016 for NEOs and employees. Suspension of the ABP was a significant compensation reduction for NEOs as the ABP represents a greater portion of cash compensation for NEOs than for employees. There were no bonuses accrued or paid to NEOs or employees for 2015 or 2016 under the ABP.
- *LTIP:* With NEO cash compensation (salary and ABP) significantly reduced (i.e. salary rollbacks and nil ABP payments) in 2015 and 2016 the C&G Committee awarded incremental LTIP grants to NEOs. In June 2015, incremental performance-vesting RSUs were granted (“**Special RSUs**”) to NEOs and select employees. See “Long Term Incentive Plans – RSU Plan”. In June 2016, the C&G Committee implemented a shortfall model whereby 2014 Total Compensation (calculated as: salary plus ABP plus LTIP grants) data for an NEO was used as the basis to determine 2015 Total Compensation. The difference between 2015 Total Compensation (excluding the Special RSU grant) and a specific portion of 2014 Total Compensation was considered shortfall (“**2015 Shortfall**”) and was granted in LTIP in June 2016. This was in addition to regular 2016 LTIP grants in January 2016. It considerably increased the proportion of “at-risk” NEO compensation and still reduced NEO Total Compensation.

These measures resulted in a significant decrease in cash compensation for NEOs in 2015 and 2016 compared to previous years. There was a shift from cash compensation to LTIP (at-risk) compensation for NEOs to preserve Essential’s cash flow and avoid debt accumulation.

The Board of Directors accepted a 20% rollback on their retainer and meeting fees effective March 2015 and an incremental 10% rollback effective July 2016. See “Director Compensation”.

#### **2017**

Activity and demand for Canadian oilfield services started improving in 2017. Essential hired employees, experienced increased demand for its equipment and services and generated EBITDAS of \$18.6 million. The C&G Committee determined it was necessary to reverse most of the compensation rollbacks for NEOs and employees to attract and retain employees. The following actions were taken:

- *Salary:* Salaries were fully reinstated for most employees and partially reinstated for NEOs. At December 31, 2017, the CEO continued to have a 10% salary rollback in place, the other NEOs have a 5-10% rollback in place and NEO salaries remain below 2014 salary levels.

- *Annual Bonus Plan:* The ABP was reinstated for achievements in 2017.
- *Long-Term Incentive Plan:* Similar to the 2015 Shortfall process, the difference between 2016 Total Compensation and a specific portion of the 2014 Total Compensation was considered the shortfall (“**2016 Shortfall**”) and was granted in incremental LTIP grants in January 2017, in addition to regular 2017 LTIP grants.

The Board of Directors’ retainers and meeting fees were partially reinstated in mid-2017. At December 31, 2017 these fees remained rolled back by 20%.

The delayed nature of receipt and review of the peer compensation data via company Information Circulars (e.g. information for 2017 compensation is not available until spring 2018), can be problematic in a cyclical industry. The C&G Committee recognizes the requirement to, at times, make compensation decisions without the benefit of peer information. For example, at the beginning of the most recent downturn, it was quickly recognized that compensation needed to be rolled-back to set an example for other cost cutting measures and to conserve cash and avoid debt accumulation. That decision needed to be made quickly and without the benefit of peer data (due to the delayed nature of peer data). Conversely, as market conditions began to improve in 2017, for employee and NEO retention and attraction purposes, the C&G Committee recognized the need to make compensation changes to reinstate compensation programs and return to a more normalized approach for compensation practices.

### ***Risk and Compensation***

The C&G Committee considers the implications of the risks associated with Essential’s compensation policies and practices and the impact of individual compensation and any potential correlation with the amount of risk that an NEO may take. It is believed that through the following policies and practices, the ability for an NEO to take excessive risk has been reduced:

- The C&G Committee reviews the design parameters of the components of compensation and the potential rewards to be paid out. The C&G Committee considers not only financial and operational accomplishments of the Company but also the process by which those accomplishments were achieved.
- Total compensation for NEOs consists of: salary, ABP, LTIP and benefits. At the NEO level, a significant percentage of total compensation is tied to LTIP. Share Options are vested over three years and exercisable up to five years from the date of grant. RSUs typically vest over a three year period and expire at the end of three years. The RSUs issued to NEOs can be time-vested and/or performance-vested RSUs. DSUs may vest after one year or immediately, however, they cannot be exercised until the NEO leaves the organization.
- The performance of the President and Chief Executive Officer is reviewed “in camera” by the C&G Committee and the Board of Directors to ensure his actions align with the risk tolerance of the Company.

The Board of Directors has a policy that prohibits the Board of Directors and executives from purchasing financial instruments including, for greater certainty, prepaid variable forward contracts, equity swaps, collars, or units of exchange funds, that are designed to hedge or offset a decrease in market value of Shares or other securities of the Corporation held directly, or indirectly, by a director or an executive.

### ***Peer Group / Benchmark Review***

The peer group is considered by the C&G Committee annually based on the following criteria: market capitalization, revenue, earnings, number of employees and the requirement that the peer company be a drilling or oilfield services company that is publicly traded in Canada and headquartered in Canada. The peer group for 2017 data analysis (analysis of 2016 data in 2017) included:

Akita Drilling Ltd.  
Canyon Services Group Inc.  
Cathedral Energy Services Ltd.

PHX Energy Services Corp.  
Strad Energy Services Ltd.  
Total Energy Services Inc.

CWC Energy Services Corp.

Western Energy Services Corp.

The peer group is typically analyzed for the following compensation elements and ratios: salary, bonus as a percent of salary, total cash compensation (salary plus bonus), equity participation and total direct compensation (total cash plus estimated value of equity-based incentives). The peer group is smaller than desired due to recent industry consolidation and fewer peers that meet the criteria. The C&G Committee acknowledges that during the downturn, business performance, debt levels and financial conditions faced by some peers can dictate decisions and outcomes that may not be relevant to Essential's compensation philosophy. In addition, given the cyclical nature of the industry that Essential operates in, the natural delay in receiving peer data can be problematic. See "Oilfield Services Challenges and Compensation Realities during the Industry Downturn - 2017".

The following changes have been made for 2018 data analysis: remove Canyon Services Group Inc. and add STEP Energy Services Ltd. and Source Energy Services Ltd.

### ***Salary***

Salary is based on relevant market information and an NEO's experience, performance and level of responsibility. For a fully competent NEO in a given position, Essential targets salary at the median of the peer group. A high performing NEO can have salary exceeding the peer group median. During the recent industry downturn, salaries were reduced twice, in 2015 and 2016, without regard to peer data. In an effort to reduce costs, the Company determined that it was important to reduce salaries to preserve cash flow and avoid the accumulation of debt.

2015 and 2016: NEOs agreed to a voluntary 20% salary rollback effective March 2015 and, for most NEOs, up to a further 10% reduction, effective March 2016. These decisions were made without regard to peer group information to preserve cash flow and avoid the accumulation of debt. In late 2016, as the market for field employees became more competitive, salaries were partially or fully reinstated to employees below the NEO level.

2017: As activity and earnings improved, salaries were reinstated, or adjusted to new market norms, for employees and partially reinstated for NEOs. At December 31, 2017, the CEO had a 10% salary rollback in place, the other NEOs had a 5-10% salary rollback in place and NEO salaries remained below 2014 salaries.

### ***Annual Bonus Plan***

Essential targets annual NEO cash compensation (calculated as: salary plus target ABP) at or above the median of the peer group for target levels of performance. The Board of Directors has the discretion to reward above ABP parameters for exceptional business performance or when an individual has made an exceptional contribution. The Board of Directors also has the discretion to pay zero or below ABP parameters if the Company has insufficient cash flow to support ABP payments, for poor business performance or when individual performance has been unsatisfactory. This was evident for 2015 and 2016 when the NEOs agreed to accept no cash bonuses under the ABP due to reduced cash flow and to avoid accumulation of debt.

Essential's ABP is based on a scorecard approach that links bonus awards with business results and individual performance. An NEO's ABP award is based on specified percentages. ABP awards are determined after consideration of the following quantitative and qualitative criteria:

- (a) Business performance as measured by annual EBITDAS against a target that is established as part of the corporate budget planning process typically during the fourth quarter of the preceding year. "EBITDAS" is a non-IFRS financial measure of corporate earnings and is calculated from the financial statements as earnings before finance costs, income taxes, depreciation, amortization, transaction costs, losses or gains on disposal of equipment, write-down of assets, impairment loss, foreign exchange gains or losses and share-based compensation. As a budget planning metric, this annual EBITDAS target is typically developed late in the previous year using prior year results, forecasts, industry conditions and other corporate budgetary methodologies. For ABP determination purposes, the EBITDAS is considered prior to ABP expense.

When Essential's 2017 Budget was initially prepared in December 2016, there was no ABP included in the Budget. As 2017 progressed, and forecast EBITDAS expectations increased to a level significantly greater than budgeted EBITDAS, the C&G Committee determined the ABP should be re-introduced.

- (b) Assessment of the execution of an effective HSE program, fostering a safety conscious culture and improving statistical safety records, as measured against targets for total recordable incident frequency ("TRIF") that are set typically late in the previous year. TRIF measures the number of total recordable injuries in the exposure period as a percentage of workforce hours; and
- (c) Achievement of individual annual qualitative and quantitative performance goals. Specific and measurable individual goals are set annually and the NEO is evaluated against those goals.

Each of the above categories are weighted relative to one another. For each category, actual performance results are compared against predetermined criteria to determine if performance warrants the threshold, target or maximum award, or somewhere in between. In the case of significant underperformance, any category can be assigned a zero.

The target value of NEO ABP awards, as a percentage of the NEO's base salary, increases as the scope of responsibility increases so that the percentage of at-risk versus cash compensation correlates with increased responsibilities.

The Board of Directors approves the total Company ABP award and individual NEO ABP awards each year. The Board of Directors can exercise discretion when determining a NEO's ABP award.

The oilfield service sector is very cyclical in nature. As a result, the annual payout of ABP awards generally fluctuates in relation to the performance of the Company and the strength of the oil and gas industry in the Western Canadian Sedimentary Basin. The ABP does not constitute a promise to pay. The ABP may, from time to time, be changed, altered, modified, suspended or revoked at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

2015 and 2016: The ABP was suspended for NEOs and no bonuses were awarded to NEOs under the ABP program. Through use of a shortfall calculation this resulted in a shift in compensation from cash compensation to LTIP (at-risk) in an effort to preserve Essential's cash flow and avoid debt accumulation. See "Oilfield Services Challenges and Compensation Realities during the Industry Downturn".

In 2016, specific project bonuses were awarded in recognition of work related to critical and important initiatives for Essential and for Shareholder value that took significant and extraordinary efforts by the NEOs and select staff. The project bonuses provided a cash reward, during a period of significantly reduced cash compensation, for outstanding results.

2017: The ABP program was reinstated. Based on evaluation of results compared to specified targets, EBITDAS was ranked as "target minus" and HSE was ranked as "maximum" by the C&G Committee. In addition, achievement of individual goals was factored into each NEOs final ABP determination.

### ***Long Term Incentive Plans***

In 2014 and prior years, the number of Share Options, RSUs and/or DSUs granted annually to each NEO were at the median of the peer group such that, when combined with other elements of compensation, Total Compensation (salary plus target ABP plus LTIP) could achieve the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of the peer group when Share price performance warrants, or above in the case of superior Share price performance. Superior or inferior Share price performance cannot be predicted at the time of grant and is only known at the time of exercise of Share Options, RSUs or DSUs. For this reason, LTIP compensation is considered "at-risk" compensation. RSUs may have time-vested and/or performance-vested criteria for NEOs. NEOs also have the option to receive a portion or all of their ABP payment in DSUs, solely at the option of the NEO.

In determining the number of Share Options, RSUs and/or DSUs to grant each year, the C&G Committee considers the plan's parameters and their potential dilutive impact on Shareholders in combination with market information on

long-term incentive plans. Market information, positional responsibility, performance and attraction and retention considerations determine the extent that Share Options, RSUs and/or DSUs are used to compensate NEOs.

In 2015 and 2016, with cash compensation (salary and ABP) significantly reduced for NEOs (salary reduced and nil payments under the ABP), the C&G Committee awarded shortfall LTIP grants to NEOs. In June 2015, Special RSUs were also granted to NEOs and select employees. See “Long Term Incentive Plans – RSU Plan”. 2016 LTIP grants included a regular grant for 2016 and a 2015 Shortfall grant. 2017 LTIP grants included a regular grant and a 2016 Shortfall grant. See “Oilfield Services Challenges and Compensation Realities during the Industry Downturn”.

#### Share Option Plan

The Company's Share Option Plan provides eligible senior management and NEOs with a long-term incentive in the form of Share Options to align the interests of management with the interests of Shareholders. As Essential's Share price rises, Share Option grants increase in value. Share Options granted pursuant to the Share Option Plan are primarily granted to NEOs and senior management whose actions directly impact Essential's business results. Share Options may also be granted to achieve market competitive compensation practices.

The Share Option Plan is described in detail under the heading “Equity Compensation Plans – Share Option Plan”. More information regarding Share Options granted to NEOs is available in the table under the heading “Outstanding Option-Based Awards and Share-Based Awards”.

#### RSU Plan

The RSU Plan consists of time-vested and/or performance-vested components and is available to NEOs, senior management and certain employees. The performance-vested component requires the achievement of specific milestones within the Company's business plan over a one (1) to three (3) year timeline. RSUs granted under the 2013 RSU Plan (which includes RSU grants from 2013 up until December 9, 2015) have the flexibility to settle in cash or Shares, as determined by the C&G Committee. RSUs granted under the 2016 RSU Plan can only be settled with cash. This applies to all RSUs granted on or after December 9, 2015. The 2013 RSU Plan and the 2016 RSU Plan are described in detail under the heading “Equity Compensation Plans – Restricted Share Unit Plan”.

The time and performance vesting provisions of RSUs are subject to the discretion of the C&G Committee and may be based on (i) a Participant's continued employment with the Company, or (ii) any criteria established by the C&G Committee in order to measure the Company's performance over time. Historical RSU grants have ranged from 100% performance-vested to 100% time-vested with varying proportions in between. In setting the vesting-criteria for a particular grant, the C&G Committee considers other elements of compensation, level in the organization and objectives of the grant. The C&G Committee has the discretion to evaluate performance vesting criteria against actual results and conclude on vesting over the life of the grant.

While previous performance vesting-criteria for RSUs included metrics such as utilization, business unit revenue, HSE performance and EBITDAS, the C&G Committee has gravitated toward using EBITDAS as the performance-vesting criterion for recent grants for the following reasons: reliable industry utilization data is not available for Essential's business lines and HSE performance is already used for ABP purposes. Since Essential does not provide earnings guidance, it is unable to disclose the specific EBITDAS benchmarks for future vest periods.

The June 2015 Special RSUs were granted to NEOs and certain employees below the NEO level in recognition of the very low grant date value of the January 2015 LTIP grants and in recognition of the salary rollback and ABP suspension. The Special RSUs were 100% performance-vested, based on Essential's “ability to pay” at the time of vesting. The ability to pay is based on financial performance relative to a pre-determined EBITDAS benchmark, within a certain band of deviation. The C&G Committee has discretion over vesting. The Special RSUs have unique vesting terms whereby if a tranche does not vest in a particular year, that tranche does not expire but is held to be re-tested in the subsequent year. All RSUs expire at the end of three years. These unique vesting features are only attributed to these Special RSUs that are 100% performance-based. The first and second tranche of the Special RSUs did not vest in June 2016 and June 2017, respectively, as the performance criteria was not met. On March 7, 2018, the Board determined the Special RSUs will vest and payout in June 2018.

More information regarding RSUs granted to NEOs is available in the table under the heading “Outstanding Option-Based Awards and Share-Based Awards”. The values presented in the table are theoretical values for RSUs at December 31, 2017, not the value that may ultimately be realized by the NEO.

### Deferred Share Unit Plan

The DSU plan (“**DSU Plan**”) provides non-employee members of the Board of Directors (“**Eligible Directors**”) and NEOs (collectively the “**DSU Participants**”) an opportunity to participate in the long-term success of the Company and to align the interests of the DSU Participants with the interests of Shareholders. Participation in the DSU Plan is currently restricted to Eligible Directors and NEOs and senior management, as approved by the C&G Committee.

A DSU is a phantom unit granted to a DSU Participant, the value of which on any particular date is equal to the market price (as defined in the DSU Plan and calculated as at the redemption date) of a Share. A DSU gives the DSU Participant a right of redemption in the form of a lump sum cash payment after the DSU Participant ceases to be an Eligible Director, executive or employee of the Company.

An Eligible Director may participate in the DSU Plan in the following ways:

- Automatic DSU Retainer - the C&G Committee may determine that a certain percentage of the annual retainer payable to Eligible Directors will automatically be satisfied in the form of DSUs.
- Electable DSU - an Eligible Director may elect to receive all, or a portion of, their retainer or meeting fees that would otherwise be payable as compensation for services to be performed after the date of the election in the form of DSUs.
- Discretionary DSU - the C&G Committee may grant discretionary DSUs to an Eligible Director, in respect of the services the Eligible Director renders to the Company as a member of the Board of Directors.

An NEO or member of senior management may participate in the DSU Plan in the following ways:

- Discretionary DSU - the C&G Committee may grant discretionary DSUs to an NEO or senior management as a portion of their LTIP grant.
- ABP Election - an NEO may elect to receive all, or a portion, of their ABP in the form of DSUs rather than cash.

Subject to certain exceptions, DSUs granted on a discretionary basis typically only become fully vested one calendar year from the grant date, unless otherwise determined by the C&G Committee. Automatic and electable DSUs become fully vested when earned.

DSUs are redeemed within 15 days of the DSU Participant ceasing to be an Eligible Director or employee, except in the case of death, or other unique circumstances where a longer time period for redemption may be allowed.

More information regarding DSUs granted to NEOs is available in the table under the heading “Outstanding Option-Based Awards and Share-Based Awards”. The values presented in the table are theoretical values for DSUs at December 31, 2017, not the value that may ultimately be realized by the NEO.

More information regarding DSUs granted to Eligible Directors is available in the table under the heading “Directors’ Outstanding Option-Based Awards and Share-Based Awards”. The values presented in the table are theoretical values for DSUs at December 31, 2017, not the value that may ultimately be realized by the Eligible Director.

### ***Employee Benefits***

Essential's employee group health benefits and savings plans support the health and well-being of its employees and NEOs. Essential does not have a pension plan or provide any pension benefits to its employees or NEOs. The plans are reviewed periodically to ensure they remain market competitive and continue to meet these objectives.

#### **Group Health Benefits Plan**

Essential's group health benefits plan is designed to protect the health of its employees and that of their dependents and provide certain coverage in the event of disability or death. The Company believes that, relative to industry peers, the group plan is an industry-competitive plan for the oilfield services sector. The group plan provides employees with accidental death and dismemberment insurance, disability insurance as well as extended health, vision and dental coverage.

#### **Employee Savings Plan**

All employees may contribute to the Employee Savings Plan, through payroll deduction, up to a pre-determined percentage of their base salary, to purchase either Shares or contribute to a group investment account, or a combination of both. The contributions may be to a registered or a non-registered account, or a combination of both. Essential matches employee contributions in the form of Shares and/or by contributions to the group account to a prescribed maximum.

## Compensation Granted Versus Compensation Realized

The “Summary Compensation Table for Named Executive Officers” (“SCT”) herein sets out compensation that was granted to the NEOs in 2017 with calculations based on the requirements outlined in Form 51-102F6 – Statement of Executive Compensation. The total value granted for share-based awards and option-based awards was not actually realized (i.e. that value was not received) by the NEOs. In the following table, in the line titled “realized”, the granted values for share-based awards and option-based awards as presented in the SCT have been replaced with the value that was actually realized (i.e. received) on the exercise of share-based awards and option-based awards in 2017. The actual compensation realized by the President & Chief Executive Officer in 2017 was \$1.04 million compared to the \$1.91 million value granted, as presented in the SCT.

Name and Principal Position	2017	Salary (\$)	Share-based awards (\$)	Option-based awards (\$)	Non-equity annual incentive plans (\$)	All other compensation (\$)	Total compensation (\$)
Garnet Amundson <i>President &amp; Chief Executive Officer</i>	Granted <sup>(1)</sup>	\$372,205	\$830,250	\$152,023	\$515,000	\$44,665	\$1,914,143
	Realized <sup>(2)</sup>	\$372,205	\$112,089	Nil	\$515,000	\$44,665	\$1,043,959
Allan Mowbray <i>VP, Finance &amp; Chief Financial Officer</i>	Granted <sup>(1)</sup>	\$226,391	\$275,400	\$95,223	\$195,000	\$27,167	\$819,181
	Realized <sup>(2)</sup>	\$226,391	\$36,167	Nil	\$195,000	\$27,167	\$484,725
Jeff Newman <i>Senior VP, Business Development</i>	Granted <sup>(1)</sup>	\$246,712	\$372,600	\$68,494	\$230,000	\$41,286	\$959,092
	Realized <sup>(2)</sup>	\$246,712	\$38,947	Nil	\$230,000	\$41,286	\$556,945
Eldon Heck <i>VP, Downhole Tools &amp; Rentals</i>	Granted <sup>(1)</sup>	\$223,462	\$356,400	\$65,153	\$500,000	\$6,704	\$1,151,719
	Realized <sup>(2)</sup>	\$223,462	\$98,325	Nil	\$500,000	\$6,704	\$828,491
Karen Perasalo <i>VP, Investor Relations &amp; Corporate Secretary</i>	Granted <sup>(1)</sup>	\$226,594	\$315,900	\$58,471	\$215,000	\$15,608	\$831,573
	Realized <sup>(2)</sup>	\$226,594	\$36,167	Nil	\$215,000	\$15,608	\$493,369

Notes:

- (1) Details for the “granted” calculation are outlined in the SCT.
- (2) Actual share-based awards include vesting and payout of RSUs in January and December 2017. See the table “Incentive Plan Awards – Value Vested or Earned During the Year.” DSUs that vested in 2017 were excluded as cash was not received in 2017. The DSUs do not payout until the NEO leaves the Company. Amundson, Newman, Heck and Perasalo each had Share Options expire in 2017 (i.e. the Share Options granted in 2012 were not exercised as they were “out-of-the-money”).

The following table presents the difference, for the CEO, between compensation granted (as presented in the SCT Table) and compensation realized. Over the five year period, the granted value was \$2.01 million higher than the realized value. The trend in CEO total compensation is generally representative of the trend in NEO total compensation.

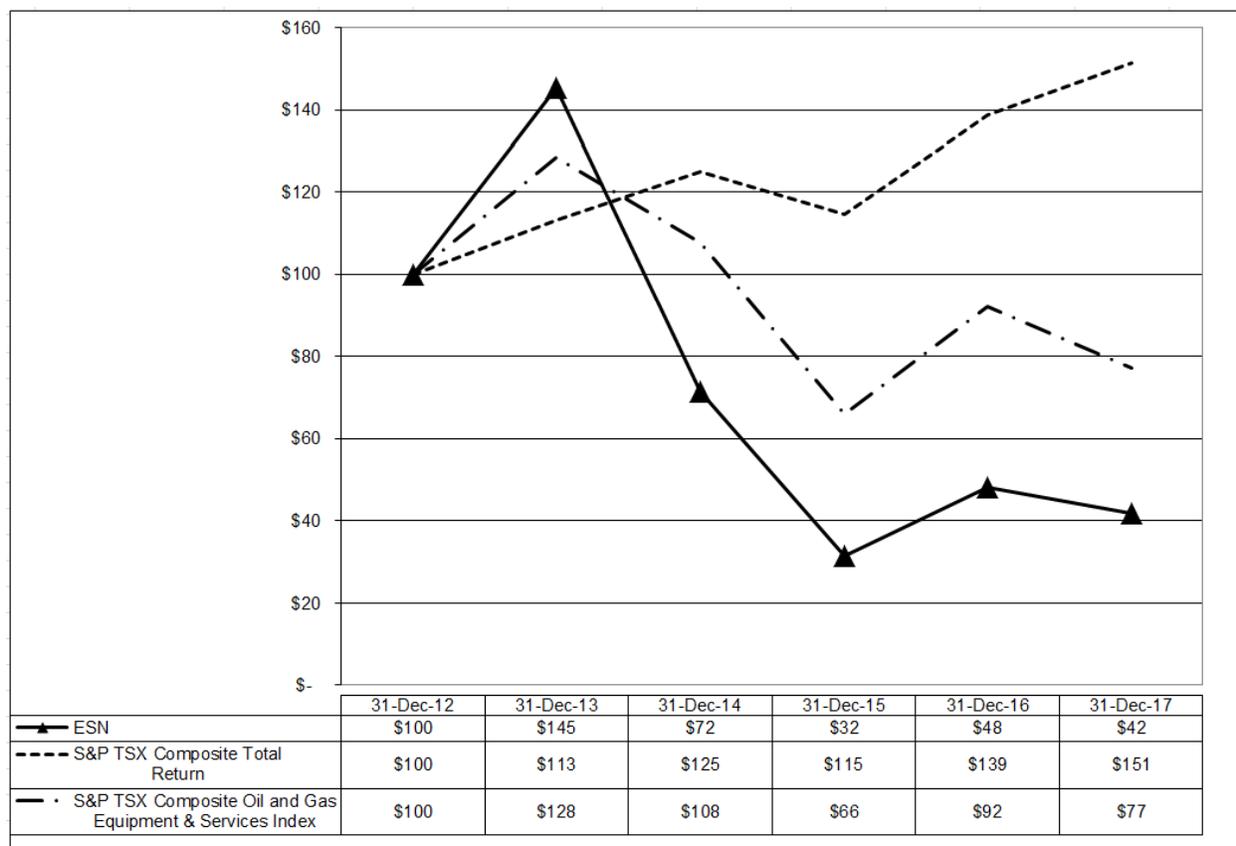
(millions)	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
CEO Total Compensation – Granted (per SCT) <sup>(1)</sup>	\$1.17	\$1.27	\$0.87	\$1.38	\$1.91	\$6.60
CEO Total Compensation – Realized <sup>(2)</sup>	\$1.43	\$1.10	\$0.42	\$0.60	\$1.04	\$4.59

Notes:

- (1) CEO Total Compensation - Granted as presented in the section “Summary Compensation Table for Named Executive Officers” in this and prior year’s Information Circular’s. This includes the granted (theoretical) values for share-based awards and option-based awards.
- (2) CEO Total Compensation – Realized is calculated using the CEO Total Compensation - Granted and for each year, replaces the granted (theoretical) value at the time of grant for share-based awards and option-based awards with the value actually realized (i.e. received) in each year upon the exercise of share-based awards and option-based awards. There were option-based awards exercised in 2013 and 2014 and RSUs exercised in 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017. See the table above for the 2017 calculation.

## Performance Graph

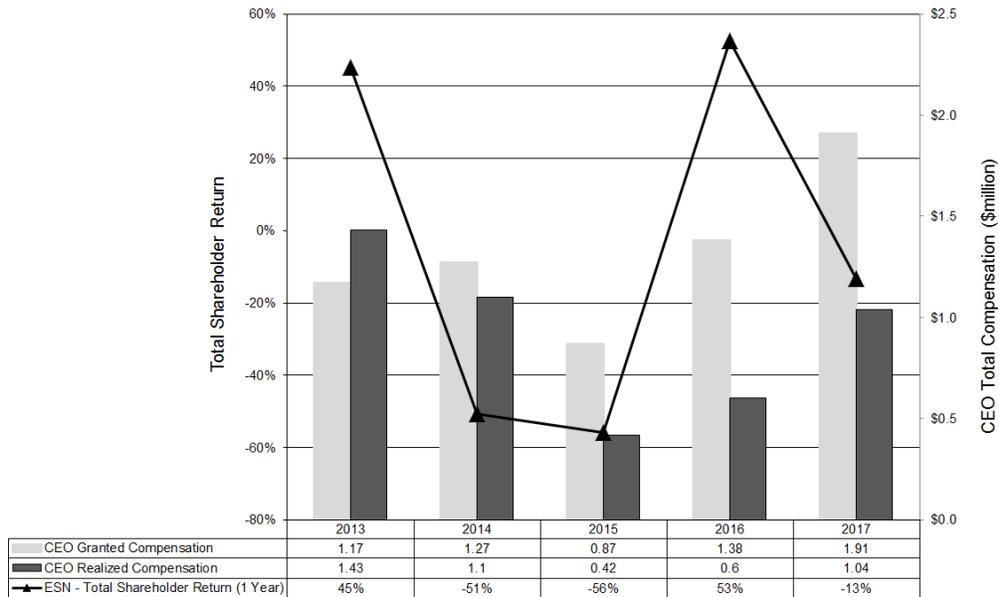
The following graph illustrates the cumulative total shareholder return for \$100 invested in Essential, effective December 31, 2012 compared to the S&P TSX Composite Total Return Index (the “**Index**”) for the applicable period, assuming all distributions and dividends are reinvested, and compared to the S&P TSX Composite Oil and Gas Equipment & Services Index (the “**OGES Index**”).



Essential outperformed the Index and the OGES Index in 2013. Some of the factors that contributed to the positive Share price performance at that time included: strong industry activity, equipment utilization, business growth and strong EBITDAS. In 2014, the Share price started to decrease and continued to decrease through to the end of 2015. This was primarily due to the significant decline in oil price, the low natural gas price and the negative impact on oilfield service activity and service pricing. The Share price decline was not unique to Essential and was experienced by other Canadian oilfield service companies over the same period, as evidenced by the OGES Index. The Share price improved in the latter part of 2016 as the outlook for the oilfield services sector started to improve. However, after peaking in January 2017, the Share price softened, and was fairly volatile throughout 2017, ending at a price lower than the previous year. Essential’s Share price may be more negatively impacted than the OGES Index due to Essential’s relatively small market capitalization and low trading liquidity.

The following graph shows the five year trend in Essential’s total shareholder return versus CEO total compensation. CEO total compensation is generally representative of the trend in NEO total compensation. Total compensation is reflected on a granted and a realized basis, with the differences discussed under “Compensation Granted Versus Compensation Realized”. There are some general similarities reflected in the chart in the first four years: as the Share price decreased, so did realized compensation and as the Share price increased in 2016, so did realized and granted compensation. There was a divergence in 2017 with the Share price decreasing but total compensation increasing. Of note, in 2017, while the Share price decreased, EBITDAS increased significantly compared to the prior year.

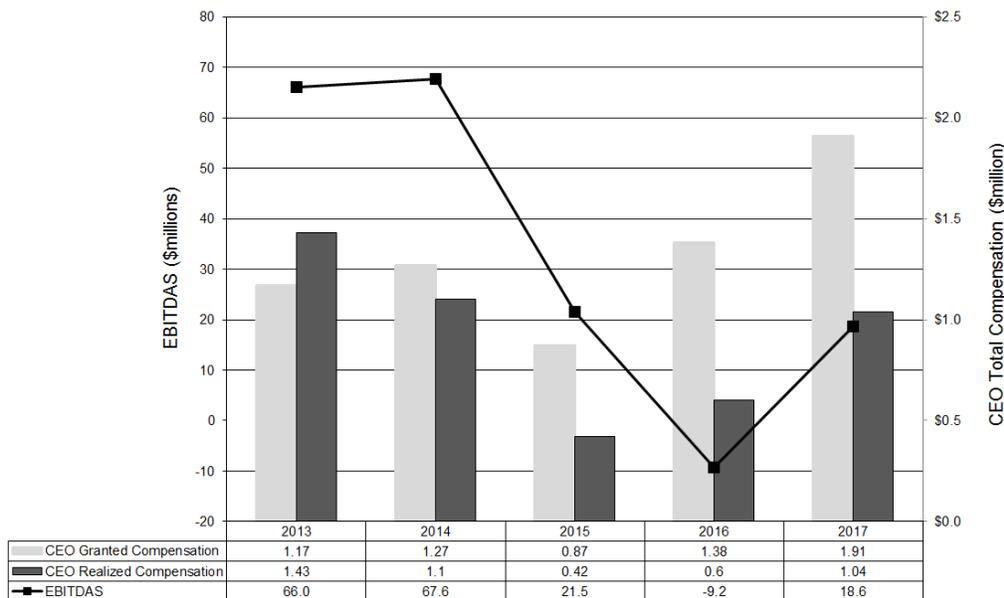
As discussed in “Oilfield Services Challenges and Compensation Realities during the Industry Downturn”, compensation granted in 2016 and 2017 includes 2015 Shortfall and 2016 Shortfall grants, respectively.



Total compensation is more closely aligned with EBITDAS than Share price. An NEO’s total compensation is based on business performance (as measured by EBITDAS), HSE metrics and the individual’s performance. Salary and annual bonus do not take Share price performance into consideration. The LTIP value of total compensation that is realized is directly correlated with an increase, or decrease, in the Share price.

The graph that follows reflects a reasonable correlation between EBITDAS and total compensation in all years except 2016, the year that EBITDAS was negative. EBITDAS was not restated in 2013, 2014 and 2015 to reflect the sale of service rigs as discontinued operations. The service rig business was sold in December 2016. EBITDAS, as determined in each of those years is the relevant metric.

As discussed in “Oilfield Services Challenges and Compensation Realities during the Industry Downturn”, compensation granted in 2016 and 2017 includes 2015 Shortfall and 2016 Shortfall grants, respectively.



## Summary Compensation Table for Named Executive Officers

The following table sets forth for each of Essential's three most recently completed financial years information concerning the total compensation granted to the NEOs. As discussed under "Oilfield Services Challenges and Compensation Realities during the Industry Downturn", shortfall compensation, in the form of incremental LTIP grants, was introduced to acknowledge reduced cash compensation in 2015 and 2016 as a result of the industry downturn. This increased the proportion of "at-risk" NEO compensation.

2017 share-based and option-based awards in the table below include a regular grant for 2017 and a 2016 Shortfall grant. 2016 share-based and option-based awards include a regular grant for 2016 and a 2015 Shortfall grant. 2015 Share-based awards include a regular grant for 2015 and a Special RSU grant in 2015.

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary <sup>(1)</sup> (\$)	Share-based awards <sup>(2)</sup> (\$)	Option-based awards <sup>(3)</sup> (\$)	Non-equity incentive plan compensation (\$)		Pension value (\$)	All other compensation <sup>(5)</sup> (\$)	Total compensation (\$)
					Annual incentive plans <sup>(4)</sup>	Long-term incentive plans			
Garnet Amundson <sup>(6)</sup> President & Chief Executive Officer	2017	\$372,205	\$830,250	\$152,023	\$515,000	n/a	n/a	\$44,665	\$1,914,143
	2016	\$296,615	\$727,200	\$128,800	Nil	n/a	n/a	\$226,025	\$1,378,640
	2015	\$336,923	\$450,000	\$71,519	Nil	n/a	n/a	\$15,877	\$874,319
Allan Mowbray VP, Finance & Chief Financial Officer	2017	\$226,391	\$275,400	\$95,223	\$195,000	n/a	n/a	\$27,167	\$819,181
	2016	\$193,769	\$234,100	\$47,300	Nil	n/a	n/a	\$87,733	\$562,902
	2015	\$214,788	\$119,950	\$31,675	Nil	n/a	n/a	\$8,003	\$374,416
Jeff Newman Senior VP, Business Development	2017	\$246,712	\$372,600	\$68,494	\$230,000	n/a	n/a	\$41,286	\$959,092
	2016	\$203,231	\$325,500	\$68,300	Nil	n/a	n/a	\$175,842	\$772,873
	2015	\$223,212	\$227,300	\$43,023	Nil	n/a	n/a	\$6,115	\$499,650
Eldon Heck <sup>(7)</sup> VP, Downhole Tools & Rentals	2017	\$223,462	\$356,400	\$65,153	\$500,000	n/a	n/a	\$6,704	\$1,151,719
Karen Perasalo <sup>(8)</sup> VP, Investor Relations & Corporate Secretary	2017	\$226,594	\$315,900	\$58,471	\$215,000	n/a	n/a	\$15,608	\$831,573
Kevin Job <sup>(9)</sup> Former Senior VP, Corporate	2016	\$204,308	\$325,500	\$68,300	Nil	n/a	n/a	\$613,419	\$1,211,527
	2015	\$227,423	\$131,250	\$43,023	Nil	n/a	n/a	\$10,717	\$412,413
Don Webster <sup>(10)</sup> Former Chief Operating Officer	2016	\$226,431	\$389,600	\$78,800	Nil	n/a	n/a	\$23,347	\$718,178
	2015	\$277,962	\$215,250	\$50,588	Nil	n/a	n/a	\$13,098	\$556,898

### Notes:

- (1) 2015 salary reflects 20% rollback effective March 16, 2015. 2016 salary reflects an incremental rollback of up to 10% effective April 4, 2016. 2017 salary reflects partial reversal of the rollback; salary at December 31, 2017 continued to be rolled back by up to 10% for NEOs.
- (2) This is related to RSUs and DSUs and reflects the grant date fair value which is the theoretical expected value calculated at the date of grant by multiplying the number of RSUs and DSUs granted by the closing price of Shares on the date of grant. Share prices on date of grants:
- 2017: January 10, 2017 - \$0.81
  - 2016: January 7, 2016 - \$0.52; June 30, 2016 - \$0.65
  - 2015: January 8, 2015 - \$1.49; June 11, 2015 - \$1.13

These values may differ from the actual value at the time the awards vest. The calculated value does not distinguish between time-vested and performance-vested grants. The fair value of the award on the grant date is not different from the fair value if determined in accordance with IFRS 2 Share-based Payment. As discussed in the commentary above this table, in addition to regular annual grants, 2017 includes a 2016 Shortfall grant; 2016 includes a 2015 Shortfall grant; and 2015 includes Special RSUs.

- (3) This is related to Share Options and reflects the estimated fair value under the Black-Scholes pricing model of Share Options granted in the year. Share Options vest as to one third in each of the first, second and third year anniversaries of the date of grant. The Black-Scholes pricing model is used as it is a generally accepted pricing model. The assumptions for each year are:

	2017 Option Grant	2016 Option Grant	2015 Option Grant
Share price	\$0.83	\$0.55 - \$0.61	\$1.12 - \$1.46
Exercise price <sup>(a)</sup>	\$0.83	\$0.55 - \$0.61	\$1.12 - \$1.46
Risk-free interest rate	0.9% - 1.0%	0.5% - 0.6%	1.0% - 1.1%

Expected volatility	48.8% - 50.1%	43.9% - 48.9%	41.6% - 43.3%
Expected term	3.9 - 4.7 years	3.6 - 4.5 years	3.7 - 5.0 years
Expected forfeiture rate	8.2% - 16.1%	6.6% - 15.8%	7.5% - 16.5%
Dividend yield	Nil	0 - 2.3%	8.7% - 10.6%
Fair value per option issued	\$0.32 - \$0.35	\$0.15 - \$0.24	\$0.15 - \$0.24

<sup>(a)</sup>As per the Share Option Plan, the exercise price is the volume weighted average trading price of the Shares on the TSX for the five trading days immediately preceding the date of grant. The fair value of the award on the grant date is not different from the fair value if determined in accordance with IFRS 2 Share-based Payment.

- (4) Reflects the value of awards earned in each year under Essential's ABP. ABP payments are typically paid to the executives in March or April of the following calendar year to reward business performance of the prior fiscal year. There were no payments under the ABP in 2015 and 2016 due to the industry downturn.
- (5) For 2017 Mr. Amundson, Mr. Mowbray, Mr. Heck and Ms. Perasalo: includes amounts contributed by the Company on their behalf, subsequent to their individual contribution, pursuant to the Employee Savings Plan ("**Employee Savings Plan Contribution**"). For each, the total value of all other perquisites not generally available to employees did not exceed \$50,000 or 10% of total salary. For 2017 Mr. Newman: includes Employee Savings Plan Contribution: \$14,651; vehicle allowance: \$19,616 and other perquisites, less than 25% of total perquisites. For 2016 Mr. Amundson: includes amounts for a project based bonus ("**Project Bonus**"): \$150,000; Employee Savings Plan Contribution: \$35,594 and a payout of unused vacation pay ("**Vacation Payout**"): \$40,431. The total value of all other perquisites not generally available to employees did not exceed \$50,000 or 10% of total salary. For 2016 Mr. Mowbray: includes Project Bonus: \$40,000; Employee Savings Plan Contribution: \$23,252; Vacation Payout: \$24,481. The total value of all other perquisites not generally available to employees did not exceed \$50,000 or 10% of total salary. For 2016 Mr. Newman: includes Project Bonus: \$100,000; Employee Savings Plan Contribution: \$9,618; Vacation Payout: \$35,769; vehicle allowance: \$20,400 and other perquisites, less than 25% of total perquisites. For 2016 Mr. Job: includes Employee Savings Plan Contribution: \$24,517; Vacation Payout: \$23,077; buy-down of executive contract \$535,000<sup>(9)</sup>; vehicle allowance: \$20,400 and other perquisites, less than 25% of total perquisites. For 2016 Mr. Webster: includes Employee Savings Plan Contribution: \$11,819; Vacation Payout: \$11,528. The total value of all other perquisites not generally available to employees did not exceed \$50,000 or 10% of total salary. For 2015, for each NEO, the values in the table reflect Employee Savings Plan Contributions. The total value of all other perquisites not generally available to employees did not exceed \$50,000 or 10% of total salary. Total salary for each year was considered on a pre-rollback basis.
- (6) Mr. Amundson does not receive compensation for his role as a member of the Board of Directors. After departure of the Chief Operating Officer ("COO") in November 2016, Mr. Amundson undertook the COO duties in addition to his President and CEO duties.
- (7) Mr. Heck was promoted to Vice President, Downhole Tools & Rentals on December 12, 2017 and was considered an NEO for 2017.
- (8) Ms. Perasalo was considered an NEO for 2017 after the departure in 2016 of Mr. Webster and Mr. Job.
- (9) Mr. Job ceased to be the Senior Vice President, Corporate on December 30, 2016. Mr. Job was an employee of Essential as Director, Corporate, a non-NEO role in 2017. As of December 30, 2016, Mr. Job no longer had an executive contract and his term of service was re-set as a new employee. Mr. Job's bonus potential, LTIP grants and benefits were re-set at a non-NEO level. Mr. Job's pre-existing LTIP grants remained intact.
- (10) Mr. Webster resigned from Essential on November 23, 2016.

### Outstanding Option-Based Awards and Share-Based Awards

The following table outlines for each NEO all Option-based awards and Share-based awards (RSU and DSU) outstanding as at December 31, 2017.

Name	Option-Based Awards				Share-Based Awards		
	Number of securities underlying unexercised options (#)	Option exercise price (\$)	Option expiration date	Value of unexercised in-the-money options <sup>(1)</sup> (\$)	Number of shares or units of shares that have not vested <sup>(2)</sup> (#)	Market or payout value of share-based awards that have not vested <sup>(3)</sup> (\$)	Market or payout value of vested share-based awards not paid out or distributed <sup>(4)</sup> (\$)
Garnet Amundson	140,000 115,000 80,000 350,000 430,000 250,000 455,000	\$2.20 \$2.90 \$1.46 \$1.12 \$0.55 \$0.61 \$0.83	Jan 10, 2018 Jan 8, 2019 Jan 14, 2020 Jun 11, 2020 Jan 7, 2021 Jun 30, 2021 Jan 10, 2022	Nil Nil Nil Nil \$73,100 \$27,500 Nil	795,061	\$529,045	\$1,120,154
Allan Mowbray	80,000 55,000 55,000 125,000 180,000 77,083 285,000	\$2.26 \$2.90 \$1.46 \$1.12 \$0.55 \$0.61 \$0.83	May 13, 2018 Jan 8, 2019 Jan 14, 2020 Jun 11, 2020 Jan 7, 2021 Jun 30, 2021 Jan 10, 2022	Nil Nil Nil Nil \$30,600 \$8,479 Nil	150,556	\$92,729	\$429,231
Jeff Newman	80,000 55,000 55,000 200,000 255,000 114,583 205,000	\$2.20 \$2.90 \$1.46 \$1.12 \$0.55 \$0.61 \$0.83	Jan 10, 2018 Jan 8, 2019 Jan 14, 2020 Jun 11, 2020 Jan 7, 2021 Jun 30, 2021 Jan 10, 2022	Nil Nil Nil Nil \$43,350 \$12,604 Nil	454,473	\$309,138	\$468,554
Eldon Heck	30,000 50,000 55,000 55,000 125,000 180,000 260,417 195,000	\$2.20 \$2.60 \$2.90 \$1.46 \$1.12 \$0.55 \$0.61 \$0.83	Jan 10, 2018 Aug 12, 2018 Jan 8, 2019 Jan 14, 2020 Jun 11, 2020 Jan 7, 2021 Jun 30, 2021 Jan 10, 2022	Nil Nil Nil Nil Nil \$30,600 \$28,646 Nil	782,864	\$547,991	Nil
Karen Perasalo	40,000 40,000 55,000 55,000 125,000 180,000 114,583 175,000	\$2.20 \$2.60 \$2.90 \$1.46 \$1.12 \$0.55 \$0.61 \$0.83	Jan 10, 2018 Aug 12, 2018 Jan 8, 2019 Jan 14, 2020 Jun 11, 2020 Jan 7, 2021 Jun 30, 2021 Jan 10, 2022	Nil Nil Nil Nil Nil \$30,600 \$12,604 Nil	342,301	\$230,785	\$439,754

*Notes:*

- (1) Based on the market price of \$0.72 as at December 29, 2017 including vested and unvested Share Options.
- (2) Share based awards consist of RSUs granted in 2015, 2016 and 2017 and DSUs granted in 2017 that have not vested, plus the dividend equivalents earned.
- (3) Includes all unvested time-based RSUs, unvested performance-based RSUs that are expected to vest in 2018 and unvested DSUs, based on the Share price of \$0.72 as at December 29, 2017. All other unvested performance-based RSUs have been included at their minimum value of \$0.
- (4) Includes DSUs that have vested but have not paid out, based on the Share price of \$0.72 as at December 29, 2017. DSUs do not pay out until the NEO is no longer employed by the Company and the value is determined at that future date.

### Incentive Plan Awards – Value Vested or Earned During the Year

The following table sets forth the value of Option-based awards and Share-based awards for each NEO which vested during the year ended December 31, 2017 and the value of non-equity incentive plan compensation earned during the year ended December 31, 2017.

Name	Option-based awards – Value vested during the year <sup>(1)</sup> (\$)	Share-based awards – Value vested during the year		Non-equity incentive plan compensation – Value earned during the year <sup>(4)</sup> (\$)
		RSUs (cash settled) <sup>(2)</sup> (\$)	DSUs (not paid out) <sup>(3)</sup> (\$)	
Garnet Amundson	\$38,933	\$112,089	\$1,125,134	\$515,000
Allan Mowbray	\$16,114	\$36,167	\$443,577	\$195,000
Jeff Newman	\$22,864	\$38,947	\$463,984	\$230,000
Eldon Heck	\$17,336	\$98,325	Nil	\$500,000
Karen Perasalo	\$16,364	\$36,167	\$430,784	\$215,000

*Notes:*

- (1) The value is calculated based on the difference between the Share price at the vesting date and the exercise price of the Share Options on the grant date for the vested Share Options that were “in the money”.
- (2) The value is calculated based on the RSUs that vested in the year multiplied by the five-day volume weighted average Share price at time of vest.
- On January 7, 2017, one third of the time-vested RSUs from the January 7, 2016 grant vested. The five day volume weighted average price was \$0.83. The grant was 50% time-vested and 50% performance-vested (the performance vested grants did not vest until March 7, 2017).
- Time-vested RSUs for Amundson - 60,277; Mowbray - 21,766; Newman - 25,115; Heck - 21,766; Perasalo - 21,766.
- On January 8, 2017, one third of the RSUs from the January 8, 2015 RSU grant vested. The grant was 75% time-vested and 25% performance-vested. The five-day volume weighted average price was \$0.83.
- Time-vested RSUs for Amundson - 32,651; Mowbray - 9,523; Newman - 9,523; Heck - 9,523; Perasalo - 9,523.
  - Performance-vested RSUs that vested for Amundson - 4,353; Mowbray - 1,270; Newman - 1,270; Heck - 3,175; Perasalo - 1,270
  - Performance-vested RSUs that were forfeited as the performance criterion was not met: Amundson - 6,530; Mowbray - 1,905; Newman - 1,905; Perasalo - 1,905.
- On March 7, 2017, one third of the performance-vested RSUs from the January 7, 2016 grant vested. The performance criteria was not met and the RSUs were forfeited. Forfeited RSUs: Amundson - 60,277; Mowbray - 21,766; Newman - 25,115; Heck - 21,766; Perasalo - 21,766.
- On June 11, 2017, the second tranche of the Special RSUs from the June 11, 2015 grant were eligible to vest, but did not vest and did not payout. The grant was 100% performance-vested and the criterion was not met. Given the unique vesting nature of this grant, this tranche will be re-tested in June 2018. On March 7, 2018, the Board determined the Special RSUs will vest in June 2018 and be paid out.
- On June 30, 2017, one third of the time-vested RSUs from the June 30, 2016 grant vested. The five day volume weighted average price was \$0.63. Time vested RSUs for Heck - 96,154.
- On December 13, 2017, one third of the RSUs from the January 8, 2015 RSU grant vested. The grant was 75% time-vested and 25% performance-vested. The five-day volume weighted average price was \$0.72.
- Time-vested RSUs for Amundson - 32,651; Mowbray - 9,523; Newman - 9,523; Heck - 9,523; Perasalo - 9,523.
  - Performance-vested RSUs that vested for Amundson - 10,884; Mowbray - 3,175; Newman - 3,175; Heck - 3,175; Perasalo - 3,175.
- (3) The value of DSUs is calculated based on the DSUs that vested in the year multiplied by the five-day volume weighted average Share price at time of vest. DSUs typically vest one-year after grant, or in certain circumstances, vest at grant. DSUs are not paid out until the individual ceases to be an employee of Essential.
- On January 10, 2017, all of the DSUs from the January 10, 2017 grant vested. The five-day volume weighted average price was \$0.83.
- DSUs vesting for Amundson - 725,000; Mowbray - 340,000; Newman - 270,000; Perasalo - 230,000.
- On June 30, 2017 all of the DSUs from the June 30, 2016 grant vested. The five-day volume weighted average price was \$0.63
- DSUs vesting for Amundson - 830,769; Mowbray - 256,154; Newman 380,769; Perasalo - 380,769.
- (4) Reflects the value of awards earned in 2017 under Essential’s ABP. ABP payments are typically paid to the executives in March or April of the following calendar year to reward business performance of the prior fiscal year.

## Employment Contracts and Termination and Change of Control Benefits

The Company recognizes that the NEOs are critical to Essential’s ongoing business. Essential’s NEOs have employment contracts in place to protect them from employment interruption and treat them in a fair and equitable manner. The following table outlines the key contract terms in place for each NEO in the event of a change in their employment status.

Name	Change of Control		Involuntary Termination		Voluntary Termination	
	% Change in Securities Ownership Required	Payment Obligation <sup>(1)</sup>	Without Cause <sup>(1)</sup>	With Cause	Resignation	Death/Disability <sup>(1)</sup>
Garnet Amundson	more than 50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 24 months pay in lieu of notice at current base salary;</li> <li>▪ accrued and unused vacation for current year and approved and unused vacation from previous year to a maximum 20 days;</li> <li>▪ the average of the bonus payments for the preceding two years multiplied by 2;</li> <li>▪ the pro-rata amount of any earned bonus at the level accrued to or budgeted (whichever is greater) by the Company for the current fiscal year;</li> <li>▪ 20% of the pay in lieu amount for lost benefits; and</li> <li>▪ accelerated vesting of Share Options, RSUs and DSUs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 24 months pay in lieu of notice at current base salary;</li> <li>▪ accrued and unused vacation for current year and approved and unused vacation from previous year to a maximum 20 days;</li> <li>▪ the average of the bonus payments for the preceding two years multiplied by 2;</li> <li>▪ the pro-rata amount of any earned bonus at the level accrued to or budgeted (whichever is greater) by the Company for the current fiscal year;</li> <li>▪ 20% of the pay in lieu amount for lost benefits; and</li> <li>▪ accelerated vesting of Share Options, RSUs and DSUs.</li> </ul>	Nil	Nil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Base salary accrued and unpaid;</li> <li>▪ accrued and unused vacation for current year and approved and unused vacation from previous year to a maximum 20 days;</li> <li>▪ the pro-rata amount of any earned bonus at 'target' level accrued by the Company for the current fiscal year; and</li> <li>▪ upon death: accelerated vesting of Share Options, RSUs and DSUs.</li> </ul>
Allan Mowbray	more than 50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Should a good reason exist (as defined in the employment contract)<sup>(2)</sup> in addition to a 'change of control', the executive would be entitled to the payment described under 'Involuntary Termination - Without Cause'; and</li> <li>▪ accelerated vesting of Share Options, RSUs and DSUs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 12 months pay in lieu of notice at current base salary;</li> <li>▪ accrued and unused vacation for current year and approved and unused vacation from previous year to a maximum 20 days;</li> <li>▪ the average of the bonus payments for the preceding two years multiplied by 1.0;</li> <li>▪ the pro-rata amount of any earned bonus at the level accrued to or budgeted (whichever is greater) by the Company for the current fiscal year;</li> <li>▪ 20% of the pay in lieu amount for lost benefits; and</li> <li>▪ accelerated vesting of Share Options, RSUs and DSUs.</li> </ul>	Nil	Nil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Base salary accrued and unpaid;</li> <li>▪ accrued and unused vacation for current year and approved and unused vacation from previous year to a maximum 20 days;</li> <li>▪ the pro-rata amount of any earned bonus at 'target' level accrued by the Company for the current fiscal year; and</li> <li>▪ upon death: accelerated vesting of Share Options, RSUs and DSUs.</li> </ul>
Jeff Newnan	more than 50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Should a good reason exist (as defined in the employment contract)<sup>(2)</sup> in addition to a 'change of control', the executive would be entitled to the payment described under 'Involuntary Termination - Without Cause'; and</li> <li>▪ accelerated vesting of Share Options, RSUs and DSUs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 18 months pay in lieu of notice at current base salary;</li> <li>▪ accrued and unused vacation for current year and approved and unused vacation from previous year to a maximum 20 days;</li> <li>▪ the average of the bonus payments for the preceding two years multiplied by 1.5;</li> <li>▪ the pro-rata amount of any earned bonus at the level accrued to or budgeted (whichever is greater) by the Company for the current fiscal year;</li> <li>▪ 20% of the pay in lieu amount for lost benefits; and</li> <li>▪ accelerated vesting of Share Options, RSUs and DSUs.</li> </ul>	Nil	Nil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Base salary accrued and unpaid;</li> <li>▪ accrued and unused vacation for current year and approved and unused vacation from previous year to a maximum 20 days;</li> <li>▪ the pro-rata amount of any earned bonus at 'target' level accrued by the Company for the current fiscal year; and</li> <li>▪ upon death: accelerated vesting of Share Options, RSUs and DSUs.</li> </ul>
Eldon Heck	more than 50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Should a good reason exist (as defined in the employment contract)<sup>(2)</sup> in addition to a 'change of control', the executive would be entitled to the payment described under 'Involuntary Termination - Without Cause'; and</li> <li>▪ accelerated vesting of Share Options, RSUs and DSUs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 18 months pay in lieu of notice at current base salary;</li> <li>▪ accrued and unused vacation for current year and approved and unused vacation from previous year to a maximum 20 days;</li> <li>▪ the average of the bonus payments for the preceding two years multiplied by 1.5;</li> <li>▪ the pro-rata amount of any earned bonus at the level accrued to or budgeted (whichever is greater) by the Company for the current fiscal year;</li> <li>▪ 20% of the pay in lieu amount for lost benefits; and</li> <li>▪ accelerated vesting of Share Options, RSUs and DSUs.</li> </ul>	Nil	Nil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Base salary accrued and unpaid;</li> <li>▪ accrued and unused vacation for current year and approved and unused vacation from previous year to a maximum 20 days;</li> <li>▪ the pro-rata amount of any earned bonus at 'target' level accrued by the Company for the current fiscal year; and</li> <li>▪ upon death: accelerated vesting of Share Options, RSUs and DSUs.</li> </ul>

Name	Change of Control		Involuntary Termination		Voluntary Termination	
	% Change in Securities Ownership Required	Payment Obligation <sup>(1)</sup>	Without Cause <sup>(1)</sup>	With Cause	Resignation	Death/Disability <sup>(1)</sup>
Karen Perasalo	more than 50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Should a good reason exist (as defined in the employment contract)<sup>(2)</sup> in addition to a 'change of control', the executive would be entitled to the payment described under 'Involuntary Termination – Without Cause'; and</li> <li>▪ accelerated vesting of Share Options, RSUs and DSUs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 12 months pay in lieu of notice at current base salary;</li> <li>▪ accrued and unused vacation for current year and approved and unused vacation from previous year to a maximum 20 days;</li> <li>▪ the average of the bonus payments for the preceding two years multiplied by 1.0;</li> <li>▪ the pro-rata amount of any earned bonus at the level accrued to or budgeted (whichever is greater) by the Company for the current fiscal year;</li> <li>▪ 20% of the pay in lieu amount for lost benefits; and</li> <li>▪ accelerated vesting of Share Options, RSUs and DSUs.</li> </ul>	Nil	Nil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Base salary accrued and unpaid;</li> <li>▪ accrued and unused vacation for current year and approved and unused vacation from previous year to a maximum 20 days;</li> <li>▪ the pro-rata amount of any earned bonus at 'target' level accrued by the Company for the current fiscal year; and</li> <li>▪ upon death: accelerated vesting of Share Options, RSUs and DSUs.</li> </ul>

Notes:

- (1) Any decrease to an NEOs compensation, taken as a cost reduction measure, will be ignored for severance payment calculations and the executive's compensation will be taken at the level it was at prior to the reductions including salary, target bonus and benefits.
- (2) Good reason is defined in each NEO's employment contract and references the NEO's right to terminate their employment in certain circumstances, which includes generally those matters at common law that are interpreted to be constructive dismissal.

The following table outlines the estimated incremental payments the NEOs would be entitled to had their employment been terminated without cause, or in the case of the President and CEO, had a change of control occurred on December 31, 2017, or in the case of the other NEOs, had a change of control occurred on December 31, 2017 and there was 'good reason', as defined in their employment contracts.

Name	Severance Period (# of months)	Severance Package <sup>(1)</sup>	Contractual Share Option/RSU Obligation <sup>(2)</sup>	Contractual DSU Obligation <sup>(3)</sup>	Total Obligation
Garnet Amundson	24	\$1,955,000	\$673,044	\$1,120,154	\$3,748,198
Allan Mowbray	12	\$475,500	\$147,480	\$429,231	\$1,052,211
Jeff Newman	18	\$808,500	\$383,175	\$468,554	\$1,660,229
Eldon Heck	18	\$1,107,000	\$529,308	\$93,600	\$1,729,908
Karen Perasalo	12	\$483,500	\$289,660	\$439,754	\$1,212,914

Notes:

- (1) Includes salary, bonus and benefits for the specified severance period.
- (2) Includes accelerated vesting and assumed payout of unvested Share Options and unvested RSUs using the December 29, 2017 Share price of \$0.72.
- (3) Includes assumed payout of vested and unvested DSUs using the December 29, 2017 Share price of \$0.72. DSUs by their nature do not pay out until the NEO leaves the organization. The value in the table represents DSUs earned to date (vested and unvested) that have not paid out.

## DIRECTOR COMPENSATION

Essential provides its non-employee directors with a comprehensive compensation package consisting of an annual cash retainer, meeting fees and long-term incentives in the form of DSUs granted pursuant to the DSU Plan.

All elements of director compensation are typically reviewed annually for competitiveness against Essential's peer group by the C&G Committee and the Board of Directors with the objective of attracting and retaining qualified members to serve on the Board of Directors. In 2013 and 2014, Lane Caputo reviewed the director's compensation relative to Essential's peer group and made recommendations to the C&G Committee and the Board of Directors which included considerations in respect of the retainers, meeting fees and DSU grants. In March 2015, in response to the industry downturn, the Board of Directors accepted a 20% reduction in their annual retainer and a 20% reduction in meeting fees. This was in-line with the salary reduction accepted by the NEOs. In July 2016, the Board of Directors accepted a further 10% reduction in their annual retainer and a further 10% reduction in their meeting fees. In July 2017, 10% of the reduction was reversed and for the remainder of 2017, a 20% reduction remained for the annual retainer and meeting fees.

### Summary Director Compensation Table

The following table outlines for the year ended December 31, 2017 information concerning the compensation paid to members of the Board of Directors other than Mr. Amundson. Mr. Amundson is also an NEO and is not separately compensated for his duties as a director. Mr. Amundson's compensation has been disclosed in the preceding section related to NEO compensation.

Name	Fees earned (\$)	Share-based awards <sup>(1)</sup> (\$)	Non-equity incentive plan compensation (\$)	Pension value (\$)	All other compensation (\$)	Total (\$)
James Banister <sup>(2)</sup>	\$54,280	\$53,550	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$107,830
Michael Black	\$35,280	\$35,700	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$70,980
Robert German <sup>(3)</sup>	\$45,540	\$35,700	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$81,240
Nicholas Kirton <sup>(4)</sup>	\$51,240	\$35,700	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$86,940
Robert Michaleski <sup>(5)</sup>	\$51,240	\$35,700	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$86,940

Notes:

- (1) This is related to DSUs and reflects the grant date fair value which is the theoretical expected value calculated at the date of grant by multiplying the number of DSUs granted by the closing price of Shares on the date of grant (\$0.51). This value may differ from the actual amount paid at the time the awards are paid out.
- (2) Mr. Banister is the Chairman of the Board of Directors.
- (3) Mr. German is the Chairman of the HSE Committee.
- (4) Mr. Kirton is the Chairman of the Audit Committee.
- (5) Mr. Michaleski is the Chairman of the C & G Committee.

### Director Retainers and Fees Summary

Annual Board of Directors and committee retainers are paid quarterly and pro-rated for partial service. The same meeting fees are paid for attending meetings in person or by conference call.

	2017	
	January 1 – June 30 <sup>(1)</sup> Annualized	July 1 – December 31 <sup>(2)</sup> Annualized
Board of Directors Chair <sup>(3)</sup>	\$39,600	\$44,000
Board of Directors Member	\$21,600	\$24,000
Audit / C&G Committee Chair <sup>(3)</sup>	\$32,400	\$36,000
HSE Committee Chair <sup>(3)</sup>	\$27,000	\$30,000
Board of Directors and Committee Meeting (per meeting)	\$1,080	\$1,200

Notes:

- (1) Effective March 16, 2015, the Board of Directors reduced the retainer and meeting fees by 20%. Effective July 1, 2016, the Board of Directors reduced the retainer and meeting fees by an incremental 10%.
- (2) Effective July 1, 2017, the Board of Directors reinstated the 10% rollback for the retainer and meeting fees. A 20% rollback remained in effect for the remainder of 2017.
- (3) Represents the total retainer paid to the chairs. It is not additive to the Board of Director's member retainer.

### Director Retainers and Fees Paid in 2017

Name	Chairman Retainer (\$)	Board Member Retainer (\$)	Committee Chair Retainer (\$)	Board Meetings <sup>(1)</sup> (\$)	Committee Meetings (\$)	Total (\$)
James Banister	\$19,000	\$22,800	-	\$7,920	\$4,560	\$54,280
Michael Black	-	\$22,800	-	\$7,920	\$4,560	\$35,280
Robert German	-	\$22,800	\$5,700	\$7,920	\$9,120	\$45,540
Nicholas Kirton	-	\$22,800	\$11,400	\$7,920	\$9,120	\$51,240
Robert Michaleski	-	\$22,800	\$11,400	\$7,920	\$9,120	\$51,240

Note:

- (1) Includes meeting fees earned for board meetings attended and attendance at the Annual General Meeting.

## Directors' Outstanding Option-Based Awards and Share-Based Awards

The following table outlines for each member of the Board of Directors, other than Mr. Amundson who is an NEO, all Option-based and Share-based awards outstanding for the year ended December 31, 2017.

	Option-based awards				Share-based awards		
	Number of securities underlying unexercised options (#)	Option exercise price (\$)	Option expiration date	Value of unexercised in-the-money options (\$)	Number of shares or units of shares that have not vested <sup>(1)</sup> (#)	Market or payout value of share-based awards that have not vested <sup>(2)</sup> (\$)	Market or payout value of vested share-based awards not paid out or distributed <sup>(3)</sup> (\$)
James Banister	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	105,000	\$75,600	\$185,646
Michael Black	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	70,000	\$50,400	\$133,364
Robert German	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	70,000	\$50,400	\$146,072
Nicholas Kirton	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	70,000	\$50,400	\$133,364
Robert Michaleski	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	70,000	\$50,400	\$150,308

Notes:

(1) Share based awards consist of DSUs granted in 2017.

(2) Based on the market price of \$0.72 as at December 29, 2017.

(3) DSUs typically vest one-year after grant but are not paid out until the individual ceases to be an Eligible Director. Based on the Share price of \$0.72 as at December 29, 2017 multiplied by the DSUs that have vested (to-date), including the dividend equivalents. Vested Share-based awards for Banister – 257,842; Black – 185,228; German – 202,878; Kirton – 185,228 and Michaleski – 208,761.

## Director Incentive Plan Awards – Value Vested or Earned During the Year

The following table sets forth the value of Option-based and Share-based awards that vested during the year ended December 31, 2017 for each member of the Board of Directors, other than Mr. Amundson who is an NEO, and the value of non-equity incentive plan compensation earned during the year ended December 31, 2017. The Company does not have a non-equity incentive plan in place for members of the Board of Directors.

Name	Option-Based Awards – Value Vested During the Year (\$)	Share-Based Awards – Value Vested During the Year - DSUs <sup>(1)</sup> (\$)	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation – Value Earned During the Year (\$)
James Banister	n/a	\$89,600	n/a
Michael Black	n/a	\$67,200	n/a
Robert German	n/a	\$67,200	n/a
Nicholas Kirton	n/a	\$67,200	n/a
Robert Michaleski	n/a	\$67,200	n/a

Note:

(1) The value is calculated based on the DSUs that vested in the year multiplied by the Share price at the time of vest. DSUs cannot be exercised until the director is no longer an Eligible Director. On August 11, 2017, the DSUs granted on August 11, 2016 vested but were not exercised. The value is the five-day volume weighted average Share price at time of vest (\$0.56) multiplied by the DSUs that vested. Share-based awards vesting for Banister – 160,000; Black – 120,000; German – 120,000; Kirton – 120,000 and Michaleski – 120,000.

## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE DISCLOSURE

Set out below is a description of the corporate governance practices of Essential, in accordance with National Instrument 58-101 – Disclosure of Corporate Governance Practices (“**NI 58-101**”).

### Board of Directors

***Disclose the identity of directors who are independent. Disclose the identity of directors who are not independent, and describe the basis for that determination. Disclose whether or not a majority of directors are independent. If a majority of directors are not independent, describe what the Board of Directors does to facilitate its exercise of independent judgment in carrying out its responsibilities.***

NI 58-101 defines “independence” by reference to the meaning of section 1.4 of NI 52-110, which provides that a member is “independent” if the member has no direct or indirect material relationship with the issuer, a “material relationship” being one which could, in the view of the issuer’s board of directors, be reasonably expected to interfere with the exercise of a member’s independent judgement. NI 52-110 also specifically prescribes certain relationships which are deemed to be material.

Based on the foregoing, Essential has determined that all of its current directors are independent, except for Mr. Amundson and Mr. Black. Mr. Amundson is considered to have a material relationship with Essential by virtue of his position as President and Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Black is considered to have a potentially material relationship with Essential by virtue of his position as a partner of the law firm that provides legal services to Essential. The majority of the Board of Directors are independent.

Assuming the directors nominated for election at the Meeting are elected, the Board of Directors will continue to be comprised of six directors, four of whom are independent.

***If a director is presently a director of any other issuer that is a reporting issuer (or the equivalent) in a jurisdiction or a foreign jurisdiction, identify both the director and the other issuer.***

The following is a list of the current directors who are presently directors of other reporting issuers (or the equivalent):

Name	Name of Reporting Issuer
Robert Michaleski	Pembina Pipeline Corporation (TSX) Vermillion Energy Inc. (TSX)

***Disclose whether or not the independent directors hold regularly scheduled meetings at which non-independent directors and members of management are not in attendance. If the independent directors hold such meetings, disclose the number of meetings held since the beginning of the issuer’s most recently completed financial year. If the independent directors do not hold such meetings, describe what the Board of Directors does to facilitate open and candid discussion among its independent directors.***

The independent directors do not hold regularly scheduled Board of Director meetings at which non-independent directors are not in attendance, however, at each Board of Directors meeting, the directors hold an *in camera* session at which members of management, including the employee director, are not in attendance.

The C&G Committee is comprised entirely of independent directors and holds regular *in camera* sessions where management is not present. There were four such meetings in 2017.

The Audit Committee is comprised entirely of independent directors and holds regular *in camera* sessions where management is not present. There were four such meetings in 2017.

The HSE Committee holds regular *in camera* sessions where the employee director and management are not present, except for the Director, Health, Safety and Environment, the highest level non-executive employee responsible for this area. There were four such meetings in 2017.

If the Board of Directors deems a conflict with a non-independent director in attendance, at any Board or HSE Committee meeting, an *in camera* session would be held without that director. Essential maintains a majority of independent directors and there are procedures to ensure the Board of Directors is able to, and does, function independently of management.

***Disclose whether or not the chair of the Board of Directors is an independent director. If the Board of Directors has a chair or lead director who is an independent director, disclose the identity of the independent chair or lead director, and describe his or her role and responsibilities. If the Board of Directors has neither a chair that is independent nor a lead director that is independent, describe what the Board of Directors does to provide leadership for its independent directors.***

The chairman of the Board of Directors (“**Board Chair**”) is Mr. Banister and he is an independent director. The Board Chair’s primary role is to manage the Board of Directors and ensure that the Board of Directors is organized properly and functions effectively to meet its obligations and responsibilities. The Board Chair works with the President and Chief Executive Officer of Essential to ensure effective relations with members of the Board of Directors, Shareholders, other stakeholders and the public.

***Disclose the attendance record of each director for all Board of Director meetings held since the beginning of the issuer’s most recently completed financial year.***

The attendance record for each director of Essential since the beginning of the most recently completed financial year is indicated in the following table.

Name	2017 Board Meetings Attended	2018 Board Meetings Attended <sup>(1)</sup>
Garnet Amundson	6 of 6	2 of 2
James Banister	6 of 6	2 of 2
Michael Black	6 of 6	2 of 2
Robert German	6 of 6	2 of 2
Nicholas Kirton	6 of 6	2 of 2
Robert Michaleski	6 of 6	2 of 2

Note:

(1) From January 1, 2018 to March 26, 2018.

### **Board Mandate**

***Disclose the text of the Board of Directors’ written mandate. If the Board of Directors does not have a written mandate, describe how the Board of Directors delineates its role and responsibilities***

The mandate of the Board of Directors is attached as Appendix “A”.

### **Position Descriptions**

***Disclose whether or not the Board of Directors has developed written position descriptions for the Board Chair and the chair of each committee of the Board of Directors. If the Board of Directors has not developed written position descriptions for the Board Chair and/or the chair of each committee of the Board of Directors, briefly describe how the Board of Directors delineates the role and responsibilities of each such position.***

The Board of Directors has developed written position descriptions or terms of reference for the Board Chair and the chair of each committee of the Board of Directors (which include terms of reference for the chair for each of the Audit Committee, the C&G Committee and the HSE Committee).

***Disclose whether or not the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer have developed a written position description for the Chief Executive Officer. If the Board of Directors and the Chief Executive Officer have not developed such a position description, briefly describe how the Board of Directors delineates the role and responsibilities of the Chief Executive Officer.***

The Board of Directors and the President and Chief Executive Officer have developed a written position description referred to as the Terms of Reference for the President and Chief Executive Officer.

### **Orientation and Continuing Education**

***Briefly describe what measures the Board of Directors takes to orient new directors regarding:***

- (i) the role of the Board of Directors, its committees and its directors; and***
- (ii) the nature and operation of the issuer's business.***

The Board of Directors has a Charters and Policies Manual that provides guidance to the Board of Directors, the Board Chair and the various committees of the Board of Directors and their respective chairman on various corporate governance matters. It also serves as a primary source of information concerning governance and the mandate of the Board of Directors and its committees. The Charters and Policies Manual includes each of the following items:

- Mandates for the Board of Directors and each committee of the Board of Directors;
- Position descriptions and terms of reference for the Board Chair, each committee chair, the directors, and the President and Chief Executive Officer;
- Governance Guidelines;
- Code of Business Conduct and Ethics (“**Corporate Code of Conduct**”);
- Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Guidelines for Directors and Officers (“**Code for Directors and Officers**”);
- Disclosure and Confidentiality Policy;
- Insider Trading Policy;
- Privacy Policy; and
- Whistleblower Policy.

New directors are invited to meet with senior management to learn about the business and may be invited to sit as an observer at the Board of Directors meeting and relevant committee meetings just prior to their anticipated approval as a director. Members of the Board of Directors are also encouraged to attend relevant third party development courses. Through these means, the Board of Directors attempts to ensure that all new directors receive a comprehensive orientation regarding both the business of Essential and the duties of a director.

***Briefly describe what measures, if any, the Board of Directors takes to provide continuing education for its directors. If the Board of Directors does not provide continuing education, describe how the Board of Directors ensures that its directors maintain the skill and knowledge necessary to meet their obligations as directors.***

The President and Chief Executive Officer and the management team provide regular written and verbal updates to the Board of Directors to keep the directors apprised of current industry conditions and business operations on a historical and prospective basis. Members of the Board of Directors are encouraged to communicate with management, auditors and industry contacts to keep themselves current with industry trends and developments and changes in regulations and legislation.

The C&G Committee makes recommendations regarding ongoing professional development programs for directors and directors are encouraged to participate in continuing education programs that are focused on enhancing individual director’s skills and abilities as directors and maintaining and enhancing the currency of their knowledge and understanding of Essential’s business.

A Board of Directors' field education day was held in April 2017 for the directors to visit the operations facility in Red Deer, Alberta, view equipment and meet operational managers.

### **Ethical Business Conduct**

*Disclose whether or not the Board of Directors has adopted a written code for the directors, officers and employees. If the Board of Directors has adopted a written code:*

- (i) *disclose how a person or company may obtain a copy of the code;*
- (ii) *describe how the Board of Directors monitors compliance with its code, or if the Board of Directors does not monitor compliance, explain whether and how the Board of Directors satisfies itself regarding compliance with its code; and*
- (iii) *provide a cross-reference to any material change report filed since the beginning of the issuer's most recently completed financial year that pertains to any conduct of a director or executive officer that constitutes a departure from the code.*

Essential has the Corporate Code of Conduct that is applicable to Essential's directors, officers and employees and the Code for Directors and Officers which is applicable to Essential's directors and officers. The Corporate Code of Conduct and/or the Code for Directors and Officers, as applicable, is made available to all employees and can also be accessed on the Essential website at [www.essentialenergy.ca](http://www.essentialenergy.ca) and via SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com). Essential requires regular sign-off of the Code for Directors and Officers or the Corporate Code of Conduct, as applicable, by the members of the Board of Directors, officers, Calgary office employees and certain operational managers.

Employees with questions about the Corporate Code of Conduct are encouraged to refer the matter to their Divisional Director, General Manager, Chief Financial Officer, Corporate Secretary, President and Chief Executive Officer or the Chair of the C&G Committee. Employees and directors are required to promptly report violations to the President and Chief Executive Officer or the Chair of the C&G Committee. All reports will be reviewed and if appropriate, investigated in a discreet, confidential, professional, unbiased and timely manner. Any violations of the Corporate Code of Conduct or the Code for Directors and Officers may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

The Code for Directors and Officers provides that any nominee director must disclose to the C&G Committee all interests and relationships that the nominee director is aware of at the time which will or may give rise to a conflict of interest. If such interest or relationship arises while the individual is a director, there is a positive onus on the director to disclose relevant facts to the Corporate Secretary or the Board Chair. Each director is also required by the Code for Directors and Officers to report any known or suspected breach of the Corporate Code of Conduct to the Board Chair, and is regularly required to review and sign an executed copy of the Code for Directors and Officers.

Neither the President and CEO nor the Chair of the C&G Committee is aware of any conduct of a director or officer that constitutes a departure from the Code for Directors and Officers requiring the filing of a material change report since the beginning of the Company's most recently completed financial year.

*Describe any steps the Board of Directors takes to ensure directors exercise independent judgment in considering transactions and agreements in respect of which a director or executive officer has a material interest.*

In accordance with the Act, directors who are a party to or are a director or an officer of a party to a material contract or material transaction with Essential are required to disclose the nature and extent of their interest and are not permitted to vote on any resolution to approve the contract or transaction. See "Conflicts of Interest" in the Annual Information Form for further information regarding potential conflicts of interests involving members of the Board of Directors.

***Describe any other steps the Board of Directors takes to encourage and promote a culture of ethical business conduct.***

As discussed above, the Corporate Code of Conduct, which is applicable to all employees, sets out certain common values under which Essential and its employees conduct the Company's business. This Corporate Code of Conduct, which is promoted by management, is intended to create a positive image of Essential by promoting high ethical standards in all aspects of the Company's business.

**Nomination of Directors**

***Describe the process by which the Board of Directors identifies new candidates for nomination to the Board of Directors.***

The nominees for directors are initially considered and recommended by the C&G Committee, after consultation with the President and Chief Executive Officer, to the Board of Directors, approved by the Board of Directors and appointed annually by the Shareholders. Selection of nominees for election takes into consideration such matters that the C&G Committee and the Board of Directors deem relevant including any gaps in competencies and skills of the Board of Directors and the competencies and skills each nominee will bring to the Board of Directors along with the ability of any such nominee to devote sufficient time and resources to their duties as a member of the Board of Directors. In accordance with the mandate of the Board of Directors, the Board's set of criteria for addressing composition of the Board includes the present and anticipated skill set needed by the Board, experience, ethics, education, time availability, involvement in activities that conflict with Essential's business, term and the number of other directorships held. Other matters may be included that vary from time to time.

***Disclose whether or not the Board of Directors has a nominating committee composed entirely of independent directors. If the Board of Directors does not have a nominating committee composed entirely of independent directors, describe what steps the Board of Directors takes to encourage an objective nomination process.***

The C&G Committee, comprised entirely of independent directors, carries out some of the duties of a nominating committee and the full Board of Directors acts as a committee in respect of ultimately nominating candidates for election to the Board of Directors. The C&G Committee makes nominee recommendations to the Board of Directors and the Board of Directors as a whole approves nominees to the Board of Directors. Full Board discussion and approval encourages an objective and robust nomination process.

The C&G Committee is required to perform the following duties in respect of its governance mandate related to nomination to the Board of Directors and composition of the Board of Directors:

- (a) develop, and annually update, a long-term plan for Board composition that takes into consideration the current strengths, skills and experience on the Board, retirement dates and the strategic direction of Essential;
- (b) develop recommendations regarding the essential and desired experiences and skills for potential directors, taking into consideration the Board's short-term needs and long-term succession plans including considering the competencies and skills the Board, as a whole, should possess and the competencies and skills each existing member of the Board of Directors possesses;
- (c) in consultation with the Board Chair and the Chief Executive Officer, recommend to the Board of Directors nominees for election as members of the Board taking into consideration such matters as the C&G Committee deems relevant including the matters referred to above, and the competencies and skills each new nominee will bring to the Board and the ability of any such new nominee to devote sufficient time and resources to his or her duties as a member of the Board; and
- (d) evaluate regularly the effectiveness and contribution of the Board, the Board Chair and the chair of each committee and the effectiveness and contribution of individual directors, having regard for the mandate of the Board and position description, the results of surveys of the directors, attendance at Board and committee meetings, overall contribution and, in the case of individual directors, the competencies and skills the individual director is expected to bring to the Board.

## Compensation

***Describe the process by which the Board of Directors determines the compensation for the issuer's directors and officers.***

The C&G Committee has the responsibility to annually review the directors' and officers' compensation program and make any recommendations to the Board of Directors for approval. Further details are outlined in the "Director Compensation" section and the "Executive Compensation" section of this Circular.

***Disclose whether or not the Board of Directors has a compensation committee composed entirely of independent directors. If the Board of Directors does not have a compensation committee composed entirely of independent directors, describe what steps the Board of Directors takes to ensure an objective process for determining such compensation.***

The mandate of the C&G Committee includes compensation matters. The C&G Committee is comprised entirely of independent directors.

***If the Board of Directors has a compensation committee, describe the responsibilities, powers and operation of the compensation committee.***

The purpose of the C&G Committee as it relates to compensation matters is to assist the Board of Directors in fulfilling its oversight obligations relating to human resource and compensation matters including succession planning for senior management. The C&G Committee will also review and/or approve any other matters specifically delegated to the C&G Committee by the Board of Directors.

Subject to the powers and duties of the Board of Directors, the C&G Committee is required to perform the following duties in respect of its compensation mandate:

- (a) recommend a performance evaluation process and metrics for the Chief Executive Officer and receive the Board Chair's evaluation of the Chief Executive Officer;
- (b) review and recommend to the Board of Directors for approval the Chief Executive Officer's compensation including incentives, bonuses and benefit plans;
- (c) review the recommendations of the Chief Executive Officer and recommend to the Board of Directors for approval the executive team's compensation including incentives, bonuses and benefit plans;
- (d) establish and review annually the compensation philosophy, guidelines and plans for Essential employees and executives in conjunction with periodic reviews of peer group compensation policies to permit effective comparison with those of Essential;
- (e) review and approve the recommendations of the Chief Executive Officer regarding compensation including incentives, bonuses and benefit plans for Essential employees other than the executive team and the Chief Executive Officer;
- (f) recommend to the Board of Directors any long-term incentive plan grant for the executive team, the Chief Executive Officer and the Board of Directors;
- (g) review and approve the recommendation of the Chief Executive Officer regarding any long-term incentive plan grant and long-term incentive plan pools for Essential employees other than the executive team and the Chief Executive Officer;
- (h) recommend to the Board of Directors any incentive compensation plans and equity based plans, including but not limited to the Share Option Plan, Restricted Share Unit Plan and Deferred Share Unit Plan;

- (i) review annually the succession plan for the Chief Executive Officer position and recommend such plan to the Board of Directors;
- (j) review with the Chief Executive Officer existing management resources and plans, including recruitment and training programs, to ensure that qualified personnel are attracted and developed with a view toward becoming available for succession to executive positions at Essential and key officer positions in its major subsidiaries, and report on this matter to the Board of Directors at least once each year;
- (k) review and recommend to the Board of Directors for approval, all executive compensation information for inclusion in public disclosure documents; and
- (l) review annually director compensation and recommend compensation terms that adequately reflect the responsibilities of the Board of Directors, the Board Chair, committee chairs and members.

The C&G Committee has the power to retain special legal, accounting, financial or other consultants or advisors to advise the C&G Committee, at Essential's expense, including a compensation consultant or advisor.

### **Other Board Committees**

***If the Board of Directors has standing committees other than the Audit and Compensation and Governance Committees, identify the committees and describe their function.***

In addition to the committees set out above, the Board of Directors also has an HSE Committee. The primary function of this committee is to assist the Board of Directors in carrying out its oversight and due diligence responsibilities by reviewing, reporting and making recommendations to the Board of Directors on the development and implementation of the policies, standards and practices of Essential with respect to health, safety and the environment.

In addition to the disclosure contained in this document, please see Essential's Annual Information Form for the year ended December 31, 2017 filed on SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com) for further details regarding the Audit Committee and the mandate of the Audit Committee of Essential.

### **Assessments**

***Disclose whether or not the Board of Directors, its committees and individual directors are regularly assessed with respect to their effectiveness and contribution. If assessments are regularly conducted, describe the process used for the assessments. If assessments are not regularly conducted, describe how the Board of Directors satisfies itself that the Board of Directors, its committees, and its individual directors are performing effectively.***

The Board of Directors conducts an annual performance assessment of its overall performance, committee performance and individual self-assessments by each director. The objective of the review is to contribute to a process of continuous improvement in the Board of Directors' execution of its responsibilities. The assessments are conducted using a questionnaire that has been approved by, and then administered by the C&G Committee. The review has regard to the mandate of the Board of Directors and the applicable committees and identifies areas where the directors believe the Board of Directors could improve their collective contribution to overseeing the business and operation of Essential. The Board members also self-assess their effectiveness, contribution and competencies, as individual directors.

### **Director Term Limits and Other Mechanisms of Board Renewal**

***Disclose whether or not the Board of Directors has adopted term limits for the directors or other mechanisms of Board renewal, and if so, include a description of those director term limits or other mechanisms of Board renewal. If not, disclose why it has not done so.***

Essential has not adopted director term limits. The Board of Directors does not believe that tenure of a director is necessarily a predictor of director effectiveness. Through the annual Board assessment process (discussed above in

the section “Assessments”), the Board of Directors rigorously assess the effectiveness, contributions, competencies and skills of the individual directors and the Board as a whole with a view to identifying any gaps in skills and competencies considered most relevant for Board renewal considerations.

### **Policies Regarding the Representation of Women on the Board**

*Disclose whether the issuer has adopted a written policy relating to the identification and nomination of women directors. If not, disclose why it has not done so.*

Essential has not adopted a written policy relating to the identification and nomination of women directors. The C&G Committee and the Board of Directors believe a number of factors should be considered when identifying and nominating a director. While gender is a factor that is considered, a variety of other skills and experiences are also considered to find the best candidate.

### **Consideration Given to the Representation of Women in the Director Identification and Selection Process**

*Disclose whether and, if so, how the Board or nominating committee considers the level of representation of women on the Board in identifying and nominating candidates for election or re-election to the Board, and if not, disclose the issuer’s reasons for not doing so.*

The C&G Committee and the Board of Directors go through a rigorous process when considering a nominee director including an evaluation of the skills and experience of the current directors, determining the gaps in skills and experience that exist and finding potential candidates to fill those gaps and round out the skills and experience of the Board of Directors as a whole. While gender has factored into recent director searches, the final recommendation for nomination has been based on the best combination of skills and experience for the position without placing a specific emphasis on gender as a factor.

### **Consideration Given to the Representation of Women in Executive Officer Appointments**

*Disclose whether and, if so, how the issuer considers the level of representation of women in executive officer positions when making executive officer appointments. If the issuer does not consider the level of representation of women in executive officer positions when making executive officer appointments, disclose the issuer’s reasons for not doing so.*

Senior management does not specifically focus on having a certain representation of women in executive officer positions. When making executive officer appointments, the skills and experiences of the candidates are considered without specifically targeting a male or female candidate. The successful candidate is the one with the desired mix of skills and experience, regardless of the individual’s gender.

### **Issuer’s Targets Regarding the Representation of Women on the Board and in Executive Officer Positions**

*Disclose whether the issuer has adopted a target regarding women on the issuer’s board. If not, disclose why it has not done so.*

Essential has not adopted a target regarding the number of women on the Board of Directors. As discussed above, the C&G Committee and the Board of Directors focus on best combination of skills and experience for the position rather than setting a specific target based on gender.

*Disclose whether the issuer has adopted a target regarding women in executive officer positions of the issuer. If not, disclose why it has not done so.*

Essential has not adopted a target regarding women in executive officer positions. As discussed above, senior management focuses on the best combination of skills and experience for the position rather than setting a specific target based on gender.

### **Number of Women on the Board and in Executive Officer Positions**

*Disclose the number and proportion (in percentage terms) of directors on the issuer's board who are women.*

Essential has no (0%) women on the Board of Directors.

*Disclose the number and proportion (in percentage terms) of executive officers of the issuer, including all major subsidiaries of the issuer, who are women.*

Essential has one woman in an executive officer position, representing 20% of the executive officers, at March 26, 2018. The position held by the woman is Vice President, Investor Relations and Corporate Secretary.

### **INDEBTEDNESS OF DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

None of the directors, nominee directors or senior officers of Essential, nor any of their associates, or affiliates is now or has been indebted to Essential or any of its subsidiaries since the commencement of the last completed fiscal year, other than for routine indebtedness, nor is, or at any time since the beginning of the most recently completed financial year of Essential has, any indebtedness of any such person been subject of a guarantee, support agreement, letter of credit or other similar arrangement or understanding provided by Essential or any of its subsidiaries.

### **INTEREST OF INFORMED PERSONS IN MATERIAL TRANSACTIONS**

There were no material interests, direct or indirect, of directors and officers of Essential, nominees for director, any Shareholder who beneficially owns more than 10% of the Shares, any other informed person (as defined in NI 51-102), or any known associate or affiliate of such persons, in any transaction since the beginning of Essential's most recently completed financial year or in any proposed transaction which has materially affected or would materially affect Essential or any of their respective subsidiaries other than as set forth herein.

### **OTHER MATTERS**

Essential knows of no amendment, variation or other matter to come before the Meeting other than the matters referred to in the Notice of Meeting. However, if any other matter properly comes before the Meeting, the accompanying proxy will be voted on such matter in accordance with the best judgment of the person or persons voting the proxy.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Additional information relating to Essential is available on SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com). Financial and other information with respect to Essential is provided in Essential's annual audited consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2017 and the related management's discussion and analysis. Copies of Essential's financial statements and related management discussion and analysis are available upon request from Essential at Essential Energy Services Ltd., Livingston Place West, 1100, 250 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Street S.W., Calgary, Alberta T2P 0C1, attention: Corporate Secretary, by telephone at (403) 513-7272 or by email at [service@essentialenergy.ca](mailto:service@essentialenergy.ca). This information is also accessible on Essential's website at [www.essentialenergy.ca](http://www.essentialenergy.ca).

## APPENDIX A

### MANDATE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In the Mandate of the Board, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings ascribed thereto:

"**Auditor**" means an external auditor to Essential;

"**Board**" or "**Board of Directors**" or "**Directors**" means the board of directors of the Corporation;

"**Board Chair**" refers to the chair of the Board, or to any lead director who is an independent director elected by peers to act as lead director;

"**Chairs**" or "**Committee Chairs**" refer to chairs of any Committee of the Corporation;

"**Chief Executive Officer**" means the President and Chief Executive Officer of Essential Energy Services Ltd.;

"**Committees**" means the committees of the Board;

"**Corporation**" means Essential Energy Services Ltd.;

"**Essential**" means, collectively, the Corporation and its subsidiaries and affiliated entities;

"**Executive Officers**" or "**Officers**" means the executive officers of the Corporation;

"**Mandate**" means the mandate of the Board of Directors of the Corporation;

"**Shares**" means shares of the Corporation.

#### **Introduction to Stewardship Duties**

The purposes and responsibilities outlined in this Mandate and accompanying Board materials are meant to serve as guidelines rather than inflexible rules and the Board may adopt such additional procedures and standards as it deems necessary from time to time to fulfil its responsibilities.

The Board is responsible to shareholders and others for the stewardship of Essential. The Board is responsible to oversee management of the business affairs of the Corporation and to act with a view to the best interests of the Corporation, growing value and maximizing return to shareholders.

The Board has plenary power with respect to the Corporation. Any responsibility not delegated to management or a Committee of the Board remains with the Board.

#### **General Legal Obligations of the Board**

1. The Board is responsible for the following legal matter oversight:
  - (a) overseeing management to ensure legal requirements have been met, and documents and records have been properly prepared, approved and maintained;
  - (b) approving changes in the By-laws, Articles of Incorporation, matters requiring shareholder or shareholder approval, and agendas for shareholder and shareholder meetings;
  - (c) approving Essential's legal structure, names and brands, mission statement and vision statement, and any amendments thereto;

- (d) overseeing management to ensure compliance by the Corporation with all applicable securities laws, including continuous disclosure obligations and in relation to an offering of securities of the Corporation; and
  - (e) overseeing management to ensure compliance by the Corporation with stock exchange rules.
2. The following business matters are the responsibility of the Board generally:
- (a) to oversee the management of the business and affairs of Essential including the relationships among the Corporation and its respective affiliates with their executives, affiliates, shareholders, Directors and Officers;
  - (b) to act honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of Essential;
  - (c) to exercise the care, diligence and skill that a reasonably prudent person would exercise in comparable circumstances;
  - (d) to act in accordance with its obligations contained in the *Business Corporations Act* (Alberta), the *Securities Act* of each province and territory of Canada, other relevant legislation, regulations and policies, and the Corporation's Articles and By-laws;
  - (e) in particular, it should be noted that the following matters must be considered by the Board as a whole:
    - (i) submit to the shareholders of the Corporation any question or matter requiring the approval of the shareholders of the Corporation;
    - (ii) fill a vacancy among the Directors or in the office of Auditor;
    - (iii) issue securities except in the manner and on the terms permitted by law and authorized by the Board;
    - (iv) declare dividends;
    - (v) purchase, redeem or otherwise acquire Shares;
    - (vi) the payment of a commission to any person in consideration of that person purchasing or agreeing to purchase Shares;
    - (vii) approve management proxy circulars;
    - (viii) approve take-over bid circulars or Directors' circulars;
    - (ix) approve any financial statements; or
    - (x) adopt, amend or repeal By-laws of the Corporation.

### **Composition and Board Organization**

Nominees for Directors are initially considered and recommended by the Compensation and Governance Committee of the Board, approved by the entire Board and appointed annually by the Corporation, in accordance with the direction given to the Corporation by vote of the shareholders of the Corporation.

The appropriate number of Directors from time to time will be determined to fairly reflect the investment in Essential by those shareholders other than a significant shareholder or significant group of shareholders.

A majority of Directors comprising the Board must qualify as "independent" Directors in accordance with the definition of "independent" Director from time to time under the requirements or guidelines for Board service under applicable securities laws and the rules of any stock exchange on which the Shares are listed for trading. On at least an annual basis, the Board will conduct an analysis and make a determination as to the "independence" of each Board member.

Certain of the responsibilities of the Board referred to herein may be delegated to Committees of the Board. The responsibilities of those Committees will be as set forth in their respective mandates, as amended from time to time.

The Board's set of criteria for addressing composition of the Board will include the present and anticipated skill set needed by the Board, experience, ethics, education, time availability, involvement in activities that conflict with Essential's business, term and the number of other directorships held. Other matters may be included that vary from time to time.

### **Duties and Responsibilities**

#### 3. Managing the Affairs of the Board and Governance

The Board operates by delegating certain of its authorities, including spending authorizations, to management and by reserving certain powers to itself. The legal obligations of the Board are described under the heading "General Legal Obligations of the Board". Subject to these legal obligations and to the Articles and By-laws of the Corporation, the Board retains the responsibility for managing its own affairs, including:

- (a) developing the Board's approach to governance, including the development and maintenance of the Board Manual and the Governance Guidelines, which may be delegated to the Compensation and Governance Committee;
- (b) planning its composition and size;
- (c) selecting the Board Chair, or, as applicable, a "Lead Director";
- (d) nominating candidates for election to the Board;
- (e) appointing Committees;
- (f) determining Director compensation;
- (g) developing position descriptions or terms of reference for the Board Chair and the Chair of each Committee of the Board, as well as for the President, Chief Executive Officer and for individual Directors; and
- (h) assessing the effectiveness of the Board itself, Committees and individual Directors in fulfilling their responsibilities at least annually.

#### 4. Management and Human Resources

The Board has oversight responsibility for:

- (a) the appointment and succession of the Chief Executive Officer and evaluating the Chief Executive Officer's performance, approving Chief Executive Officer compensation and providing advice and counsel to the Chief Executive Officer in the execution of the Chief Executive Officer's duties;
- (b) satisfying itself as to the integrity of the Chief Executive Officer and that the Chief Executive Officer and other Executive Officers create a culture of integrity throughout the organization;
- (c) approving a position description or terms of reference for the Chief Executive Officer;

- (d) reviewing Chief Executive Officer performance at least annually against agreed upon written goals and objectives that the Chief Executive Officer is responsible for meeting and that have been approved by the Board;
- (e) approving decisions relating to senior management, including appointment and discharge of Officers, compensation and benefits for Executive Officers, acceptance of outside directorships on public companies by Executive Officers (other than not-for-profit organizations), and special arrangements with Executive Officers, or other employee groups;
- (f) ensuring succession planning programs are in place, including programs to train and develop management; and
- (g) approving certain matters relating to all employees, including:
  - (i) the annual salary policy/program for employees;
  - (ii) new benefit programs or material changes to existing programs; and
  - (iii) material benefits granted to retiring employees outside of benefits received under any approved pension and other benefit programs.

## 5. Strategy and Plans

The Board has oversight responsibility to:

- (a) participate with management in the development of, and ultimately approve, Essential's strategic plan, which strategic plan will take into account, among other things, the opportunities and risks of the business;
- (b) approve the annual business plans that enable Essential to realize its objectives;
- (c) approve annual capital and operating budgets that support Essential's ability to meet its strategic objectives;
- (d) approve any political or charitable donations policy or budget;
- (e) approve the entering into, or withdrawing from, lines of business or geographic markets that are, or are likely to be, material to Essential;
- (f) approve financial and operating objectives used in determining compensation if they are different from the strategic, capital or operating plans referred to above;
- (g) approve material divestitures and acquisitions;
- (h) approve major leases; and
- (i) monitor Essential's progress towards its goals, and to revise and alter its direction through management in light of changing circumstances.

## 6. Financial and Corporate Issues

The Board has oversight responsibility to:

- (a) take reasonable steps to ensure the implementation and integrity of Essential's internal control and management information systems;

- (b) monitor operational and financial results;
- (c) approve the Audit Committee recommendation to recommend appointment of external Auditors and approve Auditors' fees;
- (d) approve annual and quarterly financial results as approved by the Audit Committee and to approve release thereof by management;
- (e) approve any management proxy circular, annual information form and any documents incorporated by reference therein;
- (f) approve dividends in respect of the Shares;
- (g) approve financings, changes in authorized capital, issue and repurchase of Shares, issue, reissue, sell or pledge debt obligations of the Corporation, listing of shares and other securities, issue of commercial paper, and related prospectuses;
- (h) approve banking resolutions and significant changes in banking relationships;
- (i) review coverage, deductibles and key issues regarding corporate insurance policies;
- (j) approve contracts, arrangements or commitments that may have a material impact on Essential;
- (k) approve the commencement or settlement of litigation that may have a material impact on Essential; and
- (l) mortgage, hypothecate, pledge or otherwise create a security interest in all or any property of the Corporation owned or subsequently acquired to secure any obligation of the Corporation.

#### 7. Business and Risk Management

The Board has oversight responsibility for the following functions, which may be delegated to one or more Committees of the Board:

- (a) ensure management identifies the principal business and financial risks and implements appropriate systems to manage these risks;
- (b) ensure management procures appropriate insurance including Director and Officer insurance;
- (c) review operating and financial performance relative to budgets or objectives;
- (d) receive reports from management on matters relating to, among others, ethical conduct, environmental management, employee health and safety, human rights, and related party transactions;
- (e) to the extent the same have not been delegated to the Audit Committee, assess and monitor management control systems:
  - (i) assess information provided by management and others (e.g., external Auditors) about the effectiveness of management control systems; and
  - (ii) understand principal risks and review whether Essential achieves a proper balance between risk and returns, and that management ensures that systems are in place to address the risks identified.
- (f) monitor Essential's risk management process.

## 8. Policies and Procedures

The Board has oversight responsibility to:

- (a) approve and monitor compliance with all significant policies and procedures by which Essential is operated;
- (b) direct management to ensure Essential operates at all times within applicable laws and regulations and according to the Code of Conduct adopted by Essential; and
- (c) review significant new corporate policies or material amendments to existing policies.

## 9. Compliance Reporting and Communications

The Board has oversight responsibility to:

- (a) ensure Essential has in place effective communication processes with its shareholders and other stakeholders and financial, regulatory and other recipients;
- (b) approve interaction with shareholders on all items requiring shareholder response or approval;
- (c) ensure that the financial performance of the Corporation is reported to shareholders, other securityholders and regulators in compliance with applicable law and regulations on a timely and regular basis, fairly and in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
- (d) ensure the timely reporting of any other developments that have a significant and material impact on the value of the Corporation; and
- (e) report annually to shareholders on the Board governance for the preceding year.

## 10. Standards of Liability

Nothing contained in this Mandate is intended to expand applicable standards of liability under statutory, regulatory, common law or any other legal requirements for the Board or members of its Committees. The purposes and responsibilities outlined in this Mandate and accompanying Board materials are meant to serve as guidelines rather than inflexible rules and the Board may adopt such additional procedures and standards as it deems necessary from time to time to fulfil its responsibilities.

**APPENDIX B**

**CHANGE OF AUDITOR REPORTING PACKAGE**



## NOTICE OF CHANGE OF AUDITORS

**TO:** Alberta Securities Commission  
British Columbia Securities Commission  
The Manitoba Securities Commission  
Financial and Consumer Services Commission (New Brunswick)  
Office of the Superintendent of Securities, Service Newfoundland and Labrador  
Nova Scotia Securities Commission  
Ontario Securities Commission  
Office of the Superintendent of Securities (Prince Edward Island)  
Autorité des marchés financiers (Québec)  
Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority of Saskatchewan

**AND TO:** Ernst & Young LLP  
KPMG LLP

Essential Energy Services Ltd. (the “**Corporation**”) hereby provides notice pursuant to National Instrument 51-102 - *Continuous Disclosure Obligations* (“**NI 51-102**”), as follows:

1. Ernst & Young LLP, Chartered Accountants (the “**Former Auditor**”) resigned as auditor of the Corporation on its own initiative, effective March 19, 2018 (the “**Cessation Date**”).
2. Pursuant to Section 166 of the *Business Corporations Act* (Alberta), the board of directors of the Corporation shall forthwith fill a vacancy in the office of auditor and has appointed KPMG LLP, Chartered Accountants (“**KPMG**”) as the Corporation’s auditor, effective March 21, 2018, to hold office until the next annual general meeting of shareholders of the Corporation. At the Annual General Meeting of shareholders scheduled for May 10, 2018, KPMG will be proposed for reappointment as the auditor of the Corporation.
3. The resignation of the Former Auditor was considered and accepted, and the appointment of KPMG was considered and approved, by the Corporation’s audit committee and the board of directors of the Corporation.
4. There were no modified opinions in the Former Auditor’s reports for either of the Corporation’s two most recently completed financial years and ending on the Cessation Date.
5. In the opinion of the Corporation’s audit committee and the board of directors of the Corporation, as at the date hereof, there have been no “reportable events” (as such term is defined in NI 51-102)

in connection with the audits for the period commencing at the beginning of the Corporation's two most recently completed financial years and ending on the Cessation Date.

*[Remainder of page intentionally left blank]*

**DATED** at Calgary, Alberta, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2018

**ESSENTIAL ENERGY SERVICES LTD.**

Per: Signed "Allan Mowbray"

Name: **Allan Mowbray**

Title: **Vice President, Finance and Chief Financial Officer**



Ernst & Young LLP  
Ernst & Young Tower  
1000, 440 2nd Avenue SW  
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Alberta Securities Commission  
British Columbia Securities Commission  
The Manitoba Securities Commission  
Financial and Consumer Services Commission (New Brunswick)  
Office of the Superintendent of Securities, Service Newfoundland and Labrador  
Nova Scotia Securities Commission  
Ontario Securities Commission  
Office of the Superintendent of Securities(Prince Edward Island)  
Autorité des marchés financiers (Québec)  
Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority of Saskatchewan

22 March 2018

## **Essential Energy Services Ltd. Notice of Change of Auditors**

Dear Sirs/Mesdames

Pursuant to National Instrument 51-102 – *Continuous Disclosure Obligations*, we have reviewed the information contained in the Notice of Change of Auditor of Essential Energy Services Ltd. dated 21 March 2018 (the “Notice”) and, based on our knowledge of such information at this time, we agree with the statements made in the Notice.

Yours very truly,

Chartered Accountants  
Calgary, Canada



KPMG LLP  
205 5th Avenue SW  
Suite 3100  
Calgary Ab T2P 4B9  
Tel (403) 691-8000  
Fax (403) 691-8008  
www.kpmg.ca

To: Alberta Securities Commission  
British Columbia Securities Commission  
The Manitoba Securities Commission  
Financial and Consumer Services Commission (New Brunswick)  
Office of the Superintendent of Securities, Service Newfoundland and Labrador  
Nova Scotia Securities Commission  
Ontario Securities Commission  
Office of the Superintendent of Securities (Prince Edward Island)  
Autorité des marchés financiers (Québec)  
Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority of Saskatchewan

March 23, 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: Notice of Change of Auditors of Essential Energy Services Ltd.**

We have read the Notice of Essential Energy Services Ltd. dated March 21, 2018 and are in agreement with the statements contained in such Notice.

Yours very truly,

KPMG LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants