CANADIAN NATURAL RESOURCES LIMITED
(the “Corporation”)

Charter of the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors

I. Audit Committee Purpose

The Audit Committee is appointed by the Board of Directors (the “Board”) to assist the Board in fulfilling its responsibility for the stewardship of the Corporation in overseeing the business and affairs of the Corporation. Although the Audit Committee has the powers and responsibilities set forth in this Charter, the role of the Audit Committee is oversight. The Audit Committee’s primary duties and responsibilities are to:

1. ensure that the Corporation’s management implemented an effective system of internal controls over financial reporting;

2. monitor and oversee the integrity of the Corporation’s financial statements, financial reporting processes and systems of internal controls regarding financial, accounting and compliance with regulatory and statutory requirements as they relate to financial statements, taxation matters and disclosure of material facts;

3. select and recommend for appointment by the shareholders, the Corporation’s independent auditors, pre-approve all audit and non-audit services to be provided to the Corporation by the Corporation’s independent auditors consistent with all applicable laws, and establish the fees and other compensation to be paid to the independent auditors;

4. monitor the independence, qualifications and performance of the Corporation’s independent auditors and oversee the audit and review of the Corporation’s financial statements;

5. monitor the performance of the Corporation’s internal audit function, internal control of financial reporting programs, Sarbanes-Oxley compliance program, as well as the cybersecurity measures implemented in response to the Corporation’s assessment of its cyber risk;

6. establish procedures for the receipt, retention, response to and treatment of complaints, including confidential, anonymous submissions by the Corporation’s employees, regarding accounting, internal controls or auditing matters; and,

7. provide an avenue of communication among the independent auditors, management, the internal auditing function and the Board.
II. Audit Committee Composition, Procedures and Organization

1. The Audit Committee shall consist of at least three (3) directors as determined by the Board, each of whom shall be independent, non-executive directors, free from any relationship that would interfere with the exercise of his or her independent judgment. Audit Committee members shall meet the independence and experience requirements of the regulatory bodies to which the Corporation is subject to. All members of the Audit Committee shall have a basic understanding of finance and accounting and be able to read and understand fundamental financial statements at the time of their appointment to the Audit Committee. At least one member of the Audit Committee shall have accounting or related financial management expertise and qualify as a “financial expert” or similar designation in accordance with the requirements of the regulatory bodies to which the Corporation may be subject to.

2. The Board at its organizational meeting held in conjunction with each annual general meeting of the shareholders shall appoint the members of the Audit Committee for the ensuing year. The Board may at any time remove or replace any member of the Audit Committee and may fill any vacancy in the Audit Committee.

3. The Board shall appoint a member of the Audit Committee as chair of the Audit Committee. If an Audit Committee Chair is not designated by the Board, or is not present at a meeting of the Audit Committee, the members of the Audit Committee may designate a chair by majority vote of the Audit Committee membership.

4. The Secretary or the Assistant Secretary of the Corporation shall be secretary of the Audit Committee unless the Audit Committee appoints a secretary of the Audit Committee.

5. The quorum for meetings shall be one half (or where one half of the members of the Audit Committee is not a whole number, the whole number which is closest to and less than one half) of the members of the Audit Committee subject to a minimum of two members of the Audit Committee present in person or by telephone or other telecommunications device that permits all persons participating in the meeting to speak and to hear each other.

6. Meetings of the Audit Committee shall be conducted as follows:

   (a) the Audit Committee shall meet at least four (4) times annually at such times and at such locations as may be requested by the Chair of the Audit Committee;

   (b) the Audit Committee shall meet privately in executive sessions at each meeting with management, the manager of internal auditing, the independent auditors, and as a committee to discuss any matters that the Audit Committee or each of these groups believe should be discussed.
7. The independent auditors and internal auditors shall have a direct line of communication to the Audit Committee through its chair and may bypass management if deemed necessary. Any employee may bring before the Audit Committee directly and may bypass management if deemed necessary any matter involving questionable, illegal or improper financial practices or transactions.

III. Audit Committee Duties and Responsibilities

1. The overall duties and responsibilities of the Audit Committee shall be as follows:

   (a) to assist the Board in the discharge of its responsibilities relating to the Corporation’s accounting principles, reporting practices and internal controls and its approval of the Corporation’s annual and quarterly consolidated financial statements;

   (b) to establish and maintain a direct line of communication with the Corporation’s internal auditors and independent auditors and assess their performance;

   (c) to ensure that the management of the Corporation has implemented and is maintaining an effective system of internal controls over financial reporting;

   (d) to report regularly to the Board on the fulfillment of its duties and responsibilities; and,

   (e) to review annually the Audit Committee Charter and recommend any changes to the Nominating, Governance and Risk Committee for approval by the Board.

2. The duties and responsibilities of the Audit Committee as they relate to the independent auditors shall be as follows:

   (a) to select and recommend to the Board of Directors for appointment by the shareholders, the Corporation’s independent auditors, review the independence and monitor the performance of the independent auditors and approve any discharge of auditors when circumstances warrant;

   (b) to approve the fees and other significant compensation to be paid to the independent auditors, scope and timing of the audit and other related services rendered by the independent auditors;

   (c) to review and discuss with management and the independent auditors prior to the annual audit the independent auditor’s annual audit plan, including scope, staffing, locations and reliance upon management and internal audit department and oversee the audit of the Corporation’s financial statements;

   (d) to pre-approve all proposed non-audit services to be provided by the independent auditors except those non-audit services prohibited by legislation;
(e) on an annual basis, obtain and review a report by the independent auditors describing (i) the independent auditor’s internal quality control procedures; (ii) any material issues raised by the most recent quality-control review, or peer review, of the firm, or by any inquiry or investigation by governmental or professional authorities within the preceding five years respecting one or more independent audits carried out by the firm; and, (iii) any steps taken to address any such issues arising from the review, inquiry or investigation, and , receive a written statement from the independent auditors outlining all significant relationships they have with the Corporation that could impair the auditor’s independence. The Corporation’s independent auditors may not be engaged to perform prohibited activities under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 or the rules of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board or other regulatory bodies, which the Corporation is governed by;

(f) to review and discuss with the independent auditors, upon completion of their audit and prior to the filing or releasing annual financial statements:

(i) contents of their report, including:

A. all critical accounting policies and practices used;
B. all alternative treatments of financial information within GAAP that have been discussed with management, ramifications of the use of such treatments and the treatment preferred by the independent auditor;
C. other material written communications between the independent auditor and management;

(ii) scope and quality of the audit work performed;
(iii) adequacy of the Corporation’s financial and auditing personnel;
(iv) cooperation received from the Corporation’s personnel during the audit;
(v) internal resources used;
(vi) significant transactions outside of the normal business of the Corporation;
(vii) significant proposed adjustments and recommendations for improving internal accounting controls, accounting principles or management systems;
(viii) the non-audit services provided by the independent auditors; and,
(ix) consider the independent auditor’s judgments about the quality and appropriateness of the Corporation’s accounting principles and critical accounting estimates as applied in its financial reporting.

(g) to review and approve a report to shareholders as required, to be included in the Corporation’s Information Circular and Proxy Statement, disclosing any non-audit services approved by the Audit Committee.
(h) to review and approve the Corporation’s hiring policies regarding partners, employees and former partners and employees of the present and former independent auditor of the Corporation.

3. The duties and responsibilities of the Audit Committee as they relate to the internal auditors shall be as follows:

(a) to review the budget, internal audit function with respect to the organization structure, staffing, effectiveness and qualifications of the Corporation’s internal audit department;

(b) to review the internal audit plan; and

(c) to review significant internal audit findings and recommendations together with management’s response and follow-up thereto.

4. The duties and responsibilities of the Audit Committee as they relate to the internal control procedures of the Corporation shall be as follows:

(a) to review the appropriateness and effectiveness of the Corporation’s policies and business practices which impact on the financial integrity of the Corporation, including those relating to internal auditing, insurance, accounting, information services and systems and financial controls, management reporting (including financial reporting) and risk management;

(b) to review any unresolved issues between management and the independent auditors that could affect the financial reporting or internal controls of the Corporation; and

(c) to periodically review the extent to which recommendations made by the internal audit staff or by the independent auditors have been implemented.

5. Other duties and responsibilities of the Audit Committee shall be as follows:

(a) to review and discuss with management, the internal audit group and the independent auditors, the Corporation’s unaudited quarterly consolidated financial statements and related Management Discussion & Analysis including the impact of unusual items and changes in accounting principles and estimates, the earnings press releases before disclosure to the public and report to the Board with respect thereto;

(b) to review and discuss with management, the internal audit group and the independent auditors, the Corporation’s audited annual consolidated financial statements and related Management Discussion & Analysis including the impact of unusual items and changes in accounting principles and estimates, the earnings
press releases before disclosure to the public and report to the Board with respect thereto;

(c) to ensure adequate procedures are in place for the review of the Corporation’s public disclosure of financial information extracted or derived from the Corporation’s financial statements, other than the quarterly and annual earnings press releases, and periodically assess the adequacy of those procedures;

(d) to review management’s report on the appropriateness of the policies and procedures used in the preparation of the Corporation’s consolidated financial statements and other required disclosure documents and consider recommendations for any material change to such policies;

(e) to review with management, the independent auditors and if necessary with legal counsel, any litigation, claim or other contingency, including tax assessments that could have a material affect upon the financial position or operating results of the Corporation and the manner in which such matters have been disclosed in the consolidated financial statements;

(f) to review and consider management’s assessment and report on the Corporation’s cyber risk and the cybersecurity measures implemented by the Corporation in response to those risks;

(g) to establish procedures for:

(i) the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the Corporation regarding accounting, internal accounting controls, or auditing matters; and
(ii) the confidential, anonymous submission by employees of the Corporation of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters.

(h) to co-ordinate meetings with the Reserves Committee of the Corporation, the Corporation’s senior engineering management, independent evaluating engineers and auditors as required and consider such further inquiries as are necessary to approve the consolidated financial statements;

(i) to develop a calendar of activities to be undertaken by the Audit Committee for each ensuing year and to submit the calendar in the appropriate format to the Board following each annual general meeting of shareholders;

(j) to perform any other activities consistent with this Charter, the Corporation’s By-laws and governing law, as the Audit Committee or the Board deems necessary or appropriate; and,

(k) to maintain minutes of meetings and to report on a regular basis to the Board on significant results of the foregoing activities.
The Audit Committee has the authority to conduct any investigation appropriate to fulfilling its responsibilities, and it has direct access to the independent auditors as well as officers and employees of the Corporation. The Audit Committee has the authority to retain, at the Corporation’s expense, special legal, accounting or other consultants or experts it deems necessary in the performance of its duties. The Corporation shall at all times make adequate provisions for the payment of all fees and other compensation approved by the Audit Committee, to the Corporation’s independent auditors in connection with the issuance of its audit report, or to any consultants or experts employed by the Audit Committee.