

**EQ INC.**



**ANNUAL INFORMATION FORM  
For the year ended December 31, 2020**

**Dated April 15, 2021**

EQ Inc.  
1235 Bay Street, Suite 401  
Toronto, ON, M5R 3K4  
Tel: (416) 260-4326

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|                                                                            | <b>Page</b> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>INTRODUCTION.....</b>                                                   | <b>1</b>    |
| <b>CORPORATE STRUCTURE .....</b>                                           | <b>3</b>    |
| <b>GENERAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE BUSINESS .....</b>                           | <b>4</b>    |
| <b>RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES AFFECTING OUR BUSINESS.....</b>                 | <b>12</b>   |
| <b>DIVIDENDS.....</b>                                                      | <b>22</b>   |
| <b>DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STRUCTURE .....</b>                              | <b>22</b>   |
| <b>MARKET FOR SECURITIES.....</b>                                          | <b>23</b>   |
| <b>PRIOR SALES .....</b>                                                   | <b>23</b>   |
| <b>DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS.....</b>                               | <b>24</b>   |
| <b>LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AND REGULATORY ACTIONS.....</b>                       | <b>27</b>   |
| <b>INTEREST OF MANAGEMENT AND OTHERS IN MATERIAL<br/>TRANSACTIONS.....</b> | <b>27</b>   |
| <b>AUDIT COMMITTEE AND RELATIONSHIP WITH AUDITOR .....</b>                 | <b>28</b>   |
| <b>TRANSFER AGENT AND REGISTRAR .....</b>                                  | <b>30</b>   |
| <b>INTERESTS OF EXPERTS .....</b>                                          | <b>30</b>   |
| <b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.....</b>                                         | <b>31</b>   |

## INTRODUCTION

### **General**

In this annual information form (“**AIF**”), unless the context otherwise requires, “EQ”, “Company” or “EQ Works” refers to EQ Inc., its subsidiaries and divisions and their respective predecessors. Unless otherwise indicated, references to “dollars” and “\$” are to Canadian dollars. Unless otherwise indicated, the information contained herein is given as at April 15, 2021. Any references to “2020” or “2019” refer to EQ’s fiscal years ended December 31, 2020 and December 31, 2019, respectively. Defined terms used herein have the respective meanings given to such terms under the heading “Glossary of Terms”.

### **Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements**

Certain statements contained in this AIF contain forward-looking statements that may relate to the Company’s future outlook and anticipated events or results and may include statements regarding the Company’s future financial position, projected revenue, earnings, growth rates, revenue mix, product plans and objectives. In some cases, forward-looking statements can be identified by terms such as “could”, “expect”, “may”, “will”, “anticipate”, “believe”, “intend”, “estimate”, “plan”, “potential”, “project” or other expressions concerning matters that are not historical facts. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance upon any such forward-looking statements. Such forward-looking statements are not promises or guarantees of future performance and involve both known and unknown risks and uncertainties that may cause the actual results, performance, achievements or developments of EQ to differ materially from the results, performance, achievements or developments expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements, by their nature, are based on certain assumptions regarding expected growth, management’s current plans, estimates, projections, beliefs, opinions and business prospects and opportunities (collectively, the “**Assumptions**”). While the Company considers these Assumptions to be reasonable based on the information currently available, they may prove to be incorrect.

This AIF may also include cautionary statements about these matters. You should read the cautionary statements made below as being applicable to all forward-looking statements wherever they appear in this document.

It is important to note that:

- there is no assurance that any forward-looking statement will materialize;
- the results or events predicted herein may differ from actual results or events;
- unless otherwise indicated, forward-looking statements describe expectations as of April 15, 2021; and
- EQ disclaims any intention or obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise unless required to do so under applicable securities laws.

Many risks, uncertainties and other factors could cause the actual results of EQ to differ materially from the results, performance, achievements or developments expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. These risks, uncertainties and other factors include, but are not

limited to, the following: overall economic conditions, rapid technological changes, dependence on the internet and certain customers, demand for our product, the introduction of competing technologies, competitive pressures, network restrictions, fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates and other similar factors that may cause the actual results, performance or achievements of EQ to differ materially from the results, performance, achievements or developments expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Additional information concerning risks and uncertainties affecting EQ's business and other factors that could cause financial results to fluctuate is set forth below in "Risk Factors", as well as elsewhere herein, and is contained in EQ's filings with Canadian securities regulatory authorities. Readers are cautioned not to place undue diligence on such statements. We do not undertake to update or revise any forward-looking statements at any particular time whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise unless required to do so under applicable laws.

**All of the forward-looking statements contained in this AIF are expressly qualified by the foregoing cautionary statements. Investors should read this entire AIF and consult their own professional advisors to assess the income tax, legal, risk factors and other aspects of their investment.**

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

The following is a glossary of certain defined terms used throughout this AIF. This is not an exhaustive list of defined terms used in this AIF and additional terms are defined throughout.

**“2018 Bonus Warrants”** has the meaning ascribed to such term under *“General Development of the Business – Three Year History”*;

**“2018 Notes”** has the meaning ascribed to such term under *“General Development of the Business – Three Year History”*;

**“2019 Bonus Warrants”** has the meaning ascribed to such term under *“General Development of the Business – Three Year History”*;

**“2019 Credit Facility”** has the meaning ascribed to such term under *“General Development of the Business – Three Year History”*;

**“2020 Credit Facility”** has the meaning ascribed to such term under *“General Development of the Business – Three Year History”*;

**“2019 Notes”** has the meaning ascribed to such term under *“General Development of the Business – Three Year History”*;

**“2020 Credit Facility”** has the meaning ascribed to such term under *“General Development of the Business – Three Year History”*;

**“2021 Offering”** has the meaning ascribed to such term under *“General Development of the Business – Three Year History”*;

**“Acceleration Trigger”** has the meaning ascribed to such term under *“General Development of the Business – Three Year History”*;

**“Audit Committee”** has the meaning ascribed to such term under *“Audit Committee”*;

**“Board”** has the meaning ascribed to such term under *“Corporate Structure”*;

**“Common Shares”** means the common shares in the capital of the Company;

**“COVID-19”** has the meaning ascribed to such term under *“Risk Factors”*;

**“Cyberplex”** has the meaning ascribed to such term under *“Corporate Structure”*;

**“Emerald”** has the meaning ascribed to such term under *“Corporate Structure”*;

**“EQ Advertising”** has the meaning ascribed to such term under *“Corporate Structure”*;

**“Facility”** has the meaning ascribed to such term under *“General Development of the Business – Three Year History”*;

“**IO**” has the meaning ascribed to such term under “*Narrative Description of the Business*”;

“**OBCA**” has the meaning ascribed to such term under “*Corporate Structure*”;

“**Offered Securities**” has the meaning ascribed to such term under “*General Development of the Business – Three Year History*”;

“**Option Plan**” has the meaning ascribed to such term under “*Description of Capital Structure*”;

“**Options**” has the meaning ascribed to such term under “*Description of Capital Structure*”;

“**Order**” has the meaning ascribed to such term under “*Directors and Executive Officers - Cease Trade Orders, Bankruptcies, Penalties or Sanctions*”;

“**Publisher**” has the meaning ascribed to such term under “*General Development of the Business – Three Year History*”;

“**RSU Plan**” has the meaning ascribed to such term under “*Description of Capital Structure*”;

“**RSUs**” has the meaning ascribed to such term under “*Description of Capital Structure*”;

“**Tapped Mobile**” has the meaning ascribed to such term under “*Corporate Structure*”;

“**TSXV**” has the meaning ascribed to such term under “*Corporate Structure*”;

“**Underwriters**” has the meaning ascribed to such term under “*General Development of the Business – Three Year History*”;

“**Underwriting Agreement**” has the meaning ascribed to such term under “*General Development of the Business – Three Year History*”;

“**Units**” has the meaning ascribed to such term under “*General Development of the Business – Three Year History*”; and

“**Unit Warrant**” has the meaning ascribed to such term under “*General Development of the Business – Three Year History*”.

## CORPORATE STRUCTURE

### Name and Incorporation

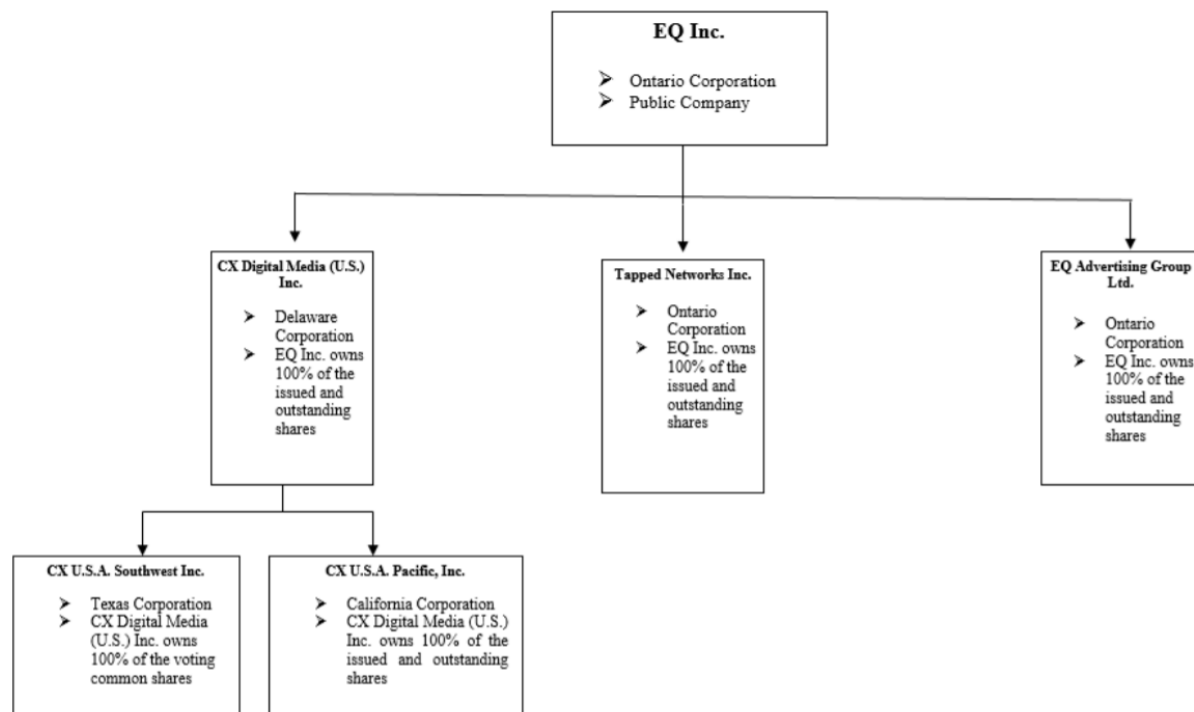
EQ Inc. is the company resulting from the amalgamation under the *Business Corporations Act* (Ontario) (the “**OBCA**”) of Cyberplex Inc. (“**Cyberplex**”) and Emerald Technology Concept Inc. (“**Emerald**”), pursuant to articles of amalgamation effective as of January 1, 2000. The Company was incorporated under the OBCA on September 20, 1995 under the name “NewPath Capital Corporation”. On June 13, 2013, the Company filed articles of amendment to change its name to “EQ Inc.” The Company’s head and registered office is located at 1235 Bay Street, Suite 401, Toronto, Ontario, M5R 3K4. The Common Shares are listed on the TSX Venture Exchange (the “**TSXV**”) under the trading symbol “EQ”.

The material amendments to the Company’s articles are described as follows:

- (a) on February 27, 1996, the Company filed articles of amendment to remove its “private company” restrictions;
- (b) on September 13, 1996, the Company filed articles of amendment to: (i) change the size of the board of directors of the Company (the “**Board**”) to a minimum of three and a maximum of nine directors; and (ii) consolidate the Company’s issued and outstanding common shares (the “**Common Shares**”) on the basis of one post-consolidation Common Share for every two (1:2) issued and outstanding Common Shares;
- (c) on April 17, 1997, the Company filed articles of amendment to: (i) change the name of the Company from “NewPath Capital Corporation” to “Cyberplex Inc.”; and (ii) consolidate the issued and outstanding Common Shares on the basis of one post-consolidation Common Share for every one and one-half (1:1.5) issued and outstanding Common Shares;
- (d) on January 1, 2000, pursuant to articles of amalgamation, Cyberplex and Emerald amalgamated to form a corporation known as “Cyberplex Inc.”;
- (e) on June 13, 2013, the Company filed articles of amendment to: (i) change the name of the Company from “Cyberplex Inc.” to “EQ Inc.”, and (ii) consolidate the issued and outstanding Common Shares on the basis of one post-consolidation Common Share for every eight (1:8) issued and outstanding Common Shares; and
- (f) on June 1, 2019, the Company filed articles of amalgamation to amalgamate with one of its wholly-owned subsidiaries, CX Holdings Inc., which did not have any active business at the time of the amalgamation.

## Intercompany Relationships

As of the date of this AIF, the Company has the following wholly-owned subsidiaries:



The Company's only operating subsidiaries are Tapped Networks Inc. ("**Tapped Mobile**") and EQ Advertising Group Ltd. ("**EQ Advertising**").

## **GENERAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE BUSINESS**

### Three Year History

#### **2018**

On February 19, 2018, the Company completed a private placement of \$1,534,000 principal amount of non-convertible secured promissory notes (the "**2018 Notes**") to certain arm's length and non-arm's length parties. The 2018 Notes, which matured on August 19, 2019, carried interest at a rate of 10% per annum, calculated annually and paid at maturity. In connection with the issuance of the 2018 Notes, the subscribers received one and a half non-transferable warrants for each dollar of principal amount of the 2018 Notes. The subscribers were issued 2,300,578 non-transferable warrants (the "**2018 Bonus Warrants**"), with each 2018 Bonus Warrant being exercisable for one Common Share at an exercise price of \$0.60 per share until August 19, 2019. The 2018 Bonus Warrants expired on August 19, 2019.

On June 29, 2018, the Company completed a non-brokered private placement of 1,535,000 Common Shares at a price of \$0.60 per share for aggregate gross proceeds of \$921,100.

On October 15, 2018, the Company completed its acquisition of all of the issued and outstanding the shares of Tapped Mobile. As consideration for the acquisition, the shareholders of Tapped Mobile were issued 1,000,000 Common Shares at a deemed price of \$0.63 per share and such shareholders were eligible to receive additional cash consideration, subject to certain performance thresholds being met by the Company, of up to \$2,800,000 over a period of 24 months from the completion of the acquisition. The Company paid approximately \$840,000 of additional cash consideration.

On December 31, 2018, the Company completed a private placement of \$1,077,240 Common Shares at a price of \$0.65 per share for aggregate gross proceeds of \$700,206.

## 2019

On January 9, 2019, the Company completed a private placement of 276,924 Common Shares at a price of \$0.65 per share for aggregate gross proceeds of \$180,000.

On May 22, 2019, the Company obtained a \$500,000 revolving credit facility (the “**2019 Credit Facility**”) with a Schedule I Canadian bank. Borrowings under the 2019 Credit Facility are secured by the Company’s accounts receivables and the 2019 Credit Facility bears interest at the bank’s prime rate plus 2.5% per annum. The 2019 Credit Facility was replaced by the 2020 Credit Facility (as defined herein).

On August 19, 2019, the Company completed a private placement of \$1,716,654 principal amount of non-convertible secured promissory notes (the “**2019 Notes**”) to certain arm’s length and non-arm’s length parties. The 2019 Notes carried interest at a rate of 12% per annum, calculated annually, and matured on January 19, 2021. In connection with the issuance of the 2019 Notes, the subscribers were issued one and one-half non-transferable warrants (the “**2019 Bonus Warrants**”) for each dollar of principal amount of the 2019 Notes, with each 2019 Bonus Warrant being exercisable into one Common Share at a price of \$0.66 per share until January 19, 2021. An aggregate of 2,574,981 2019 Bonus Warrants were issued.

On December 10 and 17, 2019, the Company completed a non-brokered private placement of 6,666,666 units (“**Units**”) at a price of \$0.75 per Unit for aggregate gross proceeds of \$5,000,000. Each Unit is comprised of one Common Share and one-half of one common share purchase warrant (each whole warrant, a “**Unit Warrant**”). Each Unit Warrant is exercisable into one Common Share at a price of \$1.00 per share for a period of 24 months following the closing of the private placement. In connection with the private placement, the Company paid \$26,170 in cash commissions and issued 34,893 finder warrants at the fair value of \$8,000 on the same terms as the Unit Warrants.

## 2020

On March 5, 2020, the Company, through its wholly-owned subsidiary EQ Advertising, completed the acquisition and licensing of certain assets of Curate Mobile Ltd., including Juice Mobile for aggregate consideration of \$850,000 and additional cash consideration to be paid out over the following 12 months based on certain performance thresholds being met. The thresholds have not been met and no additional cash consideration has been paid.

On May 29, 2020, the Company accelerated the expiry date of 3,333,333 outstanding Unit Warrants, which were issued pursuant to a non-brokered private placement in December 2019. The terms of the Unit Warrants were such that the expiry date could be accelerated by the Company at any time if the closing price of the Common Shares on the TSXV was greater than \$1.25 for any 10 consecutive trading days following the date that is four months and one day after the closing of the private placement (the “**Acceleration Trigger**”). The Company confirmed that as of the close of markets on May 25, 2020, the Acceleration Trigger had occurred. All of the Unit Warrants were exercised and approximately \$3.3 million in proceeds were raised.

On July 9, 2020, the Company announced the expected additional financing of approximately \$5 million as a result of the exercise of previously issued warrants for proceeds of \$3.3 million and a new \$1.6 million credit facility with a Schedule I Canadian bank (the “**2020 Credit Facility**”). The 2020 Credit Facility carried interest at prime plus 2.5% per annum. The 2020 Credit Facility closed on July 22, 2020. The 2020 Credit Facility replaced the 2019 Credit Facility.

On October 27, 2020, the Company announced that a leading Canadian university had extended its partnership with the Company for a fifth mandate of approximately \$400,000 and will utilize the EQ platform to identify and engage the most sought-after students both domestically and internationally.

On November 11, 2020, the Company has been selected by one of the world’s largest book publishers (the “**Publisher**”) to launch 10 new titles nationally across the United States. For this initial six figure engagement, the Publisher worked with EQ over multiple quarters to provide better insights into its customer base and targeting strategies in order to reduce the cost of acquisition.

## 2021

On January 19, 2021, the Company announced that it repaid in full the original principal amount of the 2019 Notes. Following the repayment of the 2019 Notes, the Corporation settled all of its outstanding debt. At the time of repayment of the 2019 Notes, all issued and outstanding 2019 Bonus Warrants were exercised for aggregate proceeds of \$1,699,487. The Corporation used the proceeds from the 2019 Bonus Warrants as partial repayment for the amounts owed under the 2019 Notes.

On January 21, 2021, the Company announced new commitments for data-driven marketing projects totaling more than \$4 million for 2021. After successful proofs of concept in 2020, the Company’s clients have agreed to spend a minimum of \$4 million on new projects in 2021 that incorporate EQ’s data analysis and insights tools as well as its targeted media buying platform.

On February 3, 2021, the Company announced it was commencing an overnight marketed prospectus offering (the “**2021 Offering**”) of common shares (the “**Offered Securities**”) at a price per Offered Security to be determined in the context of the market. Canaccord Genuity Corp., as sole bookrunner, and Echelon Wealth Partners Inc. co-led the syndicate of underwriters for the Offering, which included Eight Capital and Desjardins Securities Inc. (together, the “**Underwriters**”).

On February 4, 2021, the Company entered into an underwriting agreement (the “**Underwriting Agreement**”) with the Underwriters and announced the pricing of its previously announced 2021

Offering, of an aggregate of 6,250,000 Offered Securities at a price of \$1.60 per Offered Security for aggregate gross proceeds of approximately \$10,000,000. The Offered Securities were offered by way of a short form prospectus filed in each of the Provinces of Canada, other than Québec, and in the United States on a private placement basis to “qualified institutional buyers” pursuant to an exemption from the registration requirements of the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and by private placement to eligible purchasers resident in jurisdictions other than Canada and the United States. The Company granted the Underwriters a 30-day option to purchase up to an additional 937,500 Offered Securities, representing 15% of the Offered Securities pursuant to the proposed Offering on the same terms and conditions for market stabilization purposes and to cover over-allotments.

On February 19, 2021, the Company announced the closing of the 2021 Offering for aggregate gross proceeds of \$11,500,000, which included the full exercise of the over-allotment option granted to the Underwriters. The Company intends to use the net proceeds of the 2021 Offering to further develop its proprietary SaaS platform, expand its artificial intelligence and machine learning practices, marketing and branding initiatives, research and development, expansion into the United States and for working capital and general corporate purposes.

## **NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF THE BUSINESS**

### **Overview**

The Company enables businesses to better understand, predict, and influence customer behaviour. Using unique data sets, advanced analytics, machine learning and artificial intelligence, the Company creates actionable intelligence for businesses to attract, retain, and grow the customers that matter most. Through its proprietary SaaS technology platforms, LOCUS and ATOM, the Company is able to ingest, enrich, analyze and action upon receipt of large quantities of data.

LOCUS, a proprietary automated data processing technology, enables the Company to manage data at scale and enrich those data with proprietary first party and third party data sets. Utilizing machine learning and AI technology, this SaaS platform mines insights from movement and geospatial data, enabling businesses to close the loop between digital and real-world consumer actions.

ATOM, a proprietary programmatic media buying platform, enables the Company to purchase targeted media for its clients to influence consumer behaviour. Focusing specifically on mobile networks, ATOM allows clients to target its advertising initiatives through various demographic, geographic, and behavioural profiles.

The Company markets these platforms to customers to democratize an otherwise managed à la carte service into a convenient, transparent, and customizable self-service platform. Customers targeted are typically medium to large scale businesses, with physical locations, advertising agencies, and research firms who want to better understand their customers and potential customers.

### **Revenue**

The Company’s management reviews performance of the Company on a consolidated basis and has integrated its services as one operating segment, which provides real-time technology and

advance analytics to improve performance for all web, mobile, social and video advertising initiatives and focuses on targeted advertising and incorporates the most sophisticated advertising technologies, data analytics and programmatic media buying capabilities into a single system.

The Company's assets and operations are all located in Canada; however, the Company services customers in the United States and internationally.

The Company generates revenue across three geographical regions as follows:

|                       | 2020             | 2019            |
|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Canada                | \$ 9,919         | \$ 7,513        |
| United States         | 502              | 1,445           |
| Outside North America | -                | 7               |
|                       | <u>\$ 10,421</u> | <u>\$ 8,965</u> |

### **Principal Markets**

EQ serves clients across North America and internationally from its headquarters in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

### **Products and Services**

#### *Advertising Services*

The Company generates revenue from the delivery of targeted digital media solutions, enabling advertisers to connect intelligently with their audiences across online display, video, social and mobile campaigns using its Programmatic Marketing Platform. The Company offers its services on a fully-managed and a self-serve basis. In instances of self-serve basis, the Company also provides its customers with access to the Programmatic Marketing Platform which includes promises related to hosting and support services. These arrangements are evidenced by a fully executed insertion order (“IO”). Generally, an IO specifies the number and type of advertising impressions to be delivered over a specified time at an agreed upon price and performance objectives for an ad campaign based on client needs. Performance obligations are generally a measure of targeting as defined by the parties in advance, such as number of ads displayed, consumer clicks on ads or consumer actions (which may include qualified leads, registrations, downloads, inquiries or purchases). These payment models are commonly referred to as cost per impression, cost per click and cost per action. The performance obligations are satisfied over time as the volume of impressions are delivered up to the contractual maximum for fully-managed revenue and the delivery of impressions for self-serve. Revenue is recognized over time using the output method when the performance obligations are satisfied. Typically, campaigns run for a period of one to three months and are billed at the end of the month.

#### *Fixed Fee Data Sales*

The Company provides customers with research and analytics of data. The IO will specify the fixed fee arrangement to be delivered over an agreed upon price. Revenue is recognized as the

performance obligations are satisfied over time as the services are provided to the customer. Typically, this service is bundled with advertising services. Campaigns are generally for a period of one month and are billed at the end of the month.

### *CPM Data Sales*

The Company provides customers with the ability to track the effectiveness of advertisements. The payment model is measured based on the number of impressions for results achieved through tracking. The performance obligations are satisfied over time as the volume of impressions are delivered up to the contractual maximum. Revenue is recognized over time using the output methods when the performance obligations are satisfied. Typically, campaigns run for a period of one to three months and are billed at the end of the month.

### *Other Services*

The Company provides customers with consultation services to improve advertisement effectiveness and performance. These services are fixed fee arrangements for specified consulting services and each project is considered distinct. Each performance obligation is satisfied over time as the services are provided to the customer. Revenue is recognized using the input method for time incurred compared to the estimated time for specified services.

### **Employees**

As at December 31, 2020, the Company employed 46 employees.

### **Seasonality**

Online advertising, online commerce, and internet usage are seasonally most robust in the fourth quarter ending December 31, and generally slower at the beginning of the Company's fiscal year. This is due to increased advertising activity during the holiday season occurring in the fourth quarter. Seasonality may be affected by customer mix. For example, retail advertisers often concentrate their advertising spending with the Company in the fourth quarter while entertainment advertisers tend to focus their spending on the launch and display of content, such as television shows or movies, irrespective of the time of year. The Company has seen slower than usual activity, which is consistent with general and industry-specific economic data. As a result, operating results will fluctuate quarter-by-quarter. Moreover, the Company's revenue and operating results may fluctuate quarter-to-quarter depending on sales cycles, network performance, and customer demand. Costs are incurred more evenly throughout the year. In addition to the seasonal trends, revenue and operating profit can fluctuate from general economic conditions. As a result, one quarter's revenue and operating results may not necessarily be indicative of a subsequent quarter's revenue and operating results. For these reasons, performance is not comparable quarter to consecutive quarter and is best considered from results for the whole year or by comparing results in a quarter with results in the same quarter for the previous year.

### **Specialized Skill and Knowledge**

EQ's success depends to a significant extent on the abilities and efforts of its senior management and technical personnel. The loss of, or inability to identify, attract, hire, retain and motivate, highly skilled management, technical, sales and marketing, corporate development and other key

personnel could have a material effect on our business. LOCUS was developed in-house and the Company currently has adequate key employees with technical, marketing and industrial knowledge to keep the LOCUS with distinct competitive advantages.

### **Competitive Conditions**

The internet and mobile advertising markets are characterized by rapidly changing technologies, evolving industry standards, frequent new product and service introductions, and changing customer demands. The introduction of new products and services embodying new technologies and the emergence of new industry standards and practices could render our existing products and services obsolete and unmarketable or require unanticipated technology or other investments. Our failure to adapt successfully to these changes could harm our business, results of operations and financial condition.

EQ competes with advertising agencies, trading desks and well-established digital advertising networks. As online advertising matures, and/or as other companies introduce new products and services, management of EQ believes that EQ has competitive advantages over its peers and is able to reinvest in the applicable technologies.

EQ continues to improve and innovate with investments in partnerships and technologies that help target and re-target consumers that match a customer's ideal criteria. Whether a customer chooses to target through content matching (keyword match), matching search queries or behavioural segments, EQ aims to ensure that a customer's message is delivered to the right person, in the right context, and at the right time. Our goal is to provide the best real-time bidding online advertising solution for agencies and advertisers.

EQ also provides fully integrated digital marketing solutions. We work with agencies and clients to define, create, and deliver ROI-focused digital strategies. Our skilled team uses its deep marketing and technology expertise to achieve specific client objectives, which is central to our value proposition. Every digital property, mobile or web application or element of functionality that is designed and built by EQ is tied to specific goals and performance objectives. We build the web, mobile and social experiences that allow our clients to achieve true performance.

### **New Products**

LOCUS, a proprietary automated data processing technology, enables the Company to manage data at scale and enrich those data with proprietary first party and third party data sets. Utilizing machine learning and AI technology, this SaaS platform mines insights from movement and geospatial data, enabling businesses to close the loop between digital and real-world consumer actions.

### **Economic Dependence**

We are susceptible to general economic conditions, and a downturn in advertising and marketing spending by advertisers could adversely affect our operating results. Our operating results will be subject to fluctuations based on general economic conditions, in particular those conditions that impact advertiser-consumer transactions and the technology sector. Deterioration in economic conditions could cause decreases or delays in advertising spending and could reduce and/or

negatively impact our short-term ability to grow our revenues. In 2020, there were two customers that comprised 23% and 14% of the Company's total revenue from operations. No other customers on their own exceeded 10% of revenue. In 2019, there were three customers that comprised 27%, 13% and 11% of the Company's total revenue from operations, respectively. EQ has diversified its customer base and does not rely on a few large customers.

### **Changes to Contracts**

Changes to contracts could adversely affect our operating results. Any changes decreasing collectability of accounts receivable, or early termination of agreements due to changes in the marketplace, could negatively impact our results of operations. EQ does not have a material contract which, on its own, materially affects the operating results of EQ. The Company has diversified its customer base and the potential loss of certain of its customers would not be expected to materially impact its overall results.

### **Business Outlook**

The core focus of our business is to assist clients in reaching their digital audiences. We work with our customers to position them to take advantage of the constantly growing and evolving digital marketplace, and we continue to build targeted advertising and digital media capabilities that will help them acquire customers effectively. The Company enables businesses to understand, predict, and influence customer behaviour. Using unique data sets, advanced analytics, machine learning and artificial intelligence, EQ creates actionable intelligence for businesses to attract, retain, and grow the customers that matter most. The Company's proprietary SaaS platform mines insights from movement and geospatial data, enabling businesses to close the loop between digital and real-world consumer actions.

The Company continues to make significant investments in technology and in its depth of operations as quality and customer satisfaction continue to be a main focus for the organization. We offer advertisers a range of solutions, providing our clients the flexibility to combine initiatives which may include audience building and engagement, targeted brand awareness campaigns, qualified lead generation and e-commerce campaigns. We believe EQ presents a unique value proposition in the market. The ability to understand what people are looking for and then present the most relevant content and advertising is the foundation of performance. It is this foundation that we have built upon, and continue to build upon, as we invest in technology, solutions and people to even better service our clients in the future.

The Company remains focused on building a leading digital marketing organization. With a specific focus on performance by using the most effective data and analytics, we believe that the growth of our proprietary demand side platform with targeted audience creation and optimization positions EQ extremely well as we move forward. As the Company continues to enhance its technological capabilities, win key accounts and work closely with innovative partners, we are ready to take advantage of all the opportunities ahead. While strategic initiatives such as acquisitions will be key to the Company's future, in the near term, the Company will focus on growing its existing business units and related capabilities. All initiatives, whether organic or external, will necessarily involve a diligent focus on ensuring maximum benefit to the Company and the creation of shareholder value.

## **RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES AFFECTING OUR BUSINESS**

### **Risks Relating to the Company**

Although management has a confident outlook for the Company and continually improves and adapts the Company's risk mitigation strategies, operating in the technology industry inherently involves a certain level of risk and uncertainty. The Company continues to expand and refine management controls, reporting systems, cost controls, and overall policies and procedures to minimize the impact of potential risks and uncertainties. In management's opinion, the following factors, among others, should be considered when evaluating the Company's business and the results of future operations.

#### *Demand for EQ's Products and Services*

The market for technology products and consulting services is continuously evolving and becoming increasingly competitive. The Company's success depends on the Company's ability to create, develop, and deploy interactive strategies and solutions that service existing clients and attract new ones.

#### *History of Net Losses*

The Company has incurred net losses on an annual basis from 2009 to 2020 and has accumulated an approximate deficit of \$79 million as of December 31, 2020. The Company may not be able to achieve or maintain profitability and may continue to incur significant losses in the future. In addition, the Company expects to continue to increase operating expenses as it implements initiatives to continue to grow its business. If the Company's revenues do not increase to offset these expected increases in costs, and operating expenses or the Company is not able to reduce expenses in a timely manner, the Company will not be profitable.

#### *Restructuring*

In the past, the Company has found it advisable to take measures to streamline operations and reduce expenses, including, but not limited to, reducing the Company's workforce, discontinuing products, and divesting business units. It may prove necessary to perform such measures again in the future. However, these measures may place significant strains on the Company's management team and employees and could impair the Company's development, marketing, sales, and customer support efforts. The Company may also incur liabilities from these measures, including liabilities from the early termination or assignment of contracts, the potential failure to meet obligations due to the loss of employees or resources, and resulting litigation. Such effects from restructuring and streamlining could have a negative impact on the Company's business and financial results.

#### *Debt and Equity Financing*

The Company's anticipated growth and development activities will, in part, depend on the Company's ability to secure additional financing. The Company cannot be certain that financing will be available when needed, and, as a result, the Company may need to delay discretionary expenditure. In addition, the Company's level of indebtedness from time to time could impair its ability to obtain additional financing and to take advantage of business opportunities as they arise.

Failure to comply with facility covenants and obligations could also expose the Company to the risk of seizure or forced sale of some or all of its assets. In addition, in the event of a bankruptcy, liquidation or reorganization of the Company, creditors will generally be entitled to payment of their claims from the assets of the Company before any assets are made available for distribution to the holders of Common Shares. Therefore, in such an event, the holders of Common Shares will be effectively subordinated to the indebtedness and liabilities of the Company.

### *Intellectual Property Actions*

The ownership and protection of trademarks, designs, patents, copyright, trade secrets and other intellectual property rights are significant aspects of the Company's future success. Unauthorized parties may attempt to replicate or otherwise obtain and use the Company's branding and technology. Protecting the Company's current or future branding and technology by filing applications for trademarks, designs, patents, and copyright, and by maintaining trade secrets or other intellectual property rights, could be difficult, expensive, time-consuming and unpredictable. Similarly, policing unauthorized use of the Company's branding and technology by enforcing these rights against unauthorized use by others could be difficult, expensive, time-consuming and unpredictable.

In addition, the Company's activities may infringe on patents, trademarks or other intellectual property rights owned by others. If the Company is required to defend itself against intellectual property rights claims, it may spend significant time and effort and incur significant litigation costs, regardless of whether such claims have merit. If the Company is found to have infringed on the patents, trademarks or other intellectual property rights of others, it may also be subject to substantial claims for damages or a requirement to cease the use of such disputed intellectual property, which could have an adverse effect on its operations. Such litigation or claims and the consequences that could follow could distract management of the Company from the ordinary operation of its business and could increase costs of doing business, resulting in a negative impact on the business, financial condition, or results of operations of the Company.

### **Risks Relating to the Industry**

#### *Dependence on the internet*

A significant portion of sales of the Company's products and services depend on the growth in the use of online and mobile technology. However, sales of the Company's online advertising rely, in large part, on the industry and infrastructure that has developed around online and mobile access and traffic. Inadequate development of a reliable network backbone or the lack of timely delivery of complementary products could affect the overall commercial viability of the marketplace. Reliance on the internet and mobile services affects the Company's performance with interruptions in service and other delays on websites. Global e-commerce and information exchange is constantly changing and evolving, and it is difficult to predict with any assurance of its long-term commercial success.

#### *Trade Credit to Customers*

The Company extends trade credit to most of its customers to facilitate the purchase of its services. The Company relies on the creditworthiness of such customers. Some of the Company's

customers operate in a highly competitive, cyclical or low margin business. Some are highly levered financially or experiencing negative cash flows such that they may need to refinance, restructure, file for bankruptcy protection or go bankrupt. The failure of such customers to pay the Company promptly and in full under the terms of the trade credit the Company extends to them could have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, financial condition, results of operations, and cash flow.

One of the effects of the global economic condition is that businesses tend to maintain their cash resources and delay in paying their creditors whenever possible. As a trade creditor, the Company lacks leverage, unlike secured lenders and providers of essential services. Should the economy further deteriorate, the Company may find that advertisers, their representative agencies or both may delay in making payments. Additionally, the Company may find that advertisers reduce internet advertising, which would reduce the Company's future revenues. These events will result in a number of adverse effects, including increasing the Company's borrowing costs, lowering the Company's gross profit margins, reducing the Company's ability to borrow under the line of credit, and reducing the Company's ability to grow the business. These events would have a material and adverse effect upon the Company.

#### *Advertising on the Internet and Mobile Devices Loses its Appeal to Marketing Companies*

The Company's revenue is generated in part by delivering advertisements that are targeted to certain groups of individuals. This business model may not continue to be effective in the future for a number of reasons, including, without limitation, to the following: click and conversion rates have always been low and may decline as the number of advertisements and ad formats increase; internet users can install "filter" or opt-out software programs which allow them to prevent advertisements from appearing on their computer screens or email inboxes; internet and mobile advertisements are, by their nature, limited in content relative to other media; marketing companies may be reluctant or slow to adopt or grow online advertising that replaces, limits or competes with their existing marketing efforts; marketing companies may prefer other forms of advertising that the Company does not offer; advertisers may become adverse to certain forms of online promotions that may conflict with their brand objectives; and some advertisers have experienced issues with "click-fraud" or other forms of perceived low quality.

#### *Real-Time Advertising Exchanges Fail to Attract Publishers*

The Company provides services based on real-time advertising exchanges and their ability to attract publishers to offer web and mobile advertising inventory for purchase. The Company's ability to generate significant revenue from advertisers will depend, in part, on the ability of such exchanges to demonstrate the effectiveness of the model to advertisers and publishers; and on the Company's ability to attract and retain advertisers and publishers by differentiating the Company's technologies and services from those of competitors. Intense competition has led to the proliferation of a number of alternative pricing and distribution models for internet and mobile advertising. These alternatives, and the likelihood that additional pricing alternatives will be introduced, make it difficult for the Company to predict the levels of advertising revenue or the margins that the Company, or the advertising industry in general, will realize in the future. Moreover, an increase in the amount of advertising on the web and mobile devices may result in a decline in click or conversion rates. Any decrease in click or conversion rates may make some of the Company's performance pricing models less viable or less attractive for publishers and advertisers.

## *Government Regulation of the Internet*

Companies engaging in online search, advertising, commerce, and related businesses face uncertainty related to future government regulation of the internet. Due to the rapid growth and widespread use of the internet, federal, state, and provincial governments are enacting and considering various laws and regulations relating to the internet. Furthermore, the application of existing laws and regulations to internet companies remains somewhat unclear. The Company's business and operating results may be negatively affected by new laws. Existing or new regulations may expose the Company to material compliance costs and liabilities and may impede the growth of internet usage. Additionally, the Company's third party data partners may be adversely affected by any new or existing laws.

As a company that provides services over the internet, the Company may be subject to an action brought under any existing or future laws governing online services. The Company may also be subject to costs and liabilities with respect to privacy issues. Several internet companies have incurred costs and pay penalties for violating their privacy policies. Further, it is anticipated that federal, state, and provincial governments may adopt new legislation with respect to user privacy. Additionally, foreign governments may pass laws which could negatively impact the Company's business or may prosecute the Company for products and services based upon existing laws. The restrictions imposed by, and the cost of complying with, current and possible future laws and regulations related to the Company's business could harm business and operating results. Further, any such laws that affect the Company's third-party data partners could also indirectly harm business and operating results.

The United States Federal Trade Commission issued guidelines recommending that companies who engage in behavioural targeting take part in self-regulation to protect the privacy of consumers who use the internet. The Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada also released guidelines which state that information collected for online behavioural targeting is likely personal information that would require appropriate policy disclosures or other measures. While the Company adheres to these guidelines, if any government enacted legislation addressing online behavioural targeting, it may adversely affect what the Company perceives to be a competitive advantage. This could increase the Company's costs and reduce future revenues.

## *System Failures*

The Company's success depends on the continuing and uninterrupted performance of its systems. Sustained or repeated system failures that interrupt the Company's ability to provide services to customers, including failures affecting the Company's ability to deliver advertisements quickly and accurately and to process website visitors' responses to ads, would significantly reduce the attractiveness of the Company's services to advertisers and publishers. The Company's business, results of operations, and financial condition could also be materially and adversely affected by any systems damage or failure that impacts data integrity or interrupts or delays operations. The Company's computer systems are vulnerable to damage from a variety of sources, including telecommunications failures, power outages, malicious or accidental human acts, and natural disasters. Moreover, despite having established network security measures, the Company's servers are potentially vulnerable to physical or electronic break-ins, computer viruses, and similar disruptive problems in part because the Company cannot control the maintenance and operation of third-party data centers. Despite the precautions taken, unanticipated problems affecting the Company's systems could cause interruptions in the delivery of solutions in the future and the

Company's ability to provide a record of past transactions. The Company's insurance policies may not adequately compensate the Company for any losses that may occur due to any failures in the Company's systems.

### *Competition*

The internet and mobile advertising markets are characterized by rapidly changing technologies, evolving industry standards, frequent new product and service introductions, and changing customer demands. The introduction of new products and services embodying new technologies and the emergence of new industry standards and practices could render the Company's existing products and services obsolete and unmarketable; it may also require unanticipated technology or other investments. The Company's failure to adapt successfully to these changes could harm its business, results of operations, and financial condition.

The market for internet and mobile advertising and related products and services is highly competitive. The Company expects this competition to continue to increase, in large part because there are no significant barriers to entry to the industry. Increased competition may result in price reductions for advertising space, reduced margins, and loss of market share. The Company's principal competitors include other companies that provide advertisers with internet and mobile advertising solutions and companies that offer real-time advertising services.

Competition for advertising placements among current and future suppliers of internet navigational and informational services, high-traffic websites, and internet service providers, as well as competition with other media for advertising placements, could result in significant price competition, declining margins, and reductions in advertising revenue. In addition, as the Company continues efforts to expand the scope of web services, the Company may compete with a greater number of web publishers and other media companies across an increasing range of different web services, including vertical markets where competitors may have advantages in expertise, brand recognition, and other areas. If existing or future competitors develop or offer products or services that provide significant performance, price, creative, or different advantages over those offered by the Company, its business, results of operations, and financial condition could be negatively affected. The Company also competes with traditional advertising media, such as direct mail, television, radio, cable, and print, for a share of advertisers' total advertising budgets. Many current and potential competitors enjoy competitive advantages over us, such as longer operating histories, greater name recognition, larger customer bases, greater access to advertising space on high-traffic websites, and significantly greater financial, technical, sales, and marketing resources. As a result, the Company may not be able to compete successfully. If the Company fails to compete successfully, the Company could lose customers or advertising inventory, and revenue and results of operations could decline.

### *Rapid Technological Change*

The Company uses many different technologies to develop and deploy strategic solutions for customers. These technologies are rapidly changing. While the Company continuously researches and evaluates the tools used, there is no assurance that these technologies and the expertise built around them will continue to be applicable in the future. The Company's success will depend on the ability to adapt to rapidly changing technologies, to enhance existing solutions, and to develop and introduce a variety of new solutions to address customers' and affiliates' changing demands. If the Company fails to keep pace with technological developments and the introduction of modern

industry and technology standards on a cost-effective basis, the Company's expenses could increase and the Company could lose customers.

### *Length of Sales Cycle*

The development and implementation of the Company's technology solutions and the adoption of the Company's advertising services are often an enterprise-wide decision for prospective clients and, in the case of advertising services, may require multiple decision makers to provide their approvals, usually on a campaign-by-campaign basis. Lengthy sales cycles are frequent and may include an analysis of customer needs, a written proposal, presentations, and contract negotiations. Since these initiatives can involve a substantial commitment of capital, there are often delays in approving such large expenditures. The sales cycle varies, but typically it has ranged from one to nine months. During that time, the sales cycle can be affected by the client's budgetary constraints, internal acceptance reviews, and the overall economic climate, factors over which the Company has little or no control.

### *Content*

The Company may be subject to third-party claims relating to content in the advertising delivered as it relates to violations of copyright, trademark, or other intellectual property rights of third parties or if the content is defamatory. Any claims or counterclaims could be time-consuming, could result in costly litigation, and could divert management's attention.

## **General Risks**

### *COVID-19*

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of a novel strain of coronavirus ("COVID-19") a global pandemic. In response to the outbreak, governmental authorities in Canada and internationally have implemented various recommendations and measures to try to limit the pandemic, including travel restrictions, border closures, nonessential business closures, quarantines, self-isolations, shelters-in-place, and social distancing. The COVID-19 outbreak and the response of governmental authorities to try to limit it are having a significant impact on the private sector and individuals, including unprecedented business, employment and economic disruptions.

Although the Company has taken steps to mitigate the impact of COVID-19, the continued presence and spread of COVID-19 nationally and globally could have a material adverse impact on the Company's business, operations, financial results and position and prospects, including through employee attrition, sales channels, changes in demand for the Company's products and services, as well as a deterioration of general economic conditions including a possible national or global recession. Due to the speed with which the COVID-19 situation is developing and the uncertainty of its magnitude, outcome and duration, it is not possible to estimate its impact on the Company's business, operations, financial results and position or prospects at this time. The Company continues to monitor the situation and work with its stakeholders (including customers, employees and suppliers) in order to assess further possible implications to its business, supply chain and customers, and, where practicable, mitigate adverse consequences and responsibly address this global pandemic.

### *Stock Market Volatility*

The trading price of the Common Shares has been, and may continue to be, subject to broad fluctuations. The Company's share price may fluctuate in response to a number of events and factors, including, without limitation, variations in quarterly operating results; announcements and implementations of technological innovations or new services by the Company or competitors; recommendations by market analysts; the operating and share price performance of, or other developments involving, other companies that investors may deem comparable to the Company; news reports or rumors relating to the Company; and general economic or market conditions. The Company's financial results have varied on a quarterly basis and are likely to continue to fluctuate in the future, which could cause the Company's share price to continue to be volatile or decline.

In addition, the stock market in general and the market prices for internet-based companies in particular have experienced volatility that has often been unrelated to the operating performance of such companies. These broad market and industry fluctuations may adversely affect the price of the Common Shares, regardless of operating performance. Volatility or a lack of positive performance in the Company's share price may adversely affect the Company's ability to retain key employees, all of whom have been granted options. A sustained decline in the Company's share price and market capitalization could lead to an impairment charge to non-financial assets.

### *Non-Financial Assets*

The Company is required under IFRS to test goodwill for impairment at least annually and to review the Company's amortizable intangible assets for impairment when events or changes in circumstance indicate the carrying value may not be recoverable. Factors that could lead to impairment of goodwill and amortizable intangible assets include, but are not limited to, significant adverse changes in the business climate, prolonged periods of decline for the Company's business, or an announcement of adverse changes or events. The Company has recorded and may be required in the future to record additional charges to earnings if goodwill, amortizable intangible assets or other investments become impaired. Any such charge would adversely impact the Company's financial results.

### *Foreign Exchange Fluctuations*

A significant portion of the Company's revenue is generally denominated in Canadian dollars. The Company's expenses are denominated in either Canadian or U.S. dollars. The Company's results of operations and financial condition are reported in Canadian dollars and the Company's functional currency is the Canadian dollar. The Company's earnings are impacted by fluctuations in the exchange rates between the Canadian and U.S. dollar in which the Company trades. A decrease in the value of the Canadian dollar relative to the U.S. dollar would increase the cost of sales in Canadian dollar terms realized by the Company. This would reduce the Company's operating margin and the cash flow available to fund its operations.

### *General Economic Weakness*

The Company is susceptible to general economic conditions. A downturn in advertising and marketing spending by advertisers could adversely affect the Company's operating results. The Company's operating results will be subject to fluctuations based on general economic conditions, particularly those conditions that impact advertiser-consumer transactions and the technology

sector. Deterioration in economic conditions could cause decreases or delays in advertising spending and reduce or negatively impact the Company's short-term ability to grow revenues. Further, any decreased collectability of accounts receivable or early termination of agreements due to deterioration in economic conditions could negatively impact the Company's results of operations.

#### *Dependence on Key Personnel*

The Company's success depends to a significant extent on the abilities and efforts of senior management and technical personnel. The loss of, or inability to identify, attract, hire, retain, and motivate highly skilled management, technical, sales and marketing, corporate development, and other key personnel could have a material adverse effect on the Company's business. Qualified personnel with experience relevant to the Company's business are scarce and competition to recruit them is significant. If the Company fails to successfully hire and retain a sufficient number of highly qualified employees, the Company may have difficulties supporting customers or expanding the business. Although the Company has non-competition and non-disclosure agreements with all of its executive officers and senior managers, any loss of key personnel could have an adverse effect on the Company's business. The loss of the services of any member of the Company's senior management team, or any other key employees, could divert management's time and attention, increase expenses, and adversely affect the Company's ability to conduct business efficiently.

In light of current market conditions, the value of options granted to employees may cease to provide sufficient incentives to the Company's employees. Like many technology companies, the Company currently uses equity-based awards to recruit technology professionals and senior level employees. With respect to those employees to whom the Company issues options, the Company faces a significant challenge in retention if the value of these options is either not substantial enough or so substantial that the employee leaves after their options have vested. If the Company's share price does not increase significantly above the exercise prices of the Company's options, the Company may need to issue new options to motivate and retain executives; or if option programs become impracticable, the Company may need to grant other equity incentives or increase other forms of compensation. The Company may undertake or seek shareholder approval to undertake other equity-based programs to retain employees, which may be viewed as dilutive to the Company's shareholders or may increase the Company's compensation costs. Additionally, there can be no assurance that any such programs will be successful in motivating and retaining the Company's employees.

#### *Periodic Litigation*

The Company may from time to time become a party to claims and litigation proceedings, which are generally related to contract disputes. Such matters are subject to many uncertainties, and the Company cannot predict with assurances their outcome and ultimate financial impact. There can be no guarantee that any actions that may be brought against the Company in the future will be resolved in its favour or that the insurance the Company carries will be available or paid to cover any litigation exposure. Any losses from settlements or adverse judgments arising from these claims could be materially adverse to the Company.

## *Acquisitions and Investments*

The Company continually evaluates opportunities to acquire new technologies and businesses. We have acquired, and have made strategic investments in, a number of companies in the past, and we expect to make additional acquisitions and strategic investments in the future. Such transactions may result in dilutive issuances of our equity securities, the use of our cash resources, the incurrence of debt and contingent liabilities, and amortization expenses related to intangible assets acquired, some of which may occur even if the acquisition is ultimately not consummated, any of which could materially adversely affect the Company's business, financial condition and results of operations. Integration challenges include finance, information technology, facilities and customer support. The diversion of management's attention and any difficulties encountered in the integration process could harm our business. Our acquisitions and strategic investments to date were accompanied by a number of risks, including:

- uncertainties associated with operating in a new market and working with new customers;
- the difficulty of assimilating the operations and personnel of our acquired companies into our operations;
- the potential disruption of our ongoing business and distraction of management;
- the incurrence of additional operating losses and expenses of the businesses we acquired or in which we invested;
- the difficulty of integrating acquired technology and rights into our services and unanticipated expenses related to such integration;
- the failure to successfully further develop acquired technology resulting in the impairment of amounts currently capitalized as intangible assets;
- litigation or other claims in connection with acquisitions, acquired companies or companies in which we have invested;
- the impairment of relationships with, or failure to retain, employees of acquired companies or our existing employees as a result of integration of new personnel;
- the difficulty of integrating operations, systems, and controls as a result of cultural and regulatory systems, and operational differences; and
- the impact of known potential liabilities or liabilities that may be unknown, including as a result of inadequate internal controls, associated with the companies we acquired or in which we invested.

We are likely to experience similar risks in connection with our future acquisitions and strategic investments. Our failure to be successful in addressing these risks or other problems encountered in connection with our past or future acquisitions and strategic investments could cause us to fail to realize the anticipated benefits of such acquisitions or investments, or incur unanticipated liabilities, and harm our business generally.

## *Conflicts of Interest*

The Company may be subject to various potential conflicts of interest because of the fact that some of its officers and directors may be engaged in a range of business activities. In some cases, the executive officers and directors may have fiduciary obligations associated with these business interests that interfere with their ability to devote time to the Company and its affairs, and that could adversely affect Company operations. These business interests could require significant time and attention of the Company's executive officers and directors. In addition, the Company may

also become involved in other transactions which conflict with the interests of the Company's directors and officers who may from time to time deal with persons, firms, institutions or corporations with which the Company may be dealing, or which may be seeking investments similar to those the Company desires. The interests of these persons could conflict with the Company's interests. In addition, from time to time, these persons may be competing with the Company for available investment opportunities. Conflicts of interest, if any, will be subject to the procedures and remedies provided under applicable laws. In particular, in the event that such a conflict of interest arises at a meeting of directors, a director who has such a conflict will abstain from voting for or against the approval of such participation or such terms. In accordance with applicable laws, directors are required to act honestly, in good faith and in the Company's best interests.

#### *Fraudulent or Illegal activity by the Company's Employees, Contractors and Consultants*

The Company is exposed to the risk that its employees, independent contractors and consultants may engage in fraudulent or other illegal activity. Misconduct by these parties could include intentional, reckless and/or negligent conduct that violates various laws and regulations. It is not always possible for the Company to identify and deter misconduct by its employees and other third parties, and the precautions taken by the Company to detect and prevent this activity may not be effective in controlling unknown or unmanaged risks or losses or in protecting the Company from governmental investigations or other actions or lawsuits stemming from a failure to comply with such laws or regulations. If any such actions are instituted against the Company, and it is not successful in defending itself or asserting its rights, those actions could have a significant impact on the Company's business, including the imposition of civil, criminal and administrative penalties, damages, monetary fines, contractual damages, reputational harm, diminished profits and future earnings, and curtailment of the Company's operations, any of which could have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, financial condition and results of operations.

#### *Dilution*

The Company may issue additional securities in the future, which may dilute a shareholder's holdings in the Company and the Company's revenue per share. The Board has discretion to determine the price and the terms of further issuances. Moreover, additional Common Shares will be issued by the Company under the Company's Option Plan and RSU Plan and upon the exercise of any convertible securities. The Company may also issue Common Shares to finance future acquisitions. The Company cannot predict the size of future issuances of Common Shares or the effect that future issuances and sales of Common Shares will have on the market price of the Common Shares. Issuances of a substantial number of additional Common Shares, or the perception that such issuances could occur, may adversely affect prevailing market prices for the Common Shares.

#### *Costs of Maintaining a Public Listing*

As a public company, there are costs associated with legal, accounting and other expenses related to regulatory compliance. Securities legislation and the rules and policies of the TSXV require listed companies to, among other things, adopt corporate governance and related practices, and to continuously prepare and disclose material information, all of which add to a company's legal and financial compliance costs. The Company may also elect to devote greater

resources than it otherwise would have on communication and other activities typically considered important by publicly traded companies.

### *Dividend Risk*

The Company has not paid dividends in the past and does not anticipate paying dividends in the near future. The Company expects to retain its earnings to finance further growth and, when appropriate, retire debt.

## **DIVIDENDS**

No dividends have been paid on Common Shares of the Company for each of its three most recently completed financial years. The future declaration and payment of dividends will be dependent upon the financial requirements of the Company to fund future growth and other factors that the Board may consider appropriate in the circumstances.

## **DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STRUCTURE**

### **Common Shares**

The authorized capital of the Company consists of an unlimited number of Common Shares. As of the date of this AIF, there are 68,208,291 Common Shares issued and outstanding.

Each Common Share entitles the holder thereof to: (i) receive notice of, attend and vote at all meetings of the shareholders of the Company, and each Common Share confers the right to one vote at all such meetings; (ii) receive and participate equally and rateably in any dividends declared on the Common Shares, if and when declared by the Board in its sole discretion; and (iii) receive and participate equally and rateably in any distribution of the assets of the Company in the event of liquidation, dissolution or winding-up of the Company, whether voluntary or involuntary, or any other distribution of the assets of the Company among its shareholders for the purpose of winding up its affairs.

### **Stock Options and Restricted Share Units**

At the Company's annual and special meeting held on May 21, 2020, shareholders approved amendments to the Company's stock option plan (the "**Option Plan**") as follows: (i) change the Option Plan from a rolling stock option plan to a fixed stock option plan; and (ii) fix the aggregate maximum number of Common Shares which may be issued under stock options ("**Options**") issued and outstanding pursuant to the Option Plan and restricted share units ("**RSUs**") pursuant to the restricted share unit plan (the "**RSU Plan**") at 8,237,664 (representing approximately 12% of the issued and outstanding Common Shares as of the date of this AIF).

As at the date of this AIF, there are 4,198,667 Options and 125,000 RSUs issued and outstanding.

For a description of the Company's Option Plan and RSU Plan, please refer to the Company's management information circular, as will be filed on SEDAR on April 30, 2021 at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).

## MARKET FOR SECURITIES

The Common Shares trade on the TSXV under the symbol “EQ”. The following table sets forth the range of high and low prices per Common Share and total monthly volumes of shares traded on the TSXV during the financial year ended December 31, 2020 as well as the periods up to the date of this AIF.

| Month     | Trading Volume | Price Range |        |
|-----------|----------------|-------------|--------|
|           |                | Low         | High   |
| 2020      |                |             |        |
| January   | 431,288        | \$0.87      | \$0.95 |
| February  | 514,885        | \$0.92      | \$0.99 |
| March     | 2,419,174      | \$0.73      | \$1.13 |
| April     | 834,411        | \$0.93      | \$1.17 |
| May       | 666,383        | \$1.12      | \$1.45 |
| June      | 535,439        | \$1.33      | \$1.44 |
| July      | 721,928        | \$1.35      | \$1.45 |
| August    | 278,735        | \$1.38      | \$1.50 |
| September | 394,954        | \$1.38      | \$1.50 |
| October   | 201,462        | \$1.32      | \$1.44 |
| November  | 364,179        | \$1.27      | \$1.41 |
| December  | 1,116,291      | \$1.22      | \$1.67 |
| 2021      |                |             |        |
| January   | 872,957        | \$1.62      | \$1.83 |
| February  | 1,800,050      | \$1.56      | \$1.90 |
| March     | 702,509        | \$1.55      | \$1.75 |

## PRIOR SALES

During the financial year ended December 31, 2020 and up to the date of this AIF, the Company issued the following securities that are outstanding but not listed or quoted on a market place:

| Issue/Grant Date                 | Type of Security      | Number of Securities | Exercise Price | Expiry Date     |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| February 19, 2021 <sup>(1)</sup> | Compensation Warrants | 230,160              | \$1.60         | August 19, 2022 |

**Note:**

(1) Issued to the Underwriters as compensation pursuant to the 2021 Offering. See “General Development of the Business – Three Year History”.

## ESCROWED SECURITIES AND SECURITIES SUBJECT TO CONTRACTUAL RESTRICTION ON TRANSFER

Except as set forth below, to the Company's knowledge, none of the securities of the Corporation are held in escrow or are subject to a contractual restriction on transfer as at the date hereof.

| Designation of class | Number of securities held in escrow or subject to a contractual restriction on transfer | Percentage of class |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Common Shares        | 11,137,247                                                                              | 16.3%               |

**Note:**

- (1) Pursuant to the 2021 Offering, all directors and officers of EQ voluntarily entered into lock-up agreements restricting such directors and officers from transferring their securities of EQ, subject to customary exceptions, for a period of 90 days from the closing date of the 2021 Offering.

## DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The articles of the Company provide for a minimum of three (3) directors and a maximum of nine (9) directors. Each director holds office until the close of the next annual general meeting of the Company, or until his or her successor is duly elected or appointed, unless his or her office is earlier vacated.

The following table lists the names of the directors and executive officers of the Company and their province/state and country of residence, their positions and offices held with the Company, their principal occupations during the past five years, the date on which they first became directors of the Company, and the number and percentage of Common Shares which is beneficially owned, directly or indirectly, or over which control or direction is exercised, by each of them.

| Name and Place of Residence                                        | Position(s) Held                                | Principal Occupation During Previous Five Years                                                                                                  | Director Since | Number (and Percentage) of Common Shares Owned or Controlled |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Geoffrey Rotstein<br>Toronto, Ontario,<br>Canada <sup>(1)(3)</sup> | President, Chief Executive Officer and Director | President and Chief Executive Officer of EQ; Director, Cann-Is Capital Corp.; Director, AirIQ Inc.                                               | 1997           | 3,602,715<br>(5.28%)                                         |
| Joe Strolz<br>Toronto, Ontario,<br>Canada                          | Chief Operating Officer                         | Chief Operating officer of EQ Inc.; President Juice Mobile, a division of Curate Inc.; General Manager, Canada, Snap Inc.; Head of Americas, AOL | N/A            | Nil                                                          |
| Peter Kanniah<br>Pickering, Ontario,<br>Canada                     | Chief Financial Officer                         | Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Secretary of EQ                                                                                            | N/A            | Nil                                                          |
| Dilshan Kathriarachchi<br>Toronto, Ontario,<br>Canada              | Chief Technology Officer                        | Chief Technology Officer of EQ                                                                                                                   | N/A            | 1,702,775<br>(2.50%)                                         |

| Name and Place of Residence                                                    | Position(s) Held | Principal Occupation During Previous Five Years                                                                                                                                               | Director Since | Number (and Percentage) of Common Shares Owned or Controlled |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Vernon Lobo <sup>(1)(2)(3)(4)</sup><br>Toronto, Ontario, Canada                | Director         | Managing Director and Founder, Mosaic Venture Partners Inc., a private venture capital firm; Director, AirIQ Inc.; Director, TECSYS Inc.; Director, Flow Capital Inc.; Director Pivotree Inc. | 1997           | 5,831,757<br>(8.55%)                                         |
| James Beriker <sup>(1)(2)(3)</sup><br>San Francisco, California, United States | Director         | Chief Executive Officer, Life Cycle Group; President, CEO & Director - Simply Hired, Inc.; President, CEO & Director - Munchery, Inc.; Present President, CEO & Director Rolliyo, Inc.        | 2020           | Nil                                                          |

**Notes:**

- (1) Member of the Audit Committee.
- (2) Member of the Compensation Committee.
- (3) Member of the Corporate Governance Committee.
- (4) Chairman of the Audit Committee.

### **Shareholdings of Directors and Officers**

As at the date of this AIF, the directors and executive officers of the Company and their associates, as a group, own of record or beneficially, directly or indirectly, or exercise control or direction over 11,137,247 or 16.3% of the issued and outstanding Common Shares.

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

No director or executive officer of the Company is, as at the date of this AIF, or has been within the last 10 years, a director, chief executive officer or chief financial officer of any company (including the Company) that:

- (a) was subject to a cease trade order, an order similar to a cease trade order, or an order that denied the relevant company access to any exemption under securities legislation, and which in all cases was in effect for a period of more than 30 consecutive days (an “**Order**”), which Order was issued while the director or executive officer was acting in the capacity as director, chief executive officer or chief financial officer of such company; or
- (b) was subject to an Order that was issued after the director or executive officer 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 of such company.

No director or executive officer of the Company or, to the best of the Company's knowledge, any shareholder holding a sufficient number of Common Shares to affect materially the control of the Company:

- (a) is, as at the date of this AIF, or has been within the last 10 years, a director or executive officer of any company (including the Company) that, while that person was acting in that capacity, or within a year of that 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;
- (b) has, within the last 10 years, 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 his assets;
- (c) has been subject to 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
- (d) has been subject to any penalties or sanctions imposed by a court or regulatory body that would likely be considered important to a reasonable investor in making an investment decision regarding the Company.

James Beriker, a director of the Company, was the Chief Executive Officer and a director of Munchery, Inc. when it filed for bankruptcy on February 28, 2019 in the United States Bankruptcy Court (Northern District of California, San Francisco Division), with the final decree having been entered on January 4, 2021.

### **Conflicts of Interest**

To the best of the Company's knowledge, other than as disclosed herein, there are no known existing or potential material conflicts of interest between the Company and any directors or officers of the Company, except that certain of the directors and officers serve as directors, officers, promoters and members of management of other public companies and therefore it is possible that a conflict may arise between their duties as a director or officer of the Company and their duties as a director, officer, promoter or member of management of such other companies.

The directors and officers of the Company are aware of the existence of laws governing the accountability of directors and officers for corporate opportunities and requiring disclosures by them of conflicts of interest, and the Company will rely upon such laws in respect of any conflicts of interest of, or breaches of duty by, any of its directors or officers. All such conflicts will be disclosed by such directors and officers in accordance with the OBCA and they will govern themselves in respect thereof to the best of their ability in accordance with the obligations imposed upon them by law.

## **LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AND REGULATORY ACTIONS**

To the Company's knowledge, there are no regulatory actions material to the Company to which it is a party, or has been a party to, or of which any of its property is or was the subject matter, and no such proceedings or actions are known by the Company to be contemplated.

In 2020, the former shareholders of a previous acquisition sued EQ Inc. in connection with the alleged wrongful dismissal of one of the shareholders. Their claim is based on their estimate of damages for the second-year capital payment under the share purchase agreement totaling \$1.4 million. It is the Company's view that the dispute is baseless and without merit and that EQ is well-positioned given contractual rights under the share purchase agreement. The Company has retained counsel and intends to vigorously defend its interest and protect its rights.

## **INTEREST OF MANAGEMENT AND OTHERS IN MATERIAL TRANSACTIONS**

Except as disclosed below, none of the directors or executive officers of the Company, or persons or companies that beneficially own, or control or direct, directly or indirectly, more than 10% of the issued and outstanding Common Shares, or any associate or affiliate of any of the foregoing, has any material interest, direct or indirect, in any transactions in which the Company has participated within its three most recently completed financial years or during its current financial year that have materially affected or are reasonably expected to materially affect the Company.

On February 19, 2018, the Company completed a private placement of the 2018 Notes. An aggregate of \$772,710 principal amount of the 2018 Notes was purchased by certain directors and officers of the Company, namely Vernon Lobo, Geoffrey Rotstein, and Dilshan Kathriarachchi. In connection with the issuance of the 2018 Notes, Messrs. Lobo, Rotstein and Kathriarachchi were issued 1,159,065 of the 2018 Bonus Warrants.

On December 31, 2018, the Company completed a private placement of \$1,077,240 Common Shares at a price of \$0.65 per share for aggregate gross proceeds of \$700,206. An aggregate of \$103,583 of the Common Shares was purchased by certain directors and officers of the Company, being Vernon Lobo, Geoffrey Rotstein, and Paul Hill.

On August 19, 2019, the Company completed the private placement of the 2019 Notes. An aggregate of \$888,298 principal amount of the 2019 Notes was purchased by certain directors and officers of the Company, being Vernon Lobo, Geoffrey Rotstein, and Dilshan Kathriarachchi. In

connection with the issuance of the 2019 Notes, Messrs. Lobo, Rotstein and Kathriarachchi were issued an aggregate of 1,332,448 2019 Bonus Warrants.

On January 19, 2021, the Company repaid the 2019 Notes. An aggregate of \$888,298 principal amount plus interest of was paid to certain directors and officers of the Company, being Vernon Lobo, Geoffrey Rotstein and Dilshan Kathriarachchi.

See “*General Development of the Business – Three Year History*” for further details relating to the foregoing transactions.

## **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

The Company’s audit committee (the “**Audit Committee**”) is responsible for assisting the Board in monitoring the performance of management in ensuring that the Company is operating in an ethical manner and encouraging management to demonstrate a strong commitment to integrity. The Audit Committee is also responsible for providing assistance to the Board in fulfilling its financial reporting and control responsibilities to the shareholders of the Company and to the investment community.

The Audit Committee’s primary responsibilities in this regard are to: (i) oversee the accounting and financial reporting process of the Company and the audit of its financial statements; (ii) monitor the Company’s financial reporting process and internal control systems; (iii) review and appraise the audit activities of the Company’s independent auditors; (iv) meet periodically with management and with the independent auditors; and (v) assess the relevance and reliability of the Company’s financial reports to ensure they accurately portray the underlying economic circumstances and financial performance of the Company.

### **Audit Committee Charter**

The Audit Committee’s mandate is to promote and ensure that the Company complies with high standards of financial reporting, risk management and ethical behavior. The Audit Committee charter is attached hereto as Schedule “A”.

## **Composition, Relevant Education and Experience of Audit Committee**

As of the date of this AIF, the Audit Committee is composed of the following members:

| <b>Name of Audit Committee Member</b> | <b>Is the member “Independent”? <sup>(1)</sup></b> | <b>Is the member “Financially Literate”? <sup>(2)</sup></b> | <b>Relevant Education and Experience</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Vernon Lobo <sup>(3)</sup>            | Yes                                                | Yes                                                         | <p>Mr. Lobo is the Managing Director and founder of Mosaic Capital Partners, a private investment firm.</p> <p>Mr. Lobo began his career in software development and engineering at Nortel Networks Corporation where he received a full scholarship to attend Harvard Business School.</p> <p>Mr. Lobo was a consultant with McKinsey &amp; Company, where he led engagements in the firm’s telecommunications and information technology practices.</p> <p>Mr. Lobo currently sits on the boards of several private companies, as well as AirIQ Inc., TECSYS Inc., Pivotree Inc. and Flow Capital Corp., all publicly traded corporations. Mr. Lobo holds a B.A.Sc. in Engineering from the University of Waterloo and an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School.</p>                                                                                                                      |
| Geoffrey Rotstein                     | No                                                 | Yes                                                         | <p>Mr. Rotstein worked as a Chartered Accountant at Pricewaterhouse Coopers in Toronto, a major global accounting firm and received his C.A. designation in 1996 and his M.B.A. degree from the Schulich School of Business in Toronto in 1992.</p> <p>Mr. Rotstein is the President and Chief Executive Officer and a Director of the Corporation. Prior to that, he was the Chief Financial Officer of the Corporation from March 1997 to December 2005.</p> <p>Mr. Rotstein was the past Chair of the Programmatic Committee for IAB Canada.</p> <p>Mr. Rotstein sits on the board of directors of AirIQ Inc., Cann-Is Capital Corp., was a member of the Young Presidents’ Organization and has been on the board of directors and advisory committees for various private and not-for-profit organizations.</p>                                                                      |
| James Beriker                         | Yes                                                | Yes                                                         | <p>Mr. Beriker is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of LifeCycle Group, an advisory firm based in Silicon Valley.</p> <p>Mr. Beriker began his career practicing corporate law in Los Angeles, representing primarily technology start-ups in financing and M&amp;A transactions. From 1999- 2020, Mr. Beriker held Chief Executive Officer and director positions at venture-backed technology startups, including Search123 (acquired), Efficient Frontier (acquired), Dapper (acquired), Simply Hired (acquired), and Munchery. Mr. Beriker also held operating executive positions at Yahoo! and ValueClick, both US-based public companies, and independent board positions at iSocket (acquired), Kanjoya (acquired) and EyeView.</p> <p>Mr. Beriker holds a BA from Trinity College, University of Toronto and an LLB. from Dalhousie University Schulich School of Law.</p> |

### **Notes:**

(1) “Independence” is defined in National Instrument 52-110 – *Audit Committees* (“**NI 52-110**”).

(2) “Financially Literate” is defined in National Instrument 52-110.

(3) Chair of the Audit Committee.

## **Audit Committee Oversight**

At no time since the commencement of the Company’s most recently completed financial year have any recommendations by the Audit Committee respecting the nomination and/or compensation of the Company’s external auditors not been adopted by the Board.

## **Reliance on Certain Exemptions**

At no time since the commencement of the Company’s most recently completed financial year has the Company relied on exemptions in relation to “De Minimis Non-audit Services” or any exemption provided by Part 8 of NI 52-110.

### **Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures**

The Audit Committee shall pre-approve all non-audit services to be provided to the Company or its subsidiary entities by the Company's external auditor.

### **External Auditor Service Fees**

The following table sets forth the aggregate fees incurred by the Company's audit and tax services performed by the Company's auditor, RSM Canada LLP, for the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019.

|                        | 2020             | 2019             |
|------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Audit fees             | \$ 50,000        | \$ 50,000        |
| Quarterly audit review | \$ 15,000        | -                |
| Tax fees               | \$ 19,000        | \$ 19,000        |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>\$ 84,000</b> | <b>\$ 69,000</b> |

### **TRANSFER AGENT AND REGISTRAR**

The transfer agent and registrar for the Common Shares is TSX Trust Company, which is located at 301 - 100 Adelaide Street West, Toronto, ON M5H 4H1.

### **MATERIAL CONTRACTS**

Except for those contracts described under this AIF, the Company has not entered into any other material contracts.

### **INTERESTS OF EXPERTS**

RSM Canada LLP is the auditor of the Company and has performed the audit in respect of the audited annual consolidated financial statements of the Company as at and for the year ended December 31, 2020 and 2019. RSM Canada LLP is independent of the Company accordance with the applicable rules of professional conduct.

To the knowledge of management, as of the date of this AIF, no expert, nor any associate or affiliate of such person has any beneficial interest, direct or indirect, in the securities or property of the Company or of an associate or affiliate of any of them, and no such person is or is expected to be elected, appointed or employed as a director, officer or employee of the Company or of an associate or affiliate thereof.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Additional information relating to the Company can be found under the Company's profile on SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com). Additional information, including directors' and officers' remuneration and indebtedness, principal holders of the Company's securities and securities authorized for issuance under equity compensation plans is contained in the Company's management information circular, available on SEDAR April 30, 2021.

Additional financial information of the Company is provided in the Company's financial statements and management's discussion and analysis for the most recently completed financial year.

## SCHEDULE “A” AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER

By appropriate resolution of the board of directors (the “**Board**”) of EQ Inc. (“**EQ**” or the “**Company**”), the audit committee (the “**Committee**”) has been established as a standing committee of the Board the following terms of reference:

### TERMS OF REFERENCE:

#### 1. PURPOSE

1.1 The Committee’s purpose is to:

- (a) assist Board oversight of:
  - (i) the integrity of the Company’s financial statements;
  - (ii) the Company’s compliance with legal and regulatory requirements;
  - (iii) the independent auditor’s qualifications and independence;
  - (iv) the performance and integrity of the Company’s internal controls, internal audit function, and management information systems; and
  - (v) any other matters as defined by the Board; and
- (b) prepare any report that is required by law to be included in the Company’s annual proxy statement relating to the audit committee.

#### 2. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

2.1 Number of Members – The Committee shall consist of not fewer than three directors.

2.2 Independence of Members – each member of the Committee shall be:

- (a) a director who is not an employee of EQ; and
- (b) a director who is independent, as such term is defined in the Canadian Securities Administrators National Instrument 52-110 - *Audit Committees* (“**NI 52-110**”).

2.3 Financial Literacy –

- (a) Requirement – each member of the Committee must be financially literate within the meaning of NI 52-110.

- 2.4 Accounting or Related Financial Experience – the majority of the Committee members shall have accounting or related financial management experience or expertise.

These attributes may have been acquired through any one or more of the following means:

- (a) education and experience as a principal financial officer, principal accounting officer, controller, public accountant or auditor or experience in one or more positions that involve the performance of similar functions;
  - (b) experience actively supervising a principal financial officer, principal accounting officer, controller, public accountant or auditor or person performing similar functions, or experience overseeing or assessing the performance of companies or public accountants with respect to the preparation, auditing or evaluation of financial statements; or
  - (c) other relevant experience.
- 2.5 Annual Appointment of Members – The Committee and its Chairperson shall be appointed annually by the Board and each member shall hold office until the next annual meeting of shareholders, unless he or she resigns, is removed from the position, or ceases to be a director of the Company.

### 3. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- 3.1 Time and Place of Meetings – the time and place of the meetings of the Committee and the calling of meetings and the procedure in all things at such meetings shall be determined by the Committee; provided, however, the Committee shall meet at least quarterly.
- 3.2 In Camera Meetings - As part of each meeting of the Committee at which the Committee recommends that the Board approve the annual audited financial statements or at which the Committee reviews the quarterly financial statements, the Committee shall meet separately with each of:
- (a) management at the quarterly sessions; and
  - (b) the external auditors on an annual basis.
- 3.3 Special Meetings – Any member of the Committee or the external auditors may call a meeting of the Committee.
- 3.4 Notice – Notice of the time and place of every meeting shall be given either in writing, verbally, by facsimile or by phone to each member of the Committee, the Chairman of the Board, the Chief Executive Officer of the Company and the Chief Financial Officer of the Company at least 48 hours prior to the time fixed for the meeting. The external auditor of the Company shall be given notice of every

meeting of the Committee, and, at the expense of the Company, shall be entitled to attend and be heard thereat. If requested by a member of the Committee, the external auditor shall attend every meeting of the Committee held during the term of office of the external auditor.

- 3.5 Quorum – A majority of the Committee shall constitute a quorum. No business may be transacted by the Committee except at a meeting of its members at which a quorum of the Committee is present in person or by teleconference.
- 3.6 Secretary – The Committee shall appoint a Secretary to the Committee who need not be a director or officer of the Company.
- 3.7 Records – minutes of meetings of the Committee shall be recorded and maintained by the Secretary to the Committee and shall be subsequently presented to the Committee for review and approval.

#### 4. OUTSIDE ADVISORS

- 4.1 Retaining and Compensating Advisors – the Committee has the authority to retain such outside legal, accounting or other advisors as it determines necessary to carry out its duties and shall not be required to obtain the approval of the Board in order to retain or compensate such advisors. The Committee also has the authority to set and pay the compensation for any advisors employed by the Committee and to communicate directly with internal and external advisors.

#### 5. REMUNERATION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- 5.1 Director Fees Only – no member of the Committee may earn fees from EQ or any of its subsidiaries other than director's fees (which fees may include cash and/or shares or options or other in-kind consideration ordinarily available to directors, as well as all of the regular benefits that other directors receive) which include fees paid to directors who serve on Board committees.
- 5.2 Other Payments – for greater clarity, no member of the Committee shall accept any consulting, advisory or other compensatory fee from the Company.

#### 6. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

- 6.1 Financial and Related Information –
  - (a) Annual Financial Statements – the Committee shall review and discuss with management and the external auditor, EQ's annual financial statements and related MD&A and report thereon to the Board before recommending such information is publicly disclosed.
  - (b) Interim Financial Statements – The Committee shall review, discuss with Management and recommend for approval to the Board, EQ's interim

financial statements and related MD&A before they are released or publicly disclosed.

- (c) Prospectus Type Documents – the Committee shall review, discuss with management and recommend for approval to the Board any prospectus type documents.
- (d) Accounting Treatment – The Committee shall review and discuss with management and the external auditor:
  - (i) the quality of, and major issues regarding, the Company’s accounting principles and financial statement presentations, including all critical accounting policies and practices used and any significant changes in the Company’s selection or application of accounting principles;
  - (ii) any analysis prepared by management and/or the external auditor setting forth significant financial reporting issues and judgments made in connection with the preparation of the financial statements, including all alternative treatments of financial information with IFRS that the external auditor has discussed with management, ramifications of the use of such alternative disclosures and treatments and the treatment preferred by the external auditor;
  - (iii) the effect of regulatory and accounting initiatives, as well as off-balance sheet structures on the financial statements of the Company;
  - (iv) major issues as to the adequacy of the Company’s internal controls and any special audit steps adopted in light of material control deficiencies; and
  - (v) any material written communications between the external auditor and the Company including any management letter or schedule of unadjusted differences.
- (e) Disclosure of Other Financial Information – The Committee shall review:
  - (i) the types of information to be disclosed and the type of presentation to be made in connection with earnings press releases;
  - (ii) the MD&A;
  - (iii) all financial information and earnings guidance (if any) provided to analysts and rating agencies; and
  - (iv) all press releases (paying particular attention to any use of “pro forma: or “adjusted” non-IFRS information).

The Committee is responsible for being satisfied that adequate procedures are in place for the review of the Company's public disclosure of financial information extracted or derived from the Company's financial statements and must periodically assess those procedures.

## 6.2 External Auditor

- (a) Authority with Respect to external auditor - As representative of EQ's shareholders, the Committee shall be directly responsible for the appointment, compensation and oversight of the work of the external auditor (including resolution of disagreements between management and the auditor regarding financial reporting) for the purpose of preparing or issuing an audit report or performing other audit, review or attest services for the Company. In this capacity, the Committee shall have sole authority for recommending the person to be proposed to EQ's shareholders for appointment as external auditor and whether at any time the incumbent external auditor should be removed from office. The Committee shall require the external auditor to confirm in an engagement letter to the Committee each year that the external auditor is accountable to the Board and the Committee as representatives of shareholders.
- (b) The Company's external auditor is required to report directly to the Committee.
- (c) The Committee shall approve the scope of the external auditor's reviews and all related fees.
- (d) Competency of External Auditor - Once each year (or otherwise as the Chairman may consider appropriate) the Committee shall obtain and review a report by the external auditor describing:
  - (i) the external auditor's internal quality-control procedures;
  - (ii) any material raised by the most recent internal quality-control review, or peer review, of the external auditor's firm or by any injury or investigation by governmental or professional authorities, within the preceding five years, respecting one or more independent audits carried out by the external auditor's firm, and any steps taken to deal with any such issues; and
  - (iii) all material relationships between the external auditor and the Company (for the purposes of assessing the auditor's independence).
- (e) Review of Audit Problems - The Committee shall review with the external auditor any audit problems or difficulties and management's response.

- (f) Independence – The Committee shall satisfy itself as to the independence of the external auditor. As part of this process:
  - (i) the Committee shall require the external auditor to submit on a periodic basis to the audit committee, a formal written statement delineating all relationships between the auditor and the listed company and that the Committee is responsible for actively engaging in a dialogue with the auditor with respect to any disclosed relationships or services that may impact the objectivity and independence of the outside auditor and for recommending that the Board of Directors take appropriate action in response to the auditor’s report to satisfy itself or the auditor’s independence; and
  - (ii) the Committee must pre-approve any non-audit services provided by the auditor and shall consider whether these services are compatible with the external auditor’s independence.

### 6.3 Internal Financial Reporting & Controls -

- (a) Regular Reporting - EQ’s finance staff shall report regularly to the Committee and the Committee shall have direct communication channels with them to discuss and review specific issues as appropriate.
- (b) Oversight of Internal Controls - The Committee shall oversee Management reporting on EQ’s internal controls. The Committee shall periodically review and approve the mandate and plan of the internal audit department.
- (c) Auditors Management Letter - The Committee is responsible for reviewing major points contained in the Auditor’s Management letter resulting from control evaluation and testing.

### 6.4 Risk Assessment and Risk Management - the Committee shall discuss the Company’s major financial risk exposures and the steps management has taken to monitor and control such exposures.

### 6.5 Legal Compliance - On at least an annual basis, the Committee shall review any legal matters that could have a significant impact on the organization’s financial statements, the Company’s compliance with applicable laws and regulations, including tax and financial reporting laws and regulations, and inquiries received from regulators.

## 7. REPORTING TO THE BOARD

- 7.1 Regular Reporting - The Committee shall report to the Board following each meeting of the Committee and at such times as the Chair may determine to be appropriate.

## 8. EVALUATION OF COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE

8.1 Establish Process - The Committee shall follow the process established by the Board's Corporate Governance Committee for assessing the performance of the Committee.

8.2 Amendments to Mandate -

(a) Review by Audit Committee - The Committee shall recommend to the Board on an annual basis, any amendments it considers desirable to this mandate.

(b) Review by Board - The Board will review and reassess the adequacy of the mandate on an annual basis and such other time as it considers appropriate.

## 9. LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY CHANGES

9.1 Compliance - It is the Board's intention that this mandate shall reflect at all times all legislative and regulatory requirements applicable to the Committee. Accordingly, this mandate shall be deemed to have been updated to reflect any amendments to such legislative and regulatory requirements and shall be formally amended at least annually to reflect such amendments.

## 10. SUBMISSION SYSTEMS AND TREATMENT OF COMPLAINTS

10.1 The Committee is responsible for establishing procedures for:

(a) the receipt, retention, and treatment of complaints received by the Company regarding accounting, internal accounting controls, or auditing matters; and

(b) the confidential, anonymous submission by employees of the Company of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters.

## 11. HIRING POLICIES

11.1 The Committee is responsible for reviewing and approving the Company's hiring policies regarding partners, employees and former partners and employees of the present and former external auditor of the Company.