

## **CANADIAN NATURAL RESOURCES LIMITED (the “Corporation”) BOARD OF DIRECTORS CORPORATE GOVERNANCE GUIDELINES**

The Board of Directors (the “Board”) of the Corporation has adopted the following Corporate Governance Guidelines (the “Guidelines”) to assist the Board in meeting its responsibilities. These Guidelines reflect the Board’s commitment to monitor the effectiveness of policy and decision making both at the Board and management level, with a view to enhancing long-term shareholder value. The Board requires the directors, officers and employees of the Corporation to comply with all legal and regulatory requirements and encourages them to adhere to the highest ethical standards in the performance of their duties.

Directors must perform their duties, keeping in mind their fiduciary duty to the Corporation. That duty includes the obligation to ensure that the Corporation’s disclosures contain accurate information that fairly presents the Corporation and its operations to shareholders and the public in conformity with applicable laws, rules and regulations.

### **BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Board is responsible for the stewardship of the Corporation and overseeing the business and affairs of the Corporation. In executing this role, the Board shall oversee the conduct, direction and results of the business. In turn, management is mandated to conduct the day-to-day business and affairs of the Corporation and is responsible for implementing the Board’s strategies, goals and directions. The Board and its members shall at all times act in the best interest of the Corporation and its actions shall reflect its responsibility of establishing proper business practices and high ethical standards expected of the Corporation.

In discharging the Board’s stewardship obligations, the Board assumes responsibility for the following matters:

1. monitor the effectiveness of management policies and decisions including the creation and execution of its strategies;
2. review, and, where appropriate, approve the Corporation’s major financial objectives, plans and actions;
3. with the assistance of its standing committees, the identification of the principal risks of the Corporation’s business and ensuring the implementation of appropriate policies and systems to manage these risks;
4. succession planning; including appointing, training and monitoring senior management;
5. a communication and disclosure policy for the Corporation; and
6. the integrity of the Corporation’s internal control and management information systems.

### **COMPOSITION ON THE BOARD**

#### **Criteria for Board of Directors**

The Nominating, Governance and Risk Committee comprised entirely of Directors who qualify as independent directors under the requirements of the regulatory bodies to which the Corporation is subject (“Independent Directors”), is responsible for identifying, screening and recommending director nominations for appointment as members of the Board. The Board, however, will ultimately be responsible for nominating for appointment new directors and for the selection of its Chair.

The Board requires that a majority of the Board qualify as Independent Directors. Nominees for director are selected on the basis of, among other things, broad perspective, integrity, independence of judgment, experience, expertise, diversity in background, experience and skills, ability to make independent analytical inquiries, understanding of the Corporation’s business environment and willingness to devote adequate time and effort to Board responsibilities and such other factors as it deems appropriate given the current needs of the Board and Corporation, to maintain a balance of diversity, knowledge, experience, background and capabilities.

#### **Diversity**

The Directors believe it is to the best interests of the Corporation to have a Board whose members are diverse in background and experience and can bring a broad perspective to the decision making process for the good governance, guidance, direction and leadership of the Corporation. The Nominating, Governance and Risk Committee reviews and assesses the Board composition and performance annually and recommends the appointment of new Directors. Directors are selected for their ability to exercise independent judgment, experience, expertise and for the diversity of gender, background, experience and skills each individual candidate possesses. As indicated in the Diversity and Inclusion Policy Statement adopted by the Corporation (see page 5), a Board composition where a minimum of 40% of its independent directors are women reflects appropriate gender diversity when the other factors relevant to Board effectiveness are considered. In addition to gender diversity, the Board considers diversity to include ethnic and visible minorities as well as individuals with physical disabilities.

#### **Election of Directors by Shareholders**

Election of director nominees by shareholders in an uncontested election shall be by majority vote. A director nominee who receives in an uncontested election, a greater number of votes withheld than votes cast in favour of the election of the director nominee, shall forthwith submit to the Board, his or her resignation, to take effect upon acceptance by the Board. The Board

shall exercise discretion in considering the resignation of the director nominee and if it is deemed to be in the best interests of the Corporation and the shareholders and, absent any extenuating circumstances deemed by the Board to exist, the Board shall accept such resignation within 90 days of having received the resignation of the director nominee. In the considering any such resignation, the resigning Director shall not participate in the relevant Board meeting. The Corporation shall promptly issue a news release regarding the election of Directors and the Board's decision on any such resignation.

### **Independence**

As stated previously, the Board shall be comprised of a majority of Independent Directors. For a director to be independent, the Nominating, Governance and Risk Committee and the Board must affirmatively determine that an individual is independent, and to have no material relationship with the Corporation other than as a director, taking into account any applicable regulatory requirements and such other factors as the Nominating, Governance and Risk Committee and Board may deem appropriate; provided, however, that there shall be a three (3) year period during which they shall not be deemed independent, for the following individuals; (i) former employees of the Corporation, or of its independent auditor; (ii) former employees of any company whose compensation committee includes an officer of the Corporation; and (iii) immediate family members of the individuals specified in (i) and (ii) above. The Nominating, Governance and Risk Committee and the Board will review annually the relationship that each director has with the Corporation (either directly; or as a partner, shareholder or officer of an organization that has a relationship with the Corporation). Following this review, only those Directors who the Board and the Nominating, Governance and Risk Committee affirmatively determine meet any applicable regulatory independence requirements and have no material relationship with the Corporation will be considered Independent Directors. The basis for any determination that a relationship is not material will be published in the Corporation's Information Circular.

Directors have an obligation to inform the Board of any material changes in their circumstances or relationships that may impact their designation by the Board as "independent".

### **Size of the Board**

The Articles of the Corporation provide that the Board will have not less than three (3) or more than fifteen (15) members. The Board will fix the exact number of directors at any time after considering the recommendation of the Nominating, Governance and Risk Committee. The size of the Board should enable its members to effectively and responsibly discharge their responsibilities to the Corporation.

### **Lead Independent Director**

The Independent Directors shall designate one Independent Director to serve in the capacity of Lead Independent Director for the purposes outlined in the terms of reference for the Lead Independent Director or for other responsibilities that the Independent Directors might designate from time to time.

### **Other Company Directorships**

The Corporation does not have a policy limiting the number of other company boards of directors upon which a Director may sit. The Nominating, Governance and Risk Committee shall consider the number of other company boards or comparable governing bodies on which a prospective nominee is a member.

Directors are expected to advise the Chair of the Board and the Chair of the Nominating, Governance and Risk Committee in advance of accepting any other company directorships or any assignment to the audit committee or compensation committee of the board of directors of any other company. The Corporation has determined that, where Directors seek to become directors for other oil and natural gas exploration and production companies, the potential for any conflicts of interest caused by such directorships shall be considered by and, if acceptable, approved by the Nominating, Governance and Risk Committee. When the Nominating, Governance and Risk Committee is considering potential nominees, the potential benefits to, and impacts on, the Board and the Corporation of such directorships shall be considered as part of the evaluation process.

While the Corporation does not restrict the number of public company boards that a Director may serve on, each Director is expected to limit their other company board memberships to a number which permits them, given their individual circumstances, to devote sufficient time and energy to fulfill their responsibilities to the Corporation and to carry out their duties as a Director of the Corporation effectively.

### **Term Limits**

The Board does not favour the concept of mandatory term limits. The Board believes term limits have the disadvantage of losing the contribution of Directors who have been able to develop, over a period of time, increasing insight into the Corporation and its operations and thereby provide an increasing contribution to the Board as a whole.

### **Retirement Policy**

Under the Board's retirement policy Directors will not stand for re-election after reaching the age of 78. The Nominating, Governance and Risk Committee has the responsibility to evaluate annually the effectiveness of each Director.

### **Director Responsibilities**

Each Director shall have the responsibility to exercise his or her business judgment in good faith and in a manner that he or she reasonably believes to be in the best interests of the Corporation. A Director is expected to spend the time and effort necessary to properly discharge such Director's responsibilities. Accordingly, a Director is expected to regularly attend a minimum of 75%

of all meetings of the Board and committees on which such Director sits (except for any extenuating circumstances) and to review in advance the meeting materials.

### **Director Orientation**

New members of the Board shall be provided an orientation which includes background information about the Corporation's business, current issues, corporate strategies, general information about the Board and committees and Director's duties and responsibilities and meetings with key operations personnel. Each Director is expected to participate in continuing educational programs in order to maintain the necessary level of expertise to perform his or her responsibilities as a Director.

### **Board Meetings**

The Board has five (5) regularly scheduled meetings each year appropriately scheduled for the Board to meet its responsibilities. In addition, unscheduled Board meetings may be called upon proper notice being given at any time to address specific needs of the Corporation. One half (or where one half of the Directors is not a whole number, the whole number which is closest to and less than one half) of the Directors then in office constitutes a quorum for Board of Directors meetings.

The Chair of the Board will establish the agenda for each Board meeting. Any member of the Board may request that an item be included on the agenda and at any Board meeting raise subjects that are not on the agenda for that meeting.

At the invitation of the Board, members of senior management and independent advisors recommended by the Chair or the President attend Board meetings or portions thereof for the purpose of participating in discussions thereby providing certain expertise and/or insight into items that may be open for discussion. The Corporate Secretary attends all Board meetings except where there is a specific reason for the Corporate Secretary to be excluded.

Materials for the review, discussion, and/or action of the Board are, to the extent practicable, to be distributed sufficiently in advance of meetings, thereby allowing time for review prior to the meeting. It is recognized that in certain circumstances written materials may not be available in advance of the meeting.

Immediately following the termination of each Board meeting, the Independent Directors shall meet in executive session without the presence of management to discuss whatever topics they believe are appropriate. These meetings will be chaired by the Lead Independent Director. Additional executive sessions may be scheduled from time to time as determined by a majority of the Independent Directors in consultation with the Chair of the Board and the Lead Independent Director.

### **Board Committees**

The Board has established five (5) standing committees to assist the Board in fulfilling its mandate:

1. Audit Committee;
2. Compensation Committee;
3. Nominating, Governance and Risk Committee;
4. Reserves Committee; and
5. Health, Safety, Asset Integrity and Environmental Committee.

The purpose and responsibilities for each of these committees are outlined in committee charters adopted by the Board.

The Audit Committee, the Compensation Committee and the Nominating, Governance and Risk Committee shall each be comprised entirely of Independent Directors. The Reserves Committee and the Health, Safety, Asset Integrity and Environmental Committee shall be comprised of a majority of Independent Directors. The Chair of each of the Reserves Committee and the Health, Safety, Asset Integrity and Environmental Committee shall be an Independent Director.

Appointment of directors to standing committees shall be the responsibility of the Board, having received the recommendation of the Nominating, Governance and Risk Committee, based upon consultations with the members of the Board and the Chair.

The Board may constitute additional standing committees or special committees with special mandates as may be required or appropriate from time to time.

The Chair of each committee will determine the agenda, frequency and length of the committee meetings consistent with any requirements set forth in the committee's charter.

### **Board Evaluation**

The Nominating, Governance and Risk Committee will sponsor an annual self-assessment of the Board's performance, Directors' performance as well as the performance of each committee of the Board, the results of which will be discussed with the full Board and each committee. In preparing these assessments, the Nominating, Governance and Risk Committee, circulates to each Director a questionnaire through which each Director can provide input. The Nominating, Governance and Risk Committee will also utilize the results of this self-evaluation process in assessing and determining the characteristics and critical skills required of prospective candidates for appointment to the Board and making recommendations to the Board with respect to assignments of Board members to various committees.

## **Director Compensation**

Senior management of the Corporation shall report annually to the Nominating, Governance and Risk Committee at the last regularly scheduled Committee meeting in a calendar year on the status of the Corporation's Directors' compensation practices in relation to the other companies of comparable size and within the industry. The Corporation believes in a mix of both cash and stock based compensation. The Nominating, Governance and Risk Committee will recommend any changes in Director compensation to the Board for approval.

Director's fees are the only compensation an Audit Committee member may receive from the Corporation.

## **Share Ownership**

Directors are required to acquire and hold Common Shares of the Corporation equal to a minimum aggregate market value of three times the annual retainer fee paid to directors within five (5) years from the date of their appointment as a director of the Corporation. Directors are required to confirm annually for the Corporation's Information Circular their share ownership position and that such position is their beneficial and legal ownership position and has not been hedged or otherwise sold.

The Board has also established share ownership guidelines for officers of the Corporation, which must be achieved within three (3) years of their appointment. Share ownership guidelines are based on a multiple of base salary; for the Executive Chair, President, any Chief Operating Officer and the Chief Financial Officer, four (4) times base salary; for any Senior Vice-Presidents, two (2) times base salary; and for all other officers, one (1) time base salary. Where the Executive Chair takes a nominal salary, the share ownership threshold applied to that individual is four (4) times the President's base salary. The details of these requirements can be found on page 25.

## **Evaluation of Senior Management**

Senior management is responsible for the day to day operation of the Corporation. Operations are to be conducted in a manner, which reflects the standards established by the Board, and with the goal of implementing and fulfilling the policies, strategies and goals established by the Board. The Board shall determine the specific or general terms and levels of authority for senior management as it may consider advisable from time to time.

The Corporation does not have a CEO designation. This role is delegated by the Board to the senior management of the Corporation including the Executive Chair, and the President. The Board establishes annual corporate objectives which senior management is responsible for meeting and assesses senior management's performance annually. This evaluation is based upon objective criteria previously authorized by the Board including consideration of the performance of the business of the Corporation, accomplishment of short and long-term strategic objectives, material business accomplishments and development of management. The evaluation is used by the Compensation Committee, as part of a formal process of considering compensation of senior management with reference to the performance in meeting the corporate objectives.

The President reports to the Compensation Committee annually with respect to senior management succession issues and the status of the Corporation's ongoing program for management development. The Corporation encourages the advancement of women within the organization and recognizes that it is in the best interests of the Corporation in having a management team that is diverse in background and experience and can bring a broad perspective to the decision making process. As part of the overall management succession plans of the Corporation and in following its mission statement to develop people, all employees have the benefit of having access to the same continuing education and career development opportunities offered through the Corporation. Appointments by the Board to the executive level are determined on merit, performance, management skills, expertise and experience of the individual that is relevant to the area of responsibility that they will be assuming.

## **Director Access to Management, Employees and Advisors**

Each Director may consult with any manager or employee of the Corporation or with any independent advisor to the Corporation at any time.

In appropriate circumstances, the committees of the Board are authorized to engage independent advisors as may be necessary in the circumstances.

In discharging his or her obligations, an individual director may engage outside advisors, at the expense of the Corporation, in appropriate circumstances on the approval of the Lead Independent Director, or where the Lead Independent Director is seeking to engage outside advisors, the Executive Chair.

## **Public Communications**

Management speaks for the Corporation and is responsible for communications with the shareholders, press, analysts, regulators, and other constituencies. From time to time members of the Board may be requested to communicate with one or more of those constituencies. It is anticipated that such communication will be coordinated with the Corporation's Management Committee.

## **Communication with the Board**

The Corporation believes that strong governance includes year-round engagement with Shareholders. Shareholder representatives meet regularly throughout the year with senior management and, when requested and appropriate, independent members of the Board of Directors. In addition, our senior management engage directly with Shareholders through earnings calls. One-on-one meetings are usually requested by Shareholders and take place in person, virtually or by telephone depending on the nature of the meetings and the location of the individuals involved. The Corporation regularly participates in investor conferences where senior management interacts with Shareholders and, in most cases, one-on-one meetings with Shareholders are arranged as part of these events. During one-on-one meetings, Shareholders have access to senior management and, occasionally, directors to make inquiries regarding the Corporation's policies, governance and performance. In the course of all of its Shareholder engagement activities, the Corporation maintains a process of review that ensures that no preferential disclosure takes place such that neither the participating Shareholder nor the Corporation are prejudiced.

In 2023, the Corporation participated in approximately 11 investor conferences and was involved in approximately 46 in-person one-on-one or group meetings with Shareholders located in Canada, the United States of America and Europe. Furthermore, the Corporation arranged specific engagement sessions, including telephone conferences, at the request of Shareholders to address various matters identified by the requesting Shareholder.

Any Shareholder or interested party who wishes to communicate directly with the Board, the Lead Independent Director or any specific Director may do so by directing any correspondence to their attention, as applicable, using the following address:

c/o Corporate Secretary  
Canadian Natural Resources Limited  
2100, 855 – 2nd Street S.W.  
Calgary, Alberta T2P 4J8

Upon receipt, the Corporate Secretary will follow a process approved by the Nominating, Governance and Risk Committee of the Board and forward the communication to the Director to whom it is addressed. Depending on the subject matter, the Corporate Secretary may also refer the inquiry to senior management, the appropriate corporate department, the Audit Committee Chair, the Lead Independent Director or the Board Chair. If the matter does not appear to request direct attention by the Board or an individual Director, the correspondence may be directed to the appropriate corporate department. All correspondence will be reviewed and addressed through a direct response or, if more appropriate, through specific Shareholder engagement sessions. Finally, the Corporate Secretary, in consultation with the General Counsel, may determine that correspondence that is primarily commercial in nature or that relates to an improper or irrelevant topic should not be forwarded.

## **Code of Integrity, Business Ethics and Conduct**

The Nominating, Governance and Risk Committee will periodically assess the Corporation's Code of Integrity, Business Ethics and Conduct policies to ensure it addresses appropriate topics and complies with the appropriate regulatory bodies' regulations and recommend any appropriate changes to the Board for approval. The Board must approve any waiver of the Code for any member of senior management or Directors. Any waiver must be disclosed in accordance with relevant regulatory requirements.

## **Modifications to Corporate Governance Guidelines**

The Nominating, Governance and Risk Committee will annually review these Corporate Governance Guidelines and recommend any appropriate changes to the Board for approval.