

# **Annual Information Form**

June 7, 2011

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#### CAUTION REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This Annual Information Form contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of securities laws. These statements are based, among other things, on Saputo's current assumptions, expectations, estimates, objectives, plans and intentions regarding projected revenues and expenses, the economic and industry environments in which the Company operates or which could affect its activities, its ability to attract and retain customers and consumers, as well as its operating costs, raw materials and energy supplies, which are subject to a number of risks and uncertainties. Forward-looking statements can generally be identified by the use of the conditional tense, the words "may", "should", "would", "believe", "plan", "expect", "intend", "anticipate", "estimate", "foresee", "objective" or "continue" or the negative of these terms or variations of them or words and expressions of similar nature. Actual results could differ materially from the conclusion, forecast or projection stated in such forward-looking information. As a result, the Company cannot guarantee that any forward-looking statements will materialize. Assumptions, expectations and estimates made in the preparation of forward-looking statements and risks that could cause actual results to differ materially from current expectations are discussed in the Company's materials filed with the Canadian securities regulatory authorities from time to time, including the "Risks and Uncertainties" section of the Management's Discussion and Analysis included in the Company's 2011 Annual Report. Forward-looking information is based on Management's current estimates, expectations and assumptions, which Management believes are reasonable as of the current date. You should not place undue importance on forward-looking information and should not rely upon this information as of any other date. Except as required under applicable securities legislation, Saputo does not undertake to update these forward-looking statements, whether written or verbal, that may be made from time to time by itself or on its behalf, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

## ITEM 1 - THE COMPANY

#### 1.1 INCORPORATION

Saputo Inc. was constituted by a Certificate of Amalgamation issued pursuant to the provisions of the *Canada Business Corporations Act* on July 1, 1992, which was amended on August 25, 1997 in order to, among other things, change the provisions attached to its authorized share capital. On August 3, 2000, the Certificate was further amended to, among other things, enable the directors to appoint additional directors between shareholders' meetings. The head office and principal place of business of the Company is located at 6869 Métropolitain Boulevard East, Saint-Léonard, Québec, H1P 1X8.

In this Annual Information Form, unless the context otherwise requires or indicates, the terms "Saputo" and "Company" mean Saputo Inc. itself or together with its subsidiaries and/or other entities under its direct or indirect control (collectively the "Subsidiaries"), or any one or more of them.

On November 23, 2001 and December 10, 2007, Saputo declared a 100% stock dividend on its Common Shares, which, respectively, had the same effect as a two-for-one stock split (the "Stock Splits") and doubled the number of Common Shares outstanding. All references to numbers of

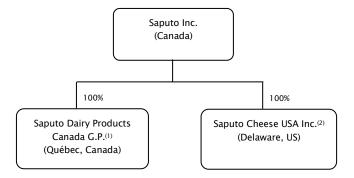
Common Shares and prices of Common Shares made herein have been adjusted to reflect the Stock Splits.

In this Annual Information Form, all references to "\$" or "CDN\$" are to Canadian currency and all references to "US\$" are to United States ("US") currency.

In this Annual Information Form, the information is being presented as of May 26, 2011, except for financial information and percentages derived therefrom, which are given for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2011, and for the information relating to employees, which is presented as of March 31, 2011. The activities related to DCI Cheese Company, Inc., acquired on March 25, 2011 (the "DCI Acquisition"), are also reflected herein.

#### 1.2 CORPORATE STRUCTURE

The following organizational chart illustrates the corporate structure of Saputo and its significant Subsidiaries, and their respective jurisdictions of incorporation. For simplification purposes, this chart omits certain wholly-owned Subsidiaries.



- (1) Production, sale and distribution of dairy products, namely a wide range of cheese, fluid milk, cream products, yogurt, sour cream, cottage cheese, soft serve dairy mixes, as well as juices and other beverages and other food products in Canada.
- (2) Production and sale of dairy products, mainly cheese, in the US.

#### ITEM 2 - GENERAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE BUSINESS

#### 2.1 OVERVIEW

Saputo is the twelfth largest dairy processor in the world, the largest dairy processor in Canada, among the top three cheese producers in the US, the third largest dairy processor in Argentina and the largest snack-cake manufacturer in Canada. The Company's total consolidated sales are generated as follows: 59.4% from Canada, 34.0% from the US, 0.8% from Europe and 5.8% from Argentina.

The Company operates its business through its Dairy Products Sector and its Grocery Products Sector, which represent respectively 97.7% and 2.3% of the Company's total sales.

The Company operates in Canada, Europe, Argentina and the United States through 47 manufacturing facilities and employs approximately 10,200 employees. Its products are sold in more than 50 countries.

# 2.2 HISTORY (INCLUDING ACQUISITIONS)

Unless otherwise specified in this section, the acquisitions completed by Saputo, which are listed below, were completed on a debt-free basis.

Mr. Emanuele (Lino) Saputo, Chairman of the Board of Saputo, founded the Company with his parents in 1954, producing quality cheese for the Italian community of Montréal.

Between 1970 and 1997, Saputo acquired several production operations and food distributors, and developed its national distribution network, positioning itself in Canada as a leading producer of mozzarella. In 1988, the Company entered the US market by acquiring two cheese manufacturing plants. On July 31, 1997, Saputo acquired Crémerie des Trois-Rivières, Limitée thereby entering the fluid milk market.

On October 15, 1997, the Company completed its initial public offering of 37,882,000 Common Shares at \$4.25 per share. In December of the same year, Saputo issued 36,000,000 special warrants at \$6.25 per warrant in order to finance, in part, the acquisition of Stella Holdings Inc. and its then owned subsidiaries, a US manufacturer of mozzarella and specialty cheeses.

The following table presents acquisitions completed by Saputo since its initial public offering. These acquisitions, which were in line with the Company's commitment to growth, contributed to making Saputo not only an important dairy processor in Canada, but also internationally.

Historical Acquisitions Completed by Saputo						
Acquisition Dates	Acquired Companies	Acquired Activities	Countries of Operations	Acquisition Price (Approximation)	Annual Target Sales (Approximation)	
October 15, 1997 to March 31, 2006	Various companies (7)	Manufacturing, selling and distribution of dairy products (cheese, fluid milk and other) and snack-cakes	Canada	\$776 million	\$1.9 billion	
October 15, 1997 to March 31, 2006	Various companies (5)	Manufacturing and selling of cheese	US	\$704 million	\$1.4 billion	
October 15, 1997 to March 31, 2006	Molfino Hermanos S.A.	Manufacturing and selling of cheese	Argentina	\$60 million	\$117 million	

Historical Ad	Historical Acquisitions Completed by Saputo						
Acquisition Dates	Acquired Companies	Acquired Activities	Countries of Operations	Acquisition Price (Approximation)	Annual Target Sales (Approximation)		
April 13, 2006	Spezialitäten- Käserei De Lucia GmbH	Manufacturing and selling of Italian-style cheeses	Germany	\$7 million	\$28 million		
July 28, 2006	Boulangerie Rondeau Inc. and Biscuits Rondeau Inc.	Manufacturing, selling and distribution of fresh tarts and fresh cookies	Canada	\$13 million	\$14 million		
March 23, 2007	Dansco Dairy Products Limited	Manufacturing and selling of mostly mozzarella	United Kingdom	\$12 million	\$80 million		
April 2, 2007	Activities related to Land O'Lakes West Coast industrial cheese business	Manufacturing and selling of mostly mozzarella and provolone as well as whey products	US	\$254 million	\$481 million		
April 1, 2008	Alto Dairy Cooperative	Manufacturing and selling of Italian- and American- style cheese as well as whey products	US	\$161 million	\$389 million		
December 1, 2008	Activities of Neilson Dairy	Manufacturing, selling and distribution of fluid milk, dairy beverages, cream products and nondairy creamers, juices and drinks, primarily in Ontario.	Canada	\$469 million	\$600 million		
July 20, 2009	Activities of F&A Dairy of California, Inc.	Manufacturing and selling of mostly mozzarella, provolone and whey products.	US	\$50 million	\$90 million		

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Historical Acquisitions Completed by Saputo						
Acquisition Dates	Acquired Companies	Acquired Activities	Countries of Operations	Acquisition Price (Approximation)	Annual Target Sales (Approximation)	
March 25, 2011	DCI Cheese Company, Inc.	Converting, marketing and selling of mostly specialty cheeses.	US	\$275 million	\$460 million	

## ITEM 3 - INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

## 3.1 DAIRY PRODUCTS INDUSTRY

#### 3.1.1 THE CANADIAN DAIRY INDUSTRY

#### Regulatory Environment

In Canada, the dairy industry is regulated at the federal and provincial levels, either through shared responsibility or exclusive jurisdiction.

As a food processor and distributor, Saputo is subject to federal and provincial regulations pertaining to the content, composition, labelling, packaging, marketing and distribution of food products. Moreover, as a dairy processor and distributor, Saputo must comply with a series of federal and provincial regulations that govern the production, processing and distribution of milk and milk-related products. As such, it is subject to plant inspections, product testing and other regulatory scrutiny, both at the federal and provincial levels.

New standards of composition for cheese manufactured in and imported to Canada, as introduced by the federal government in December 2007, became effective on December 14, 2008. Saputo complies with these new standards of composition for cheese, notwithstanding that they are not reflective of the standards adopted within the international dairy industry.

## Milk Supply

The Canadian dairy industry operates within a highly regulated environment. The Canadian Dairy Commission ("CDC"), a crown corporation, has been mandated by the federal government to implement and coordinate Canada's national dairy policy, which is predicated on shared jurisdictional powers between the federal and provincial governments. Fluid milk is regulated provincially, whereas industrial milk is regulated federally. "Fluid milk" refers to table milk or cream intended for consumption in fluid forms, whereas "industrial milk" is used for the manufacturing of all other dairy products, such as cheese, butter, ice cream and yogurt. According to CDC information published in May 2011, the fluid milk sector represents approximately 39% of raw milk delivered in Canada, while the industrial milk sector represents approximately 61% of such deliveries.

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The following table indicates the production volumes of selected dairy products manufactured in Canada in 2010:

Canadian Production Volumes of Selected Dairy Products in 2010 (1) (in thousands)						
Natural cheese	387,650	Kg				
Fluid milk and cream	2,940,767	Litres				
Cottage cheese	26,019	Kg				
Ice cream and other frozen products 345,789 Litre						
Other dairy products	Other dairy products 522,818 Kg					

<sup>(1)</sup> Source: Canadian Dairy Information Centre / May 2011.

The Canadian dairy industry operates under a national milk supply management system which, under devolved government authorities, regulates imports, exports and domestic production of milk for the manufacture of all dairy products. It also ensures that dairy product production is sufficient to meet consumer demands and provides a fair return for milk producers. The administration of the supply management system is predicated on meeting the market demand by the establishment of a Market Sharing Quota ("MSQ"). The MSQ is determined based on the calculation structure established under the National Milk Marketing Plan, which is a federal/provincial agreement. The Canadian Milk Supply Management Committee sets the MSQ every dairy year (which runs from August 1st to July 31st) and then adjusts it bi-monthly to reflect market conditions. The MSQ is allocated to each province based on the National Milk Marketing Plan, which, in turn, allocates their share to their respective milk producers according to their own policies.

Québec and Ontario's shares of the national MSQ are 45.3% and 31.4% respectively compared to 18.9% for the Western provinces and 4.4% for the Maritimes. The marketing boards within each province govern the production, pricing and marketing of milk within their own borders. The determination of the MSQ is based on a formula that enables automatic adjustments every two months in order to reflect increasing or decreasing Canadian requirements, as the case may be. Since 2008, the management of production quota at the farm level is done on a continuous 12-month rolling basis.

Industrial milk is allocated based on provincial allocation rules. Priority of supply is given to the higher milk classes, which command a higher milk price. Although there may be some provincial variations, quantities of milk available for processing in each class, other than fluid milk, are generally restricted in their growth. Since the MSQ is based on historical and anticipated demand for dairy products, Management believes that the risk of a processor losing a significant part of its available industrial milk volume is low.

#### Canadian Market

The dairy processing industry made a major contribution to the Canadian economy with shipments valued at \$13.6 billion in 2009. The dairy processing sector accounted for approximately 15% of the estimated value of all food and beverage processing sales during the same year.

Approximately 81% of Canada's dairy farms are located in the provinces of Québec and Ontario. The Western provinces and the Maritime provinces account for approximately 13% and 6%, respectively.

#### International Trade (Canada)

Imports. The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade administers Canada's cheese import quotas. These quotas are divided into European Union (the "EU") and non-EU sources. This results from Canada's obligation to the EU to import from it 66% of the approximate 20.4 million kilograms (kg) of cheese that Canada is committed to import annually under the World Trade Organization ("WTO") Agreement on Agriculture. Imports within this access commitment of 20.4 million kilograms of cheese are subject to low tariff rates, while imports over this commitment are subject to significantly higher tariff rates. Over-access tariffs for cheese currently stand at 245.5% of invoiced value. In January 2010, the Canadian Government converted its existing agricultural quantitative import control for milk proteins to a system of tariff rate quotas ("TRQ") compliant with GATT/WTO Article 28. This resulted from Canada's desire to restrict previously tariff free or very low tariff import of milk proteins with a milk protein content of 85% or more by weight from other nations. Negotiations were held with the exporting countries to establish the levels of tariff quota volumes that would be allowed annually, as well as a modest growth allowance. Imports within the newly defined access commitment of 10 million kilograms of milk protein isolate are subject to low tariff rates, while imports over this commitment are subject to significantly higher tariff rates. Over access tariff rates for such milk proteins currently stand at 270% of invoiced value. Since New Zealand and the EU are the largest exporters of milk proteins to Canada, they were granted the greatest access under the new TRQs. These arrangements have not altered the EU's 66% access under the existing tariff quota regime for cheese.

Exports. Pursuant to the final decision rendered by the WTO in December 2002, which found that Canada's dairy export practices constituted export subsidies, Canada is forced to export any quantity of milk products over its WTO commitments at prices based on Canada's national raw milk prices. Such prices are above international milk prices, thereby making exports of dairy products from Canada non-competitive. The WTO decision does not deal with dairy ingredients, such as lactose and whey.

## 3.1.2 THE US DAIRY INDUSTRY

## Regulatory Environment

The production of all food products in the US is subject to extensive federal, state and local government regulations regarding advertising, quality, packaging, labelling and safety.

All food plants are subject to regulation and inspection by the US Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") and by the US Department of Agriculture ("USDA"). Individual states may also enforce more stringent regulations regarding the manufacturing of food products. State and local government agencies work with the federal government to properly ensure the safety of food produced within their jurisdictions.

#### Milk Supply

In the US, there are two grades of milk: Grade A and Grade B. Grade A milk is produced under specific sanitary requirements and milk producers must hold a Grade A shipping permit. Grade A milk accounts for 98% of the US milk supply and is used for fluid products, as well as for the manufacturing of various dairy products, including cheese. Grade B milk represents 2% of the US

milk production and is used exclusively for manufactured dairy products. Total milk production in the US approximates 849 million hectolitres per year.

The following table presents the utilization of US milk production in 2010(1):

Utilization of US Milk Production in 2010 (1)				
Utilized as fluid milk and cream	28%			
Manufactured into natural cheese	24%			
Manufactured into frozen dairy products	4%			
Manufactured into butter	5%			
Used on farms where produced	1%			
Other uses	38%			

<sup>(1)</sup> Source: USDA, Dairy Products 2010 Summary, published April 2011. Calculated from Total Solids.

In the US, the pricing of milk involves a wide variety of regulations based on public policy decisions. These regulations encompass milk price supports, federal milk marketing orders, import restrictions, export subsidies, domestic and international food aid programs and statelevel milk marketing programs. Generally, milk pricing is regulated by milk marketing orders under federal jurisdiction, with the largest exception being California which operates and regulates its own marketing order. In most cases, milk marketed within the US is priced according to its use. Minimum milk prices are set monthly by the milk marketing orders based on product price formulas. Price data used in the federal formulas takes into account the wholesale prices of cheese, butter, dry whey and non-fat dry milk. This data is collected through surveys conducted by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. In the federal milk orders, milk used in fluid products is grouped in Class I, the highest price class. Milk used to produce ice cream, yogurt, cottage cheese, sour cream, ricotta cheese and other soft products is placed in Class II. Milk used to manufacture cheese, including cream cheese, is categorized in Class III and milk used to produce butter and milk powders is categorized in Class IV. California has a similar class pricing structure. As such, commodity prices are based on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange ("CME") prices for butter and cheese, as well as on the California weighted average price for non-fat dry milk. In California, milk used to produce ice cream and sherbet is included in Class 3; milk used to manufacture butter and milk powder is included in Class 4(a) and milk used to produce cheese, including cream and ricotta cheeses, is included in Class 4(b).

Wholesale pricing for the bulk of US cheese production is established by daily cash cheddar cheese trading on the CME. The last trade of the day establishes the market price for the day. If no trades occur, the market price is determined based on the bid and offer prices. Processors typically charge a premium over the CME price.

Dairy processing plants are not limited in terms of the quantity of milk they can receive and are free to negotiate their milk supply with whomever they choose. Independent processors usually negotiate with local cooperatives or they may procure milk directly from individual farms. Processors are charged a price which reflects the current month's class price plus a negotiated

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handling charge. In 2008, Congress passed the "Farm Bill" that allows processors to enter into forward contracts for milk supply directly with farmers.

US dairy programs influence the production and marketing of milk and milk products through the operation of the Commodity Credit Corporation ("CCC"), a federal agency. The CCC buys butter, non-fat dry milk and cheese at the following support prices:

- Butter @ US\$1.05 per pound;
- Cheddar cheese 40 pound blocks @ US\$1.13 per pound;
- Cheddar cheese 500 pound barrels @ US\$1.10 per pound;
- Non-fat dry milk powder non-fortified @ US\$0.80 per pound.

Such products are sold or used either domestically or internationally in specific government programs. The CCC does not directly support dairy farmers, nor does it establish a target return for farmers.

#### US Market

The USDA states that there were 511 cheese manufacturing plants in the US in 2010, which produced 4.7 billion kg of cheese. Cheddar accounted for 31.0% of this amount, or 1.5 billion kg, while Italian-style cheeses totalled 2.0 billion kg, or 42.4%. Mozzarella alone amounted to 1.6 billion kg, representing 78.9% of Italian-style cheeses and 33.4% of all cheeses produced in 2010.

#### International Trade (US)

Imports. Another key component of the US dairy program is import restrictions. Most US cheese import quotas are country and product specific. Under the terms of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture, the US agreed to import, at a lower tariff rate, approximately 135,586 metric tons of cheese in 2010. Tariffs for cheese in excess of the quota are prohibitive.

Entry for dairy products made with sheep, goat and buffalo milk do not require a license nor are they subject to a US duty. The same is true for a few other products, including brie cheese.

Exports. The US has not historically been a significant exporter of dairy products. Its export activity accounted for US\$3.7 billion in 2010, US\$2.3 billion in 2009 and US\$3.8 billion in 2008.

Most export activity is conducted through the Dairy Export Incentive Program, which allocates subsidized export volumes to specific countries, thereby enabling exporters to bid for export assistance for dairy products destined to these countries.

#### 3.1.3 INTERNATIONAL DAIRY INDUSTRY

In 2008, while EU member states eliminated export subsidies, they also increased milk production quotas, in the expectation that the combined effect of these policies would be an increase in milk production, but this did not occur. Therefore, supplies remained tight. Nonetheless, the EU maintains its policy objective to progressively eliminate all milk production quotas by March of 2015.

Moreover, dairy supply from Australia and New Zealand was less than expected in 2009 as a result of weather-related events that impacted production. However, they improved to traditional levels in Australia in 2010 and continue to grow in New Zealand as well.

Globally, the shortage in milk production from traditional and recent exporters in 2010 is explained by moderate price increases at the farm gate offset by dairy farmers' efforts to mitigate the impact of the higher cost of feed and other production inputs at the farm level. This results in lower production, thereby impacting the availability of supply, while demand continues to grow, particularly in Asia.

As 2010 progressed, prices firmed in the international market, contributing at a slow pace to an improvement in levels of milk production and to the stabilization of demand. Conditions are continuing to improve in most production areas, while in the EU, production quotas remain unfilled.

For 2011 and the foreseeable future, there remains a concern about the impact of increasing prices of farm gate inputs for milk production. In spite of the increased and stable farm gate milk prices now achieved, the supply of dairy products will likely remain insufficient because input costs are now eroding operating margins for most farmers. Their attempts to reduce the impact of input costs are leading to a softening of milk production in many traditional production areas. It is anticipated that in the foreseeable future, the supply of dairy products will remain insufficient until production levels increase to meet historic domestic demand, as well as demand from developing economies.

The world market continues polarizing into "pre-packed, consumer ready" and "bulk commodity, dairy ingredients" markets with as yet unpredictable long-term effects on traditional trading patterns and, ultimately, world prices.

#### European Union

#### Regulatory Environment

The EU has multiple food related legislation and supporting regulations. These regulations cover all aspects of the agri-food industry from farm production to food processing and distribution. All member states are required to implement and enforce the regulations as conditions of EU membership. Consequently, the EU regulatory regime is the umbrella under which all dairy food production, processing and distribution, as well as imports and exports, are governed within the EU. No member state may enact competing regulations which could constitute a barrier to internal trade within the EU, nor trade externally to the EU without meeting EU standards and their related obligations.

In light of the foregoing, the German and United Kingdom ("UK") dairy industries operate under the general dairy provisions of the EU's *Common Agricultural Policy*. In accordance with this policy, milk production quotas should be eliminated by 2015 and milk prices should be subject to increased market fluctuations, with partial compensation for farmers being provided through direct payments consistent with WTO commitments.

Within Germany and the UK, there are a series of regulations governing the processing of milk into dairy products. Their standards for cheese and skim milk powder are based on the international Codex Alimentarius of the Food and Agricultural Organization and World Health Organization.

While there are federal, state, lander and municipal regulations, the majority are not specific to the dairy industry, but apply equally to all food processing establishments and require the application of recognized good manufacturing practices.

#### Milk Supply

In Germany and the UK, milk prices vary from state to state and are usually negotiated monthly between processors and milk producers. The bulk of the milk is generally sold to cooperatives, which process milk for their own account and also resell milk to milk dealers or to other processors. Processors generally contract a major portion of their supply needs with a cooperative or a milk dealer, and rely on the seasonal spot market to complete their annual requirements, taking advantage of seasonal milk price changes.

In 2008, the EU initiated a series of milk production quota increases for its member states, including Germany and the UK, setting the stage for increased milk production in the years leading to 2015 when all quotas should be eliminated. These initiatives have already had a mitigating effect on the price of milk.

Total milk production approximates 282 million hectolitres per year in Germany and 132 million hectolitres per year in the UK, which together represent about 29% of all European milk production. The following table indicates the production volume of selected dairy products in Germany and the UK:

German Production Volumes of Selected Dairy Products in 2009(1) (in thousands)					
Cheese	2,088	Metric tons			
Fluid milk(2)	5,133,981	Litres			
Fermented products	1,856	Metric tons			
Other dairy products	1,460	Metric tons			

<sup>(1)</sup> Source: Bulletin FIL-IDF 446/2010.

<sup>(2)</sup> Production of containers < 2 litres only.

UK Production Volumes of Selected Dairy Products in 2009(1) (in thousands)					
Cheese	323	Metric tons			
Fluid milk(2)	6,520,388	Litres			
Fermented products	369	Metric tons			
Other dairy products	482	Metric tons			

<sup>(1)</sup> Source: Bulletin FIL-IDF 446/2010.

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<sup>(2)</sup> Production of containers < 2 litres only.

#### **Exports**

After many years of a declining milk price trend in Germany, prices for food in general, including dairy products, adjusted to more competitive levels. Consequently, the overall export potential for Germany remains positive.

In the UK, until recently, milk production had been slowly decreasing due to weather-related difficulties and consistently lower farm gate milk prices compared to the rest of the EU. In 2008, farm gate prices increased to levels not seen in decades, generating optimism in the farm community. However, this optimism has proven to be short-lived as prices collapsed in reaction to global market price adjustments. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the UK offers the potential for dairy products export growth, due mainly to a very competitive raw milk price and high quality milk supply. In 2010, milk supply increased by 4%, thereby reversing a six year declining trend.

## Argentina

## Regulatory Environment

The regulatory environment in Argentina is different from that in Canada or the US. While there are national, provincial and municipal laws, only a small number are specific to the dairy industry. The dairy industry adheres to the international Codex Alimentarius of the Food and Agricultural Organization and World Health Organization standards for those products which are traded internationally, such as cheese and milk powder, and follows recognized good manufacturing practices for all products brought to the domestic market.

#### Milk Supply

In Argentina, milk prices are negotiated monthly between processors and milk producers. There are no limitations or restrictions as to the quantity of milk that is produced and processed. In addition, milk marketed within Argentina is not priced or classified according to its use. Moreover, dairy processors are not limited to the amount of milk that they can purchase and are free to negotiate milk supply agreements with whomever they choose. Usually, agreements are negotiated with dairy producers within a given radius of the dairy processing plant.

During 2009, notwithstanding the drop in dairy product prices as a result of international market conditions and difficult weather conditions during the winter/spring seasons, milk production volumes in the country remained at levels similar to those of 2008 totalling about 10 billion litres.

Total milk production in Argentina approximates 101 million hectolitres per year. The following table indicates the production volume of selected dairy products produced in Argentina:

Argentina Production Volumes of Selected Dairy Products in 2009 (1) (in thousands)					
Natural cheese	508	Metric tons			
Fluid milk	2,488,486	Litres			
Yogurt	515	Metric tons			
Other dairy products	580	Metric tons			

(1) Source: Secretaria de Agricultura, Ganaderia Pesca y Alimentos, Cuadro estadistico.

#### **Exports**

Argentina is a member of the South American free trade group Mercosur, and is also an active participant in the international dairy market. It has a large milk basin and is capable of producing milk at internationally competitive prices. There are no governmental programs that aid processors to export dairy products. In fact, in 2007, the government imposed new regulations that limited selling prices on the export market. These regulations were revised in November 2007, which resulted in removing the ceiling price on butter and hard cheese. In March 2009, while the ceiling prices and export tax for cheese, milk powder and certain dairy products were eliminated, the government began to pre-approve the volume of several products destined to the export market to ensure that domestic requirements are met. In 2010, Argentina exported 316,672 MT of dairy products. Of this quantity, 165,091 MT was milk powder, 45,104 MT cheese and the remaining 106,477 MT consisted of other dairy products.

#### 3.1.4 FUTURE TRENDS

More than ever, the competitive environment within the industry is expected to force processors to either adapt, sell or merge with other industry participants. Well-capitalized industry consolidators will likely take advantage of this competitive environment to make strategic acquisitions. Moreover, in the coming years, the dairy industry will need to focus on creating innovative dairy products that match the changing nutritional needs of consumers. The long-term prognosis for growth in demand for dairy products is positive, while slowed by the difficult global economic context. In fact, expanding wealth in developing nations should fuel a transition toward increased proteins in the diet and the dairy industry is a likely primary beneficiary. Processors sourcing milk at world competitive prices and employing innovative processing technologies could position themselves to profitably serve these markets, subject to producers' ability to produce milk based on farm gate prices adapted to the new economic reality.

Discussions between various governments to pursue a final agreement through the Doha Round of WTO negotiations in an effort to reduce agricultural product subsidies and establish new tariffs for such products were resumed in 2009 and continued throughout 2010 and into 2011 with a higher level of political involvement. The resulting impacts of a final agreement, when achieved, remain unknown but should, once again, challenge processors to remain competitive and creative to grow internationally.

## 3.2 GROCERY PRODUCTS INDUSTRY

#### Regulatory Environment

The regulation of the content, composition, labelling, packaging, marketing and distribution of all food products in Canada is a shared responsibility between the federal and the provincial governments and applies to all food processors in Canada, including the grocery products industry. Consequently, Saputo's bakery products are subject to quality and labelling standards, including those of the *Food and Drugs Act* and the *Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act*.

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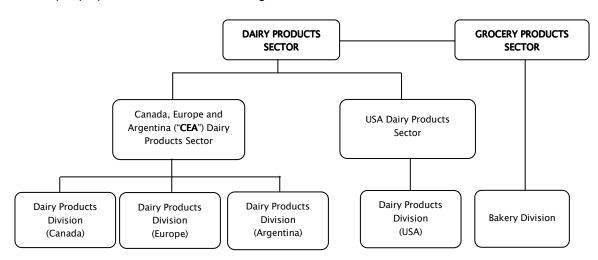
#### Trends

In recent years, Canada's retail market has changed with the increasing importance of non-supermarket channels of distribution, such as mass-merchandisers and warehouse clubs. This trend has resulted in significant consolidation within the traditional grocery channel where four national chains controlled approximately 59% of all retail sales in calendar year 2010.

The snack-cake industry generates sales of approximately \$708 million per year in Canada. This industry segment comprises, among other things, snack-cakes, muffins, fresh baked desserts, and marshmallow squares. Pre-packaged snack-cake products enjoy a 22% market share of the snack-cake industry in Canada. Of the pre-packaged snack-cake products' total sales in Canada, approximately 57% and 30% are generated from the provinces of Québec and Ontario, respectively.

## ITEM 4 - DESCRIPTION OF THE BUSINESS

The Company operates its business through two (2) sectors and five (5) divisions.



The Company operates 47 manufacturing facilities and employs approximately 10,200 employees.

Saputo sells its products under well-known brands such as Saputo, Alexis de Portneuf, Armstrong, Baxter, Dairyland, Danscorella, Dragone, DuVillage 1860, Frigo Cheese Heads, Great Midwest, King's Choice, Kingsey, La Paulina, Neilson, Nutrilait, Ricrem, Salemville, Stella, Treasure Cave, hop & go, Rondeau and Vachon.

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The following table presents the relative importance of the Company's two Sectors over the last two fiscal years:

	Sales by Sector				
	Year ended Ma	Year ended March 31, 2011 Year ended March 31, 20			
	Sales (\$000)	% of Total Sales			
Dairy Products Sector					
CEA Dairy Products Sector	3,837,188	63.7	3,745,930	64.5	
USA Dairy Products Sector	2,046,993	34.0	1,906,189	32.8	
Sub-total	5,884,181	97.7	5,652,119	97.3	
Grocery Products Sector	141,289	2.3	158,463	2.7	
Total	6,025,470	100.0	5,810,582	100.0	

#### CEA Dairy Products Sector

Through its operations in Canada, Saputo produces, markets and distributes mozzarella and cheddar, as well as other specialty and fine cheeses, fluid milk and a wide range of dairy products, including cream, yogurt, butter, powdered milk, evaporated milk, ice cream mixes and value-added dairy ingredients, such as whey powder, lactose and whey protein. Saputo also distributes fine imported cheeses to specialty stores. The fluid milk product line is complemented by various non-dairy products, including flavoured coffee creamers, juices and drinks. Saputo has established itself as Canada's leading producer of cheese, with a share of approximately 32% of the Canadian natural cheese production and is the leading fluid milk processor in Canada with an estimated 35% share of the Canadian market. Saputo's dairy products are sold within three market segments: retail, foodservice and industrial.

In Europe, the Company produces and markets Italian-style cheese varieties, such as mozzarella, ricotta and mascarpone. Saputo sells these products mainly to the retail and the foodservice markets.

Through its operations in Argentina, the Company produces and markets a wide variety of soft, semi-soft, hard and grated cheeses, as well as butter, cream, milk powder and dairy ingredients. Saputo sells these products to the retail and industrial market segments and sales are well balanced between the national and international markets. The Company is the third largest dairy processor in Argentina.

In fiscal 2011, sales from the CEA Dairy Products Sector represented 63.7% of the Company's total sales. The retail segment accounted for 61.9% of the CEA Dairy Products Sector sales, the foodservice segment for 26.7% and the industrial segment for 11.4%. Through this Sector, the Company operates 30 manufacturing facilities, 26 of which are located in Canada, one in Germany, one in the UK and two in Argentina, and employed, as of March 31, 2011, 6,061 employees, 4,996 of which were based in Canada, 129 in Europe and 936 in Argentina.

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#### USA Dairy Products Sector

Through its USA Dairy Products Sector, the Company produces a wide variety of mozzarella, American-style and specialty cheeses. The Company also produces a variety of whey protein concentrates and ingredient blends. With the DCI Acquisition, the Company has increased its specialty cheese product offering and holds an important portfolio of import licences for specialty cheeses manufactured abroad.

Saputo ranks among the top three cheese producers in the US with approximately 9% of natural cheese production. Saputo services three market segments: retail, foodservice and industrial.

In fiscal 2011, the USA Dairy Products Sector represented 34.0% of the Company's total sales. The retail segment accounted for 37.9% of the USA Dairy Products Sector's sales volume, the foodservice segment for 47.6% and the industrial segment for 14.5%. With the DCI Acquisition, the USA Dairy Products Sector's sales volume, on a *pro forma* basis, will be 41.0% in the retail segment, 46.2% in the foodservice segment and 12.8% in the industrial segment. Through this Sector, the Company operates 16 manufacturing facilities located in the US and employed, as of March 31, 2011, 3,380 employees.

#### Grocery Products Sector

The Company produces, markets and distributes mainly snack-cakes in Canada, which are sold almost exclusively in the retail market. Saputo is the largest manufacturer of snack-cakes in Canada. It also manufactures, on a small scale, private label products for third parties for sale in the US market (the "Co-Packing Agreements").

In fiscal 2011, the Grocery Products Sector represented 2.3% of the Company's total sales. In this Sector, the Company operates one manufacturing facility located in the Province of Québec and employed, as of March 31, 2011, 772 employees.

#### Overall Profile

The following tables present the segmentation of total Company sales by region and by market segment for the last two fiscal years:

	Total Cor	Total Company Sales - Geographic Segmentation			
	Year ended M	arch 31, 2011	Year ended March 31, 2010		
	Sales (\$000)	% of Total Sales	Sales (\$000)	% of Total Sales	
Canada	3,581,615	59.4	3,599,964	62.0	
Europe	48,327	0.8	51,719	0.9	
Argentina	348,535	5.8	252,710	4.3	
US	2,046,993	34.0	1,906,189	32.8	
Total	6,025,470	100.0	5,810,582	100.0	

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	Total Company Sales - Market Segmentation			
	Year ended Ma	Year ended March 31, 2011		arch 31, 2010
	Sales (\$000)	% of Total Sales	Sales (\$000)	% of Total Sales
Dairy Products Sector				
CEA Dairy Products Sector				
Retail	2,376,311	39.4	2,295,789	39.5
Foodservice	1,022,740	17.0	1,029,979	17.7
Industrial	438,137	7.3	420,162	7.3
Sub-total	3,837,188	63.7	3,745,930	64.5
USA Dairy Products Sector(1)	2,046,993	34.0	1,906,189	32.8
Sub-total	5,884,181	97.7	5,652,119	97.3
Grocery Products Sector(2)	141,289	2.3	158,463	2.7
Total	6,025,470	100.0	5,810,582	100.0

<sup>(1)</sup> Sales volumes are more representative of our US activities due to the impact of currency fluctuation and the variation of the selling price per pound of cheese on sales dollars (see table "Sales Volumes – Market Segmentation").

# 4.1 CEA DAIRY PRODUCTS SECTOR

## 4.1.1 PRODUCTS

Throughout Canada, Saputo produces, markets and distributes a wide variety of quality cheeses, including mozzarella and cheddar, specialty cheeses, such as ricotta, provolone, parmesan, feta, havarti, fine cheeses, such as brie and camembert, other firm cheeses, including brick, colby, farmer, munster and monterey jack, as well as fresh curd and processed cheeses. Saputo's cheese products are sold under various brand names, such as *Saputo, Armstrong, Alexis de Portneuf, Bari, Cheese Heads, Cogruet, DuVillage 1860, Kingsey* and *Stella.* Saputo also sells cheese products under private labels and produces butter, powdered milk and evaporated milk, ice cream mixes, as well as a number of dairy ingredients derived from its cheese production, including whey powder, lactose and whey protein. Through the Company's cheese distribution network, it distributes fine imported cheeses to specialty stores, as well as certain non-dairy products manufactured by third parties.

Saputo also produces and markets fluid milk, cream, yogurt, sour cream and cottage cheese. Fluid milk is sold under the *Dairyland* brand in Western Canada, the *Neilson* brand in Ontario, the *Nutrilait* brand in Québec and the *Baxter* brand in the Maritimes. Specialty milk is marketed under the *Ultimate* brand, as well as under the brand names *Trutaste, Dairy Oh!, Milk 2 Go/Lait's Go, Dairyland Plus* and *Nutrilait Plus*. In addition, within its fluid milk operations, Saputo produces and

SAPUTO ANNUAL INFORMATION FORM 20

<sup>(2)</sup> The grocery products are sold almost exclusively in the retail market segment.

distributes non-dairy products, including flavoured coffee creamers under the International Delight\* brand and juices and drinks, such as Sunny Delight\*.

In Europe, the Company produces and markets Italian-style cheese varieties, such as mozzarella, ricotta and mascarpone. The majority of these products are sold on the European market under the Saputo, De Lucia and Danscorella brand names.

In Argentina, Saputo produces and markets a wide variety of soft, semi-soft, hard and grated cheeses, as well as butter, cream, milk powder and dairy ingredients. Sales of these products are well balanced between the national and international markets. These products are sold under the recognized brand names of La Paulina, Molfino and Ricrem.

#### 4.1.2 **PRODUCTION**

#### Raw Materials

Milk represents the primary cost incurred by the Company in the manufacturing of dairy products. In Canada, due to the regulated nature of the dairy industry, Saputo can only source its milk through the milk boards in each province. The Company sources its other raw materials from various suppliers.

In Europe, Saputo sources the majority of its milk for its German operations from various milk dealers and, for its UK operations, from farmers. The Company sources its other raw materials from various suppliers.

In Argentina, Saputo sources its milk directly from farmers and approximately 2% of its milk supply is sourced from Saputo's farms. The Company sources its other raw materials from various suppliers.

## **Facilities**

In the CEA Dairy Products Sector, the Company operates a total of 30 manufacturing facilities, 26 of which are located in Canada, two in Europe and two in Argentina. The Company owns all of its plants with the exception of one facility located in Calgary, Alberta. The Canadian facilities have an overall excess capacity of 30%.

In Europe, the Company operates one facility in Germany and one in the UK with an overall excess capacity of 72%.

In Argentina, the Company operates two facilities with an overall excess capacity of 27%.

<sup>\*</sup> Trademark used under licence.

## 4.1.3 MARKETS

Saputo is Canada's leading producer of cheese with a share of approximately 32% of Canadian natural cheese production. Saputo sells its cheese products to the retail, foodservice and industrial market segments. The Company also distributes fine imported cheeses to specialty stores and sells various non-dairy products manufactured by third parties that are complementary to the sale of its cheeses. The Company is the leading fluid milk processor in Canada with an estimated 35% share of the Canadian market. Through its Canadian operations, Saputo also sells lactose, whey powder, ice cream mixes and whey protein to a vast array of clients in Canada, Europe, South America, Asia and Africa.

Saputo is a small player in Europe, processing less than 1% of the entire milk production in Germany and the UK. The Company sells its products throughout the EU, mainly to the retail and the foodservice market segments.

Saputo is the third largest dairy processor in Argentina, processing approximately 8% of the entire milk production. The sale of its products manufactured in Argentina is well balanced between the national and international markets. Products are sold nationally to the retail and industrial market segments and internationally to over 35 countries.

#### Clientele

The following table illustrates, for the CEA Dairy Products Sector, the segmentation of sales by market segment for each of the last two fiscal years:

	CEA Dairy Products Sector - Sales - Market Segmentation			
	Year ended Ma	arch 31, 2011	Year ended March 31, 2010	
	Sales (\$000)	% of Total Sales	Sales (\$000)	% of Total Sales
Retail	2,376,311	61.9	2,295,789	61.3
Foodservice	1,022,740	26.7	1,029,979	27.5
Industrial	438,137	11.4	420,162	11.2
Total	3,837,188	100.0	3,745,930	100.0

Retail. Saputo sells both branded and private label products to its retail customers, which include supermarket chains, mass-merchandisers, convenience stores, independent retailers, warehouse clubs and specialty cheese boutiques. In fiscal 2011, the majority of Saputo's retail sales were in branded products with the remainder being private label. Saputo's retail dairy products are sold in the dairy case and deli cheese counter sections of stores. Saputo provides its retail customers with a wide range of dairy products, including cheddar, mozzarella, fluid milk, cream, yogurt, sour cream, cottage cheese, specialty cheeses and fine cheeses. The fluid milk product line is complemented with various non-dairy products, including flavoured coffee creamers, juices and drinks.

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Foodservice. Foodservice customers include broadline distributors, restaurants (corporate restaurant chains, franchisees and individually-owned), hotels and institutions. Saputo provides its foodservice customers with branded and private label dairy products. Through its distribution network, Saputo sells non-dairy products manufactured by third parties. Saputo also produces soft-serve dairy mixes for quick serve restaurant chains.

Industrial. Industrial clients include processors who use the Company's products as ingredients in the preparation of other food items. The Company supplies cheese to processors of frozen entrées, as well as to frozen pizza manufacturers. The Company also produces dairy ingredients, such as lactose, whey powder and whey protein, and sells lactose, whey powder, ice cream mixes, whey protein, milk powder, evaporated milk, butter and cream to a vast array of clients in Canada, Argentina, Europe, South America, Asia and Africa.

#### 4.1.4 DISTRIBUTION

In Canada, sales of dairy products are made through direct shipments to certain large retail, foodservice and industrial customers, as well as to national and regional third party distributors. Saputo has also developed a nation-wide distribution network for its dairy operations, comprised of 25 distribution centres and warehouses and over 600 distribution routes located across Canada.

In Europe, the Company distributes its products to its customers mainly through third party carriers.

In Argentina, the Company distributes its products through third party distributors, which are supplied through the Company's three distribution centres located across the country. This network services large retail chains, distributors and industrial customers.

## 4.1.5 COMPETITION

In Canada, the Company competes mainly with multinational and national dairy processors and manufacturers. Saputo has established itself as Canada's leading producer of cheese with a share of approximately 32% of the Canadian natural cheese production and is the leading fluid milk processor, with an estimated 35% share of the Canadian market.

The Company is a small player in Europe and it competes mainly with national and multinational milk processors.

The Company is the third largest dairy processor in Argentina, processing approximately 8% of the entire milk production. The Company competes mainly with national and international milk processors.

#### 4.1.6 EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

As of March 31, 2011, the Company's CEA Dairy Products Sector had a total of 6,061 employees, of which 4,996 are located in Canada, 129 in Europe and 936 in Argentina. Approximately 43% of the CEA Dairy Products Sector's work force is unionized.

The Company does not currently foresee any labour unrest in connection with the renewal of collective agreements expiring in fiscal 2012. All agreements that expired in fiscal 2011 were either renewed upon satisfactory terms or continue to govern during ongoing negotiations, which are expected to result in satisfactory renewals. The Company has good employee relations. The loyalty and dedication of its employees are key elements in the Company's performance. In Management's opinion, this is the direct result of the family culture that has permeated the entire Company.

## 4.2 USA DAIRY PRODUCTS SECTOR

#### 4.2.1 PRODUCTS

Through its Dairy Products Division (USA), Saputo produces a broad line of mozzarella, American-style and specialty cheeses, such as ricotta, provolone, blue, swiss, parmesan and romano, which are sold under various brand names, such as *Dragone, Frigo Cheese Heads, Gardenia, Lorraine, Lugano, Saputo, Stella* and *Treasure Cave*, as well as under private labels. The Company also produces whey powder, whey protein concentrates and ingredient blends.

With the DCI Acquisition, the Company converts, markets and sells a broad range of specialty cheeses, which are sold under various brand names, such as *Great Midwest, King's Choice and Salemville*, as well as under private labels. The Company also holds an important portfolio of import licences for specialty cheeses manufactured abroad.

#### 4.2.2 PRODUCTION

## Raw Materials

In the US, Saputo sources its milk primarily from cooperatives, mostly through short- and long-term supply agreements as well as directly from farmers. Milk represents the primary costs incurred by the Company in the manufacturing of the dairy products. The Company sources its other raw materials from various suppliers.

#### Facilities

Within this Sector, the Company operates 16 manufacturing facilities, which are all owned by the Company, except for the facility located in Green Bay, Wisconsin, acquired through the DCI Acquisition. The US facilities have an overall excess capacity of 9%.

## 4.2.3 MARKETS

Saputo is among the top three cheese producers in the US with approximately 9% of natural cheese production. The Company competes in the US natural cheese industry by selling branded and private label products to retail, foodservice and industrial customers.

#### Clientele

The following table illustrates, for the USA Dairy Products Sector, the segmentation of sales volumes by market segment for each of the last two fiscal years:

	USA Dairy Products Sector - Sales Volumes - Market Segmentation®		
	Year ended March 31, 2011 Year ended March 31, 2010		
	% of Total Sales Volumes(2)	% of Total Sales Volumes	
Retail	37.9	36.4	
Foodservice	47.6	49.2	
Industrial	14.5	14.4	
Total	100.0	100.0	

<sup>(1)</sup> Sales volumes are more representative of our US activities due to the impact of currency fluctuation and the variation of the selling price per pound of cheese on sales dollars.

Retail. Saputo sells both branded and private label products to its retail customers, which include supermarket chains, mass-merchandisers, independent retailers, warehouse clubs and specialty cheese boutiques. In fiscal 2011, Saputo's retail sales were in private label and branded products. Saputo's retail dairy products are sold in the dairy case and deli cheese counter sections of stores. With the DCI Acquisition, the Company has significantly broadened the range of domestic and imported specialty cheese products offered to its retail customers.

Foodservice. Foodservice customers include broad-line distributors, restaurants (corporate restaurant chains, franchisees and individually-owned) and hotels. Saputo provides its foodservice customers with branded and private label products.

Industrial. Industrial clients include processors who use the Company's products as ingredients in the preparation of other food items. The Company supplies cheese to numerous processors of frozen entrées, including frozen pizza manufacturers and sauces and dressings manufacturers. The Company also produces dairy ingredients from its cheese manufacturing activities, such as whey protein.

#### 4.2.4 DISTRIBUTION

Sales are made through direct shipments to certain large retail, foodservice and industrial customers, as well as to national and regional third party distributors.

#### 4.2.5 COMPETITION

In the US, the Company competes against both regional and national competitors.

## 4.2.6 EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

As of March 31, 2011, the Company's USA Dairy Products Sector had 3,380 employees. Approximately 24% of the workforce is unionized.

Collective agreements that expired in fiscal 2011 were renewed upon satisfactory terms and there are no agreements scheduled to expire in fiscal 2012. The Company has good employee relations

<sup>(2)</sup> With the DCI Acquisition, the USA Dairy Products Sector's sales volume, on a *pro forma* basis, will be 41.0% in the retail segment, 46.2% in the foodservice segment and 12.8% in the industrial segment.

in the US. The loyalty and dedication of its employees are key elements in the Company's performance. In Management's opinion, this is the direct result of the family culture that has permeated the entire Company.

## 4.3 GROCERY PRODUCTS SECTOR

# 4.3.1 PRODUCTS

Within this Sector, the Company produces, markets and distributes mainly snack-cakes in Canada, which are sold almost exclusively in the retail market. Its products are sold under the *Vachon, hop & go, Hostess, Igor* and *Rondeau* umbrella brands, which carry recognized brand names, such as *Jos Louis, Ah Caramel!, Passion Flakie, May West, Granny's, Big Daddy,* and others.

## 4.3.2 PRODUCTION

Raw Materials

The Company generally sources its raw materials from various suppliers.

**Facilities** 

Within this Sector, Saputo operates one manufacturing facility in the Province of Québec. This facility is owned by the Company and has an overall excess capacity of 40%.

#### 4.3.3 MARKETS

The Company is the largest manufacturer of snack-cakes in Canada. Saputo sells its snack-cake products almost exclusively in the retail market segment. The Company's sales for this Sector are almost exclusively in branded products. During fiscal 2011, the Company manufactured, on a small scale under the Co-Packing Agreements, private label products for third parties for sale in the US market.

## 4.3.4 DISTRIBUTION

The Company's grocery products are distributed mainly through its direct-to-store delivery distribution network.

#### 4.3.5 COMPETITION

The Company competes mainly with regional and foreign manufacturers, which enjoy smaller market shares than Saputo in Canada.

#### 4.3.6 EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

As of March 31, 2011, the Grocery Products Sector had 772 employees, approximately 83% of which were unionized. The Company does not currently foresee any labour unrest in connection with the renewal of the collective agreement expiring in fiscal 2012. Only one agreement expired in fiscal 2011 and was renewed upon satisfactory terms.

## 4.4 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

Management believes that the Company has adequate manufacturing capacity to meet current and near term demand for its products. It is Saputo's intention to continue to expand and modernize its plants, with investments being focused on equipment and processes designed to increase efficiency. More specifically, during the last five fiscal years, Saputo incurred \$518 million in capital expenditures. In fiscal 2011, the Company spent \$112 million and, in fiscal 2012, Saputo expects to incur capital expenditures of approximately \$119 million.

With regards to depreciation expense, during the last five fiscal years, Saputo recorded \$454 million in depreciation expense. In fiscal 2011, depreciation expense totalled \$100 million and, in fiscal 2012, the Company expects to incur approximately \$97 million in depreciation expense.

## 4.5 ENVIRONMENT

The Company has an environmental policy directed towards minimizing the environmental impact of all its activities, which promotes environmental awareness among employees and affirms the Company's commitment to pursue environmentally responsible business practices and seek continuous improvement in its environmental performance. The Company defines, reviews and updates its environmental objectives in order for its operations to be managed in compliance with applicable environmental laws and regulations, taking into consideration sound management. Among other measures to achieve its commitment under the policy, the Company provides training to employees in their environmental responsibilities, conducts regular environmental audits to confirm that the operations are managed in compliance with applicable environmental laws and regulations, the policy's objectives and principles of sound management, and adopts and applies programs and procedures which minimize the consequences of emergency events. Within each of its operating divisions, the Company has employees responsible for environmental matters and the application of the environmental policy.

The Company's environmental committee, which includes the President and Chief Executive Officer, the President of each operating division and the senior manager in each division responsible for environmental matters, is responsible for overseeing the application of the environmental policy. The environmental committee meets quarterly to discuss the environmental condition of all Company facilities, the required action plans and the status of ongoing projects. A report is presented on a quarterly basis by a representative of the environmental committee to the Audit Committee, which is responsible for risk management. The Chair of the environmental committee also meets annually with the Audit Committee to review the application of the environmental policy and the environmental performance of the Company's activities. Reference is made to Appendix A hereto for the Audit Committee's Mandate.

The Company's global operations are subject to various federal, provincial, state, municipal and local laws and regulations relating to the protection of the environment. Its facilities generally operate under wastewater discharge permits issued under such laws and regulations or have entered into wastewater discharge agreements with local municipalities. Compliance with these laws, regulations, permits and agreements require the Company to incur expenses and to monitor its operations on an ongoing basis. The Company believes that its operations are in compliance in all material respects with the requirements of its permits and agreements, and with currently

applicable environmental laws and regulations, except as discussed below. It is the Company's intention to comply with all applicable environmental laws and regulations, including all permit requirements and agreements with municipalities.

Exceedances in wastewater generated by some Company facilities over the limits prescribed in wastewater discharge permits or agreements with municipalities have been registered in the past and in some recent samplings, and an isolated wastewater overflow incident at one location occurred in January 2010 and was promptly addressed. At such facilities, the Company has been implementing various measures to reduce wastewater at source and, at certain locations, has upgraded or is upgrading equipment to achieve compliance and prevent future incidents.

Through past acquisitions, the Company inherited historical contamination at some facilities. Most of these sites have been contaminated by former petroleum storage tanks, all of which have been addressed. At each of these sites, the Company is either implementing proper remediation measures or proceeding with additional investigations to determine if further action is required. In some cases, with the consent of governmental authorities, the Company continues to monitor the situation to confirm that no further action is required. The Company does not expect that major expenditures will be required to deal with the contamination at these facilities.

The Company stays apprised of new climate change legislation, has appropriate monitoring plans in place where required, and complies with the registration or reporting requirements currently applicable to some of its facilities.

During fiscal 2011, the Company spent approximately \$4 million to comply with existing environmental laws and regulations and improve plant efficiencies to reduce noise emission and wastewater discharge, to update or remove underground storage tanks, to address contamination issues and to improve wastewater treatment systems at a number of its facilities, plus approximately \$130,000 for costs associated with obligations related to closed facilities. All amounts spent during fiscal 2011 are reflected in the Company's Financial Statements included in the 2011 Annual Report. For fiscal 2012, Management estimates similar expenditures at \$5 million and \$123,000, respectively. Management believes that compliance with currently applicable environmental protection requirements will not have a material effect on the Company's earnings or competitive position during fiscal 2012.

#### 4.6 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

As the Company is involved in the production, sale and distribution of food products, it relies on brand recognition and loyalty from its clientele in addition to relying on the quality of its products. The Company focuses on certain established brands and believes that its trademarks are recognized by consumers for quality and reliability. Also, as innovation forms part of Saputo's growth strategy, new technologies, products and process optimization methods have been developed by our research and development teams in the recent years. Therefore, a new approach to the protection of these assets has been implemented, which may include patenting certain technologies when appropriate. Hence, Saputo takes appropriate measures to protect and enforce its intellectual property.

# 4.7 RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The risks and uncertainties related to our operations are disclosed in the Company's Management's Discussion and Analysis contained in the 2011 annual report, more specifically under the heading "Risks and Uncertainties" on page 23, and incorporated herein by reference. The Management's Discussion and Analysis may be found on SEDAR at <a href="www.sedar.com">www.sedar.com</a>. A copy may also be obtained upon request to the Secretary of the Company, at its head office, 6869 Métropolitain Boulevard East, Saint-Léonard, Québec, H1P 1X8, Telephone: 514.328.6662.

## ITEM 5 - DIVIDEND POLICY

Saputo has a policy of declaring quarterly cash dividends on the Common Shares. In fiscal 2009, 2010 and 2011, Saputo declared, respectively, the following yearly dividends on the Common Shares, \$0.56, \$0.58 and \$0.64 per share. In fiscal 2011, the Company's dividend policy was reviewed by the Board of Directors and the quarterly dividend of \$0.145 per share, representing a yearly dividend of \$0.58 per share, was increased on August 3, 2010 to \$0.16 per share, representing a yearly dividend of \$0.64 per share. The balance of the Company's earnings are reinvested to finance the growth of its business. The Company's dividend policy is reviewed from time to time, but at least once annually, by the Board of Directors and depends on Saputo's financial condition, results of operations, capital requirements and such other factors as the Board of Directors, in its sole discretion, deems relevant.

#### ITEM 6 - CAPITAL STRUCTURE

The articles of the Company provide that its authorized share capital shall be composed of an unlimited number of Common Shares and an unlimited number of Preferred Shares, issuable in series, all without nominal or par value. As of the close of business on May 26, 2011, 203,835,956 Common Shares and no Preferred Shares were issued and outstanding.

The following is a summary of the material provisions which attach to the classes of shares of the capital stock of Saputo and is qualified by reference to the full text of the rights, privileges, restrictions and conditions of such shares.

#### **Common Shares**

The Common Shares carry and are subject to the following rights, privileges, restrictions and conditions:

## Voting

Each Common Share entitles its holder to receive notice of and to attend all general and special meetings of shareholders of Saputo, other than meetings at which only the holders of a particular class or series are entitled to vote, and each such Common Share entitles its holder to one vote.

#### **Dividends**

The holders of Common Shares are, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, entitled to receive, out of any amounts properly applicable to the payment of dividends and after the payment of any dividends payable on the Preferred Shares, any dividends declared and payable by Saputo on the Common Shares.

#### Dissolution

The holders of Common Shares shall be entitled to share equally in any distribution of the assets of Saputo upon the liquidation, dissolution or winding-up of Saputo or other distribution of its assets among its shareholders. Such participation is subject to the rights, privileges, restrictions and conditions attached to any issued and outstanding Preferred Shares or shares of any other class ranking prior to the Common Shares.

#### Preferred Shares

The Preferred Shares may be issued from time to time in one or more series, the terms of each series including the number of shares, the designation, rights, preferences, privileges, priorities, restrictions, conditions and limitations to be determined at the time of issuance of each such series by the Board of Directors of Saputo without shareholder approval, provided that all Preferred Shares will rank, with respect to dividends and return of capital in the event of liquidation, dissolution, winding-up or other distribution of assets of Saputo for the purpose of winding-up its affairs, *pari passu* among themselves and in priority to all shares of any class ranking junior to the Preferred Shares.

# ITEM 7 - MARKET FOR SECURITIES

#### 7.1 TRADING

The Common Shares of Saputo are listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the stock market symbol "SAP". The following table outlines the price range and trading volume of the Common Shares for each of the months of the last fiscal year:

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Price Range and Trading Volume of the Common Shares			
Month	High (\$)	Low (\$)	Volume
April 2010	29.76	28.40	7,689,730
May 2010	29.49	27.03	6,419,713
June 2010	30.75	28.71	5,593,426
July 2010	32.95	30.21	4,026,460
August 2010	34.30	31.06	6,439,381
September 2010	35.70	34.05	7,826,146
October 2010	39.55	34.33	6,342,240
November 2010	39.89	36.15	6,378,327
December 2010	40.25	35.90	6,456,856
January 2011	42.23	39.62	4,653,328
February 2011	42.04	39.74	4,133,754
March 2011	43.85	40.49	6,081,564

ITEM 8 - DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

# 8.1 DIRECTORS

The following table sets forth each director's name and Province/State and Country of residence, the year in which he or she first became a director, his or her principal occupation and the number of Common Shares beneficially owned, directly or indirectly, or over which control or direction was exercised by each director, as of May 26, 2011. Directors are elected until the next annual meeting of shareholders or, in the case of a vacancy or resignation, until a successor is elected or appointed.

Name and Province/State and Country of Residence	Director Since	Principal Occupation	Common Shares Beneficially Owned or Over Which Control or Direction was Exercised as of May 26, 2011
Emanuele (Lino) Saputo (1) Québec, Canada	1992	Chairman of the Board of the Company	69,879,924 (2)
Lino A. Saputo, Jr. Québec, Canada	2001	President and Chief Executive Officer and Vice Chairman of the Board of the Company	67,297
André Bérard (3) (5) Québec, Canada	1997	Corporate Director	32,250
Lucien Bouchard (3) Québec, Canada	2004	Senior Partner, Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg LLP	-

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Name and Province/State and Country of Residence	Director Since	Principal Occupation	Common Shares Beneficially Owned or Over Which Control or Direction was Exercised as of May 26, 2011
Pierre Bourgie <sup>(3)</sup> Québec, Canada	1997	President and Chief Executive Officer of Société Financière Bourgie (1996) Inc. (a diversified investment company)	946,000
Frank A. Dottori (4) (6) Québec, Canada	2003	Managing Director of GreenField Ethanol's Cellulosic Ethanol division (an ethanol and industrial alcohol manufacturer and distributor)	2,575
Anthony M. Fata <sup>(4)</sup> Québec, Canada	2008	President of Sager Food Products Inc. (a food products manufacturing and distribution company)	6,000
Jean Gaulin (3) California, USA	2003	Corporate Director	57,400
Tony Meti <sup>(4)</sup> Québec, Canada	2008	President of G.D.N.P. Consulting Services, Inc. (a consulting company)	400
Caterina Monticciolo, CA Québec, Canada	1997	President of Julvest Capital Inc. (a holding company)	238,000
Patricia Saputo, CA, ICD.D Québec, Canada	1999	Chief Financial Officer of Placements Italcan Inc. (a diversified investment company)	2,000
Louis A. Tanguay (4) (7) (8) Québec, Canada	1997	Corporate Director	32,000

- (1) Mr. Emanuele (Lino) Saputo is a director of Arbec Forest Products Inc. (formerly Uniforêt Inc.), which filed for protection under the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act* on April 17, 2001. In May 2003, Uniforêt Inc. entered into a plan of arrangement with its creditors. In February 2004, it completed the implementation of this plan.
- (2) The shares are held by Jolina Capital Inc. and Gestion Jolina Inc., both of which are holding companies controlled by Mr. Emanuele (Lino) Saputo.
- (3) Member of the Corporate Governance and Human Resources Committee. The Chairman of the Committee is Mr. André Bérard.
- (4) Member of the Audit Committee. The Chairman of the Committee is Mr. Louis A. Tanguay.
- (5) Lead Director.
- Mr. Frank A. Dottori was a director of Gestion Papiers Gaspésia Inc. and its subsidiary, Papiers Gaspésia Inc., until October 29, 2003. On January 30, 2004, Papiers Gaspésia Inc. and Papiers Gaspésia Limited Partnership filed for protection under the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act. On July 4, 2005, the Plan of Arrangement submitted by Papiers Gaspésia Inc. and Papiers Gaspésia Limited Partnership to their creditors was homologated by the Court and is being implemented since then.
- (7) Mr. Louis A. Tanguay was a member of the board of directors of SR Telecom and was subject to a management cease-trade order issued by the *Autorité des marches financiers* from November 15, 2006 until December 8, 2006 and from April 2, 2007 until June 19, 2007, as a result of the failure by SR Telecom to timely file its financial statements during such periods. Also, on November 19, 2007, while Mr. Tanguay was a director, SR Telecom filed for creditor protection under the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*. The plan of compromise and reorganization was sanctioned by the Superior Court on October 20, 2008, and completed in December 2008.

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(8) Mr. Louis A. Tanguay has advised the Company that he does not intend to renew his mandate as director. Reference is made to the Company's Management Proxy Circular dated June 7, 2011 for additional information regarding Board nominees to be elected at the annual and special meeting of shareholders to be held on August 2, 2011.

During the last five years, all of the above nominees have been engaged in their present principal occupations or in other executive capacities with the companies indicated opposite their name or with related or affiliated companies, except for: Mr. Frank A. Dottori who is President of Fadco Consulting Inc. and who became managing director of GreenField Ethanol's Cellulosic Ethanol division (an ethanol and industrial alcohol manufacturer and distributor) on March 7, 2008; and Mr. Tony Meti who, until April 2007, was Senior Vice-President, Commercial Banking and International at a Canadian Chartered Bank.

Information as to shares beneficially owned by each director, or over which each exercised control or direction, as of May 26, 2011, has been furnished by the directors individually.

Additional information concerning the shareholdings of, options held by and deferred share units granted to directors is included in the section entitled "Election of Directors" on page 5 of the Company's Management Proxy Circular dated June 7, 2011. This information is incorporated herein by reference.

## 8.2 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The following table sets forth the name, Province/State and Country of residence and position with the Company of each person who is an executive officer of the Company as of the date hereof:

Name and Province/State and Country of Residence	Position
Emanuele (Lino) Saputo Québec, Canada	Chairman of the Board
Lino A. Saputo, Jr. Québec, Canada	President and Chief Executive Officer and Vice Chairman of the Board
Terry Brockman Wisconsin, US	President and Chief Operating Officer Dairy Products Division (USA)
Louis-Philippe Carrière, FCA Québec, Canada	Executive Vice President, Finance and Administration and Secretary
Dino Dello Sbarba, FCMA Québec, Canada	President and Chief Operating Officer Dairy Products Division (Canada) and by interim (Europe and Argentina)
Lionel Ettedgui Québec, Canada	President and Chief Operating Officer Bakery Division
Gaétane Wagner Québec, Canada	Executive Vice President, Human Resources

During the last five years, all of the above executive officers have held the principal occupation indicated above or other executive capacities with the Company except for: Mr. Lionel Ettedgui who, until October 2008, was President, General Manager and Chairman of the Board of Kooll

Desserts, a dairy dessert company; and Ms. Gaétane Wagner who, until September 2006, was Vice President, Human Resources of Group TVA Inc., a Canadian broadcasting company.

As of May 26, 2011, the directors and executive officers of Saputo, as a group, beneficially owned, directly or indirectly, or exercised control or direction over, an aggregate of 71,332,908 Common Shares, representing approximately 35% of the outstanding Common Shares of the Company.

## ITEM 9 - LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

The Company is defendant to certain claims arising from the normal conduct of its business. Management believes that the final resolution of these claims will not have a material adverse effect on its earnings or financial position.

# ITEM 10 - INTEREST OF MANAGEMENT AND OTHERS IN TRANSACTIONS

In the normal course of business, the Company receives and provides goods and services from and to companies subject to significant influence by its principal shareholder. These goods and services are of an immaterial amount and compensated by a consideration equal to their fair market value, comparable to similar arms' length transactions. Reference is made to note 18 to the Consolidated Financial Statements of the Company that describes the related party transactions (see "Additional Information").

## ITEM 11 - EXPERTS

Saputo's auditors are Deloitte & Touche LLP. Saputo's Consolidated Financial Statements as of March 31, 2011 and for the year then ended have been filed under National Instrument 51-102 "Continuous Disclosure Obligations" in reliance on the report of Deloitte & Touche LLP, independent chartered accountants, given on their authority as experts in auditing and accounting.

## ITEM 12 - TRANSFER AGENT AND REGISTRAR

The transfer agent and registrar of the Company is Computershare Trust Company of Canada at its principal offices in Montreal and Toronto.

# ITEM 13 - MATERIAL CONTRACTS

No material contract outside the ordinary course of business was entered into by the Company since January 1, 2002.

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# ITEM 14 - AUDIT COMMITTEE INFORMATION

# 14.1 AUDIT COMMITTEE'S CHARTER

The Audit Committee's mandate is included in Appendix A.

# 14.2 COMPOSITION AND RELEVANT EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

All members of the Audit Committee are independent and financially literate.

The following table sets forth each Audit Committee member's name and education and experience relevant to the performance of his responsibilities as an Audit Committee member:

Name	Education and Experience
Frank A. Dottori	Completed a Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering and Applied Science. In 1973, Mr. Dottori and three other executives founded Tembec Inc. and Mr. Dottori was Tembec's President and Chief Executive Officer until January 26, 2006. In May 2006, he became the President of Fadco Consulting Inc. and on March 7, 2008, he was named Managing Director of GreenField Ethanol's Cellulosic Ethanol division. Mr. Dottori has served as a Governor of the Montreal Stock Exchange, Director of the Canadian Market Productivity Centre and on the Board of Directors of several organizations and corporations. Mr. Dottori's professional experiences required and contributed to the development of his ability to analyse financial statements and understand the accounting principles used by the Company.
Anthony M. Fata	Completed a Bachelor's degree in Law and a Master's degree in business and administration (MBA) and is a member of the Quebec Bar. From 1993 to 1999, he occupied various positions in the Corporate Finance and Mergers and Acquisitions department of a Canadian Chartered Bank, including Executive Director. During this period, he was actively involved in various equity and debt issues, as well as numerous merger and acquisition transactions. In 1999, he became Vice–President of sales and marketing of Sager Food Products Inc. and was appointed President in November 2004. In this role, he is responsible for the financial results and financial statements and is also required to understand internal controls and procedures. Mr. Fata's professional experiences required and contributed to the development of his ability to analyse financial statements and understand the accounting principles used by the Company.

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Tony Meti	Completed a Bachelor's degree in Commerce. Mr. Meti occupied over the past thirty (30) years various positions within Canadian Chartered Banks, including Senior Vice-President, Commercial Banking and International and Senior Vice-President, Commercial, North America. He is now the President of G.D.N.P. Consulting Services. Mr. Meti's professional experiences required and contributed to the development of his ability to analyse financial statements and understand the accounting principles used by the Company.
Louis A. Tanguay	Completed a Bachelor's degree in Commerce. Mr. Tanguay occupied several executive positions within the BCE organization requiring his involvement in the preparation of financial statements and the analysis of financial and operational performances of BCE related companies. More specifically, he was Chairman of the Board of Telebec, Executive Vice-President (Corporate) of Bell Canada, President of Bell Québec and President of Bell Canada International. He was also actively involved in the acquisition, merger and disposal of companies. Mr. Tanguay has an extensive past and present experience as a corporate director of public companies involving, for some of them, participation in audit committees. Mr. Tanguay's professional experiences required and contributed to the development of his ability to analyse financial statements and understand the accounting principles used by the Company.

In connection with the Company's transition to international financial reporting standards (IFRS) in fiscal 2012, presentations were made to the Audit Committee by the Company's corporate accounting team, as well as by its external auditors, in order for the Audit Committee members to understand the change in the accounting principles used by the Company and assess the general application of those principles and their impact on the Company.

# 14.3 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES REGARDING THE SERVICES RENDERED BY THE EXTERNAL AUDITORS

The Company has a policy with respect to services rendered by its external auditors (the "Policy"). The Policy divides the services in three categories: (i) services that are considered audit related ("Audit Services") and therefore covered by the annual audit budget; (ii) services that do not qualify as audit services ("Other Mandates"); and (iii) services that cannot be provided by the external auditors ("Prohibited Mandates"). Pursuant to the Policy, no Other Mandate can be provided by the Company's external auditors, unless the following conditions are met:

- (i) The Audit Committee has pre-approved the Other Mandate; or
- (ii) The amount of the fees to be paid for the Other Mandate is not higher than \$75,000 and the aggregate amount of all Other Mandates not pre-approved by the Audit Committee and granted since the beginning of the Company's fiscal year do not exceed \$150,000.

Finally, the Policy requires that the Management of the Company presents to the Audit Committee, on a quarterly basis, a statement of the services (other than the Audit Services) rendered by the external auditors of the Company, as well as any mandate given to other accounting firms.

## 14.4 EXTERNAL AUDITORS FEES BY CATEGORY

The following table sets out, by categories, the fees billed by Deloitte & Touche LLP, the Company's external auditors, for the fiscal years 2011 and 2010:

Fee Category	2011 (\$)	2010 (\$)
Audit Fees	701,503	711,861
Audit Related Fees	274,141	141,297
Tax Fees	223,955	589,298
All Other Fees	1,424	49,174
Total	1,201,023	1,491,630

"Audit Fees" include the aggregate professional fees billed by Deloitte & Touche LLP for the audit of the consolidated annual financial statements.

"Audit Related Fees" include the aggregate fees billed by Deloitte & Touche LLP for services that would normally be performed by the external auditors. More specifically, these services include, among other things, pension plans audits, attest services that are required by statute or regulation, consultations regarding financial reporting and accounting standards, including the Company's transition to IFRS, and translation services.

"Tax Fees" include the aggregate fees billed by Deloitte & Touche LLP for tax compliance, tax advice, tax planning and advisory services relating to the preparation of corporate tax, capital tax and sales tax returns.

"All Other Fees" include the aggregate fees billed by Deloitte & Touche LLP for all services other than those reported under Audit Fees, Audit Related Fees and Tax Fees.

## ITEM 15 - ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information, including disclosure of the Company's corporate governance practices, remuneration and indebtedness to the Company of the directors and officers, principal holders of Saputo's securities, and securities authorized for issuance under the equity compensation plan, where applicable, is included in Saputo's Management Proxy Circular dated June 7, 2011 and may be found on SEDAR at <a href="www.sedar.com">www.sedar.com</a>. Additional financial information is included in the Consolidated Financial Statements of Saputo and Notes thereto and in the accompanying Management's Discussion and Analysis for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2011 and may be found on SEDAR at <a href="www.sedar.com">www.sedar.com</a>. Copies of these documents may be obtained upon request to the Secretary of the Company, at its head office, 6869 Métropolitain Boulevard East, Saint-Léonard, Québec, H1P 1X8, Telephone: 514.328.6662.

\* \* \*

#### **APPENDIX "A"**

#### **AUDIT COMMITTEE MANDATE**

#### 1. **AUTHORITY**

The audit committee (the "Committee") is a standing committee of the board of directors (the "Board") which has the responsibilities described under the heading "Responsibilities". The Committee reports to the Board.

The Committee has free access to personnel and documents of Saputo Inc. (the "Company") and is granted the resources necessary to carry out its duties.

#### 2. **STRUCTURE**

- 2.1. The Committee is made up of a minimum of three directors of the Company, each being independent and financially literate except to the extent permitted by the requirements concerning the Committee as per the applicable securities legislation. The terms "independent" and "financially literate" each have the meaning respectively provided under the requirements concerning the Committee as per the applicable securities legislation.
- 2.2. The mandate of the members is for one year and may be renewed. The members are appointed by the Board at the first meeting following the annual meeting of shareholders, or at any other meeting to fill a vacancy.
- 2.3. The chairman is appointed by the Board for a one-year term, which may be renewed. In the absence or failure of the chairman to sit, the chair is filled by a member chosen by the Committee.
- 2.4. The Committee meets at least four times annually. The Chairman of the Board, the Lead Director, members of the Committee, the external auditors or the Director of Internal Audit may call special meetings as needed. The Committee determines the place, date and time of its meetings. The meetings may be held by telephone or by any other means allowing the members to communicate with each other.
- 2.5. The quorum for meetings of the Committee is a majority of the members and decisions are made by the majority of the votes cast by the members present.
- 2.6. Minutes of meetings of the Committee are taken by the secretary of the Board (or any other person designated by the Committee) and must give an exact account of the decisions made at the meetings. The minutes of the Committee meetings are presented to and filed with the Board. The president of the Committee presents a verbal report at the following Board meeting.
- 2.7. In addition to the members of the Committee, any other person may be called before the meetings at the request of the chairman of the Committee.

- 2.8. The Committee has the power to retain, at the cost of the Company, independent legal counsels or other advisors it considers necessary to carry out its mandate and to fix their compensation.
- 2.9. The Committee has the power to communicate directly with the internal and external auditors of the Company and its accounting personnel and members of its management. For the purpose of its duties, the Committee may examine the pertinent books and accounts of the Company and its affiliates.
- 2.10. The external auditor reports and accounts directly to the Committee.

#### 3. **RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### 3.1 Financial Disclosure

- Review the un-audited quarterly and audited annual financial statements accompanied by the external auditors' report, management's report and press releases respecting the financial results before their public release and recommend its approval to the Board. This review includes discussions with the management and the external auditors on material questions concerning the accounting principles and practices of the Company.
- Review the content of all public documents disclosing financial information, audited or unaudited, including all prospectuses, the management proxy circular, annual information
  form and annual report of the Company before their public release and recommend their
  approval to the Board.
- Review and monitor practices and procedures relating to the certifications by the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer with respect to financial disclosures and internal controls and procedures over financial reporting to ensure compliance with applicable securities legislation.
- Review and discuss with management and the external auditors the appropriateness and
  disclosure of the accounting principles and practices, the underlying assumptions and the
  reporting practices of the Company, and the appropriateness of any significant changes
  thereto, and ensure they are appropriate and in compliance with the applicable legislation.
- Review, examine and discuss the foreseeable repercussions of any new audit and accounting standards or new securities rules.
- Review, at least annually, the dividends policy and recommend the approval by the Board of all payments of dividends, if any.
- Review the financial statements of the pension plans of the Company.

## 3.2 <u>Risk Management and Internal Control</u>

Study and evaluate the risk factors inherent to the Company and ensure that appropriate

measures are in place to enable management to identify and manage them effectively, including financial, strategic and operational risks.

- Supervise the application and respect of the environmental policy of the Company and make periodical reports to the Board with respect thereto.
- Supervise the application and respect of the food safety and quality policy of the Company and make periodical reports to the Board with respect thereto.
- Monitor periodically the presence and the effectiveness of the necessary internal control systems of the Company through periodical reports which would also identify control weaknesses that could have a material impact on the financial information of the Company, the measures taken to rectify them and follow-ups.
- Periodically evaluate and assess the adequacy of the procedures set up by the Company to communicate publicly its financial information taken or derived from its financial statements.
- Establish and maintain a policy concerning the disclosure of material information.
- Review the report of the management on transactions with related parties.
- Review any legal matters that could have a material effect on the financial statements and ensure that they are appropriately disclosed in the financial statements.
- Ensure that the annual information form and the proxy circular include the required and mandatory information concerning the Committee.
- Review the communications with the Autorité des marchés financiers on the financial statements and continuous disclosure documents.
- Establish and maintain procedures regarding:
  - > The receipt, keeping and processing of complaints received by the Company respecting accounting and internal accounting controls or auditing matters;
  - The confidential and anonymous submission by employees of the Company of concerns affecting questionable matters relating to accounting or auditing.
- Review the delegation of authority and supervise its application.

#### 3.3 Internal Auditors

- Supervise and control the internal audit function.
- Review and approve annually the internal audit plan prepared by the director, internal audit.

- Review the adequacy of the resources attributed to the internal audit department in order to fulfill its mandate and responsibilities.
- Meet periodically with the director, internal audit, with and without the presence of management. During private meetings, discuss namely the level of cooperation received from management and any unresolved differences of opinion, if any.
- Make the link between the internal auditor and the external auditors of the Company.

#### 3.4 External Auditors

- Supervise the work of the external auditor retained to establish or issue the auditor's report
  or render other audit, examination or certification services to the Company and resolve
  disagreements, if any, between management and the external auditor regarding financial
  reporting.
- Recommend to the Board the appointment of external auditors for the upcoming fiscal year and the fees to be paid to them.
- Review and adopt annually the audit plan prepared by the external auditors, determine whether it meets the needs of the Company and, at least once a year, obtain an official written declaration of the external auditors attesting their independence.
- Review and evaluate, at least once a year, the qualifications, independence and performance of the external auditors.
- Adopt and maintain a policy concerning the prior approval of all services not related to the audit which the external auditors of the Company may render to the Company and its subsidiaries in accordance with applicable legislation.
- Examine and approve the hiring policies of the Company with respect to partners and employees, former or current, of the present auditor and former auditors of the Company.
- Meet with the auditors, with and without the presence of management, in regard to the financial statements and discuss with them their assessment of the control systems in place and their recommendations.
- Ensure that there is a rotation of audit partners, lead and concurring partner and other audit partners as per the Canadian guidelines on governance.
- Study any other issue about which the Board should, in the opinion of the external auditors, be informed.

## 3.5 Evaluation of the Committee

Annually assess the accomplishments and performance of the Committee.

• Annually review the mandate of the Committee.

# 3.6 <u>Other Responsibilities</u>

- Carry out any other duty related to the performance of its mandate.
- Carry out any other mandate which the Board may entrust to it from time to time.

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