# WESTERN INVESTMENT COMPANY OF CANADA LIMITED



Interim Management's Discussion and Analysis

Quarterly Highlights

For the Period ended September 30, 2024 Dated: November 28, 2024

## Introduction

The Western Investment Company of Canada Limited ("we", "our", "**Western**," or the "**Corporation**") is a publicly-traded private equity company based in Western Canada. Our common shares trade on the TSX-V under the trading symbol WI. **Our purpose has been to create long-term wealth for shareholders by building and maintaining a diversified portfolio of strong, stable, and profitable western-based companies while helping them to grow and prosper.** Our strategy has been to use our expertise and capital to cultivate already great western Canadian businesses, ultimately contributing to their success and legacy over the long run. Our purpose and strategy are expected to evolve upon successfully closing the transaction we originally announced on March 22, 2024. Please see the Strategic Developments section on page 3 for further details.

This Interim Management Discussion and Analysis ("MD&A") provides an update on the Corporation's business activities, financial condition, financial performance, and cash flows since December 31, 2023. The Corporation reports its financial position, financial performance, and cash flows in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS") in Canadian dollars. The MD&A should be read in conjunction with the audited financial statements of the Corporation and the annual MD&A for the year ended December 31, 2023 and the unaudited condensed interim financials statements for the period ended September 30, 2024. The MD&A was prepared by management of Western and was approved by the Board of Directors on November 28, 2024. Additional information relating to the Corporation, including its Annual Information Form, is available on SEDAR+ at <a href="https://www.sedarplus.ca">www.sedarplus.ca</a>.

Investments	Acquisition Date	Ownership (%)
GlassMasters ARG Autoglass Two Inc.	December 16, 2016	55.3%
Golden Health Care	September 1, 2017	25.0 - 30.0%
Foothills Creamery Ltd.	February 28, 2018	49.5%
Fortress Insurance Company <sup>1</sup>	May 6, 2019	83.6%

The following table outlines our current investments as of November 28, 2024;

**1** Ownership as at September 30, 2024 was 28.5%. See subsequent event not for details on the acquisition of shares that occurred on October 1, 2024.

Management's Discussion and Analysis

## Key Highlights for the Period Ended September 30, 2024

Western had a successful third quarter, with equity income coming in at expectations, exceeding all third quarter results for the past 5 years. Western's associate companies ("**Associates**") are running smoothly, and management at Western has been focused on a transaction that will transform Western into a property and casualty insurance and investment holding company.

GlassMasters ARG Autoglass Two Inc. ("**GlassMasters**") continues its growth trajectory with a 20% increase in sales for the nine months ended September 30<sup>th</sup> compared to the comparative period in 2023. GlassMasters has seen an average of 20% growth in revenue annually for the past four years. This has been obtained through the combination of growth occurring at current retail and warehouse locations and from the addition of new locations. After adding three locations in 2023, GlassMasters opened its first location in Winnipeg in the second quarter of 2024, and the company expects to add a warehouse in Winnipeg in the coming months. GlassMasters serves as Western's primary cash flow source, with regular interest payments occurring on the restructured shareholder notes.

Business at Fortress Insurance Company ("**Fortress**") continues its rapid growth, with a 102% increase in gross written premiums from the comparative nine month period of 2023. Overall, insurance service results at Fortress are comparable to the comparative period in 2023, as the company manages this growth with the increase in administrative expenses that come with it. Fortress is focused on diversification, expanding its product offerings into liability insurance, and on growing the Ontario market. Fortress is primed to become a key focus of Western. Subsequent to September 30, 2024, Western acquired an additional 55% of Fortress (see subsequent events section), becoming a controlled subsidiary of Western.

Operational and strategic improvements have given Foothills Creamery Ltd. ("**Foothills**") a big boost to profitability over the last couple of years. Gross margins have improved by 2% from 2023. Sales, gross profit and EBITDA for 2024 are comparable to the prior year after removing the prior years one time gain on the sale of real estate. Foothills continues to innovate with new products and is expanding its customer base.

Golden Health Care ("**Golden**") is working to improve occupancy at its underutilized homes resulting in an increase in revenue of 11% compared to the comparative nine month period 2023. Inflation has impacted the cost of care, and attracting staff has been challenging. Management is focused on occupancy and is working to access government funding for senior care, which would allow more seniors in need to access their beds.

Our Associates are busy implementing their 2024 strategic plans. Fortress is working to grow gross premiums written and diversify of its product offerings. GlassMasters is busy opening new locations, and Foothills is primed with inventory to meet a growing demand for its premium ice cream.

Management's Discussion and Analysis

## **Strategic Developments**

Western has been working for the past year to implement a financing that will transform it into a property and casualty insurance and investment holding company. The various elements of the transaction have evolved over recent months, and management is looking forward to the completion of the transaction in the coming weeks.

On August 30, 2024, Western announced a revised transaction and financing to replace the one previously announced on March 22, 2024. The revised transaction originally included a private placement of up to 37,500,000 Units at a price of \$0.40 per unit for proceeds of \$15 million (the "Private Placement"). On September 26, 2024, due to greater than expected interest, Western announced that the Corporation had increased the maximum offering for the Private Placement to \$25 million, with an additional \$5 million over-allotment at Western's option, for potential aggregate gross proceeds of up to \$30 million. Each unit consists of one common share and one share purchase warrant (the "Unit"). Each Warrant will be exercisable to purchase one additional Common Share for a period of 5 years from the date of closing at an exercise price of \$0.47. Tevir Capital Corp. ("Tevir"), a company affiliated with Paul Rivett, led the Private Placement is fully subscribed and is expected to close in early December.

On October 7, 2024, Western launched a rights offering in which holders of record, as of the record date of October 15, 2024, received one right (a "Right") for each Western share. Each Right entitles the holder to subscribe for one (1) Common Share of the Corporation upon payment of a subscription price of \$0.40 per Common Share. The rights are publicly listed and expire on November 29, 2024. The Rights are offered to registered shareholders resident in Canada. Shareholders who fully exercise their Rights may be entitled to subscribe for additional Single Voting Shares, if available, as a result of unexercised Rights prior to the expiry of the Rights Offering. The definitive terms of the Rights Offering are set out in the rights offering notice and the Rights Circular, which is available under Western's profile at www.sedarplus.ca. The Rights Offering is intended to provide existing Western shareholders with a mechanism to ensure their economic interest in the Corporation is not diluted.

In the event the Rights are fully exercised, an aggregate of \$22 million is expected to be raised for Western. The net proceeds of the rights and private placement will be used for general corporate purposes and future acquisitions of portfolio companies or interests in portfolio companies in the insurance sector.

Upon the successful closing of the above transactions, Paul Rivett is to be appointed to President and Chief Executive Officer of Western with the following initial priorities:

- Grow the Fortress platform to \$100 million per annum in written premiums by 2028 through a combination of prudent organic growth and accretive acquisitions; and
- Continue managing Western's non-insurance holdings as long-term investments.

Earlier in the year, Western signed share purchase agreements on the shares outstanding in Fortress to increase its share ownership in Fortress from its current 28.5% position to 100%. On October 1, 2024, Western closed the first tranche of this acquisition of fortress shares, bringing its ownership to 83.6% (the "First Tranche"). In connection with this first closing, Western issued an aggregate of 25,193,922 common shares in the capital of the Corporation at a deemed price

Management's Discussion and Analysis

of \$0.40 per Common Share in exchange for 3,875,988 shares of Fortress. See the subsequent events section for further details of this acquisition. The acquisition of the remaining shares of Fortress is expected to close in December and will be settled with a combination of cash and Western shares. This transaction fulfills the Corporations first goal of owning 100% of Fortress and turning its focus to the insurance business.

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## **Review of Western's Operations and Financial Results**

The financial highlights of the Corporation are:

	Three months ended September 30,		Nine months Septembe	
Financial results (\$	2024	2023	2024	2023
Income	1,256,990	881,338	1,880,135	2,357,824
Professional fees	310,514	72,095	461,650	235,117
Regulatory fees	46,721	7,886	98,639	52,309
Management salaries	129,235	97,996	431,433	337,816
Share based compensation	-	-	-	56,513
Interest	232,888	198,710	692,263	573,287
Other expenses	16,528	16,061	46,191	32,747
Total expenses	735,886	392,748	1,730,176	1,287,789
Net income (loss)	521,104	488,590	149,959	1,070,035
Net income (loss) per share	0.017	0.016	0.005	0.035

	September 30, 2024	December 31, 2023
Financial position (\$)		
Working capital	151,767	(824,966)
Total assets	21,128,203	19,864,478
Operating loan	1,981,430	-
Loans and convertible debentures	5,652,654	6,725,981
Shareholders' equity	12,907,037	12,780,056
	September 30, 2024	December 31, 2023
Western Share Count Information		
Common shares issued and outstanding	30,207,756	30,207,756

Income for the third quarter is up 40% over the comparative quarter of 2023, thanks to solid results at each of our Associates, all recording positive net income for the quarter. Revenue for the year-to-date is lower than the prior year due to the impact of a one-time gain on the sale of real estate that positively impacted an Associate's results in 2023. Removing this gain would have resulted in equity earnings for the year-to-date being comparable to 2023. In addition to equity income, Western earns a modest amount of management fees and \$566,013 in finance income from Associates (nine months ended September 30, 2023 - \$465,035).

Expenses increased 34% from the comparative period in 2023 due to an increase in interest expense and costs associated with the transactions the Corporation has been working on

## **The Western Investment Company of Canada Ltd.** Management's Discussion and Analysis

throughout the year. Interest expenses are higher in 2024 due to the refinanced convertible debentures issued in December 2023. The carrying amount of debentures is now higher than in the comparative period of 2023, and the interest rate has increased. In the current period, Western held \$1.125 million face value in convertible debentures until their maturity on March 31, 2024, and \$5 million of face value convertible debentures that mature on December 31, 2025. The liability component of these debentures accretes interest at an effective rate of 16%. In the comparative period 2023, Western held only \$4 million face value of debentures.

Western used the operating line to cover the repayment of the \$1.125 million in convertible debentures that matured on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Looking forward, our financial results will be impacted by the consolidation of Fortress, which became a subsidiary on October 1, 2024. Equity income from the remaining Associates for the fourth quarter is expected to be modest as they head into a seasonally slow quarter. Costs associated with the transactions closing in the fourth quarter will continue to be incurred.

## **Net Asset Value**

To enhance our shareholder's understanding of the value of their investment, we completed a market value assessment of each associate company as at December 31, 2023. For accounting purposes, each investment is recorded based on the equity method of accounting, whereby the investment is initially recognized at cost and adjusted thereafter for our share of the investee's profit or loss. The methods used to determine the market value estimate of each associate are outlined below. We believe providing this estimate gives our investors better insight into the true underlying value of their investment in Western.

The market value assessment shows the value of our equity investments is significantly above the current carrying value. If we adjust our net book value as at December 31, 2023, to account for the inherent market value of our investments, the value per share is \$0.69 (December 31, 2022 - \$0.67). This is well above the current market price of our shares, demonstrating the true value our shareholders hold. We expect that net asset value will remain a dynamic number and will be significantly influenced by the transactions occurring in the fourth quarter of 2024. The company intends to invest the funds raised in the upcoming financing in opportunities for future growth and value creation.

Below is a comparison of the carrying value of our Associates with the estimated market value as at December 31, 2023:

\$	Original purchase price	Carrying Value	Estimated Market Value	Unrealized Gain <sup>1</sup>
Golden Health Care	4,738,192	4,711,339	5,800,000	1,088,661
Fortress Insurance Company	1,690,000	2,726,191	5,200,000	2,473,809
Foothills Creamery Ltd.	3,251,000	2,842,164	4,680,000	1,837,836
GlassMasters ARG Autoglass				
Two Inc.	4,010,000	8,188,455	10,750,000	2,561,545
Total value of investment in				
Associates	13,689,192	18,468,149	26,430,000	7,961,851

1 non-GAAP measure - represents management's best estimate of unrecognized gain in value of Associates.

Management's Discussion and Analysis

Using the estimated market value of our Associates as outlined above, the net asset value of Western as at December 31, 2023, is:

\$	Estimated Market Value
Current assets	656,124
Due from related parties	740,205
Investment in Associates	26,430,000
Current liabilities	(358,441)
Loan from related party	(1,095,000)
Convertible debentures	(5,630,981)
Net asset value	20,741,907
Common shares outstanding	30,207,756
Value per share	\$ 0.69

## **Summary of Equity Investments**

Below is a summary of the results of each of Western's Associates for the nine month period ended September 30, 2024. The performance of our Associates is assessed based on revenues, net income from operations, and EBITDA. EBITDA is a supplemental measure of operating income in which tax, depreciation and amortization, and interest are added back to the associate's net income (refer to the "Description of Non-IFRS Measures" section below for more information).

## Fortress Insurance Company

Fortress is a Canadian licensed insurance company focused on specialty and surplus lines of business within the Canadian insurance marketplace. The principal business for Fortress involves property insurance, but the company also offers insurance in niche products, including accident & sickness, liability, boiler & machinery, marine, fidelity, legal expense, and surety. Fortress is licensed in five provinces from BC to Ontario and all three territories.

Management has been actively working on developing relationships with its broker network and negotiating reinsurance contracts that mitigate the risk taken by Fortress. With reinsurance, Fortress essentially shares the risk of each contract with other insurance companies. Expanding the broker network allows Fortress to penetrate deeper into the market and offer greater capacity to brokers.

Key Highlights:

- Gross written premiums grew 102% to \$31.0 million in the first nine months of 2024 compared with \$15.3 million in the comparative period 2023.
- 2024 results include three new programs which didn't exist in 2023. Such programs add geographic diversity and class of insurance to the portfolio.
- Fortress's investment portfolio, including cash, grew 23% to \$22.7 million compared to \$18.4 million as at September 30, 2023.

For the nine months ending September 30, 2024, Western recognized equity income of \$85,258 from Fortress compared to \$103,496 in equity income for the comparative period ended September 30, 2023.

Management's Discussion and Analysis

Three months ended September 30,		Nine months ended September 30,		
Financial results (\$)	2024	2023	2024	2023
Insurance revenue	6,206,829	5,341,356	17,778,333	15,024,227
Insurance service result	616,370	600,699	1,117,350	1,700,079
Investment income (loss)	487,185	(72,147)	974,696	283,048
Net income (loss)	188,588	45,692	299,676	544,845
Gross written premiums <sup>1</sup>	15,167,777	4,326,060	30,945,542	15,307,900

Financial highlights for Fortress (at 100%) are presented below:

**1** Supplementary measure – total gross insurance premiums written during the period

Fortress continues its trajectory of rapid growth, with increases in gross written premiums each year, including a 102% increase from the comparative nine months in 2023. Gross written premiums include all premiums written during the year, including both earned and unearned, auto insurance premiums, and fronting fees earned.

Fortress continues to increase capacity on all its products, recently adding additional automobile warranty, liability and transportation insurance products to its lineup. We expect to see continued growth in written premiums throughout the year with a focus on the diversification of product lines and geography and on growing business in Ontario, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan. New programs in Ontario, Alberta, and BC added during the year to date, are contributing to the jump in gross written premiums. These new programs increased expenditures, and they will take time to contribute substantially to the bottom line. The company's investment portfolio continues to provide solid returns, allowing the company to achieve profitable results.

The trailing 12-month loss ratio as at September 30, 2024 (incurred losses over earned premium) is 61% (September 30, 2023 – 41%). As Fortress' earned premiums grow, so does the potential for claims. This year, the loss ratio has increased due to the impacts of various catastrophic events. This includes claims for water losses created by frigid temperatures in Vancouver, fires in Jasper, and hail in Calgary. The ratio is closely monitored and expected to normalize over time.

2024 is seeing a softening of the insurance market. Capacity is increasing, and rates are falling. While this may impact Fortress's growth and retention, management is actively monitoring the market and working to find niche areas of products to stay relevant with the brokers.

As at September 30, 2024, Western held 28% ownership of Fortress and appoints two of eight directors to the Board. This gives Western significant influence over the investment. As such, the Corporation is accounting for this investment under the equity method. On October 1, 2024 Western acquired an additional 55% of Fortress, giving us control, and Fortress's results going forward will be consolidated into Westerns. See the Strategic Developments section on page 4 for further details of this transaction.

## GlassMasters

Western holds a 55% investment in GlassMasters, an automotive glass service company with retail locations providing repair and replacement of auto glass and automotive glass warehouses that import a full line of quality aftermarket glass parts and materials at competitive

Management's Discussion and Analysis

prices. Principal markets are in Alberta and Saskatchewan, with recent expansion into British Columbia and Manitoba.

On April 1, 2022, the shareholders of GlassMasters passed a special resolution to distribute \$8 million in capital to shareholders by way of reducing the stated capital on the Class "A" common shares. The distribution was treated as a return of paid-up capital for tax purposes and was paid by the issuance of a 5-year term promissory note of which Western's share was \$4,658,559. The terms of the note include automatic renewal for five years upon each maturity date and an interest rate as determined by the Board of Directors of GlassMasters from time to time. The Board has set the interest rate at 14% for 2024 (2023 - 10%). During the nine months ended September 30, 2024, \$489,149 of interest was earned, and \$323,198 was receivable on this note as at September 30, 2024 (September 30, 2023 - \$398,597 earned and received).

The interest earned on the note payable provides cash flow with an additional revenue source for the Corporation and creates tax efficiencies at the operating company. The intention is for the note to be renewed indefinitely, and it is considered part of Western's total investment in GlassMasters. Subsequent to September 30, 2024, \$176,357 in interest was received.

Key Highlights:

- Revenue grew 20% to \$32.7 million in the first nine months of 2024 compared with \$27.3 million in the comparative period of 2023.
- The company has been growing on average 20% per year. Total sales have more than doubled since 2020.
- 2024 expansion includes a location in Winnipeg that is now up and running and its recently opened Kelowna location is gaining momentum.

GlassMasters contributed equity income of \$807,862 and finance income of \$519,243 to Western's results in the nine months ended September 30, 2024 (September 30, 2023 - \$757,235 equity income and \$398,597 finance income). Western earns \$75,000 annually in management fee revenue.

	Three months September		Nine months ended September 30,	
Financial results (\$)	2024	2023	2024	2023
Revenue	12,734,905	10,111,475	32,732,105	27,335,372
Gross profit	4,174,519	2,995,025	9,905,782	8,289,689
Net income Note payable interest paid to	1,188,197	539,543	1,408,210	1,368,828
shareholders	226,962	162,116	680,886	486,347
Adjusted Net income <sup>1</sup>	1,415,159	701,659	2,089,096	1,855,175
Net income Interest	1,188,197 553.811	539,543	1,408,210	1,368,828
	492,705	352,164 384,622	1,360,037 1,495,198	1,088,033 1,147,790
Amortization and depreciation	357,013	384,822 160,581	420,635	408,289
EBITDA	2,591,726	1,436,910	4,684,080	4,012,940

Financial highlights for GlassMasters (at 100%) are presented below:

Management's Discussion and Analysis

1 Non-GAAP measure - Interest on shareholder notes payable was added back to net income to provide normalized operating income (loss).

GlassMasters continues to post record sales with a 20% increase in year-to-date revenue from the prior year. The company has seen, on average, a 20% growth in sales each year over the past four years. This growth is coming from expansion, with new stores and warehouses being added, as well as gains in market share at existing locations. Recent additions include the Kelowna and Winnipeg stores and a new warehouse in Kelowna. As the company adds new locations, margins can be temporarily affected as it takes time for stores to develop enough business to break even. New stores carry additional costs as they get started. General and administrative expenses are up due to the rapid growth and general inflation across the board. Adjusted net income for the first nine months ended September 30, 2024, came in at \$2.1 million compared to \$1.9 in the comparative period of 2023, an increase of 13%. The summer quarter was such a success it made gains to cover these increased costs. Adjusted net income for the third quarter was double that of the prior year going from \$701,660 to \$1,415,185.

GlassMasters' expanded radio advertising and their expanded call center is translating into a growth in retail sales. New accounts add to same-store revenue. Early in 2024, Kelowna received its ICBC accreditation, which allowed the company access to the province's insurance business. 2024 marks the expansion into Manitoba with a newly opened location in Winnipeg. The retail location opened early in the second quarter, and a warehouse is expected to open late this year. Management continues to assess additional expansion opportunities.

In September, GlassMasters received large shipments of inventory months ahead of expected timelines pushing their credit line above expectations for the time of year. As a result, the company was in breach of bank covenants as of September 30, 2024. It is expected the lender will issue a waiver. However, this breach may temporarily limit future payouts of notes receivable interest.

GlassMasters earns the majority of its income in the spring and summer driving months. Based on the seasonality of operations, readers are cautioned not to weigh quarterly financial data equally for all quarters.

Western has significant influence over GlassMasters, given Western appoints two of six directors; however, this does not give Western control. As such, the Corporation has accounted for this investment under the equity method.

## Foothills Creamery Ltd.

Western holds a 50% interest in Foothills, a producer and distributor of high-quality butter and ice cream products with over 50 years of operations in Western Canada. Headquartered in Calgary, Alberta, it serves customers through a large grocery retail and food service network across Western Canada, supported by distribution facilities in Edmonton, Alberta, and Kelowna, British Columbia. Foothills butter products are specially churned, using only the freshest cream to produce a smooth textured product with exceptional taste. Target markets for its butter products include grocery retailers and the food service industry, including commercial kitchens and bakeries. Ice cream sales are seasonal, with the busiest quarters occurring in the spring and summer months.

Management's Discussion and Analysis

Key highlights:

- Gross profit of \$6.7 million was consistent with the prior nine months ended September 30th.
- 2024 EBITDA for the year-to-date was \$2.6 million, which is comparable with adjusted EBITDA for the first nine months of 2023, after we remove the gain on sale of real estate recognized in 2023.
- As at September 30, 2024, Foothills has \$1.4 million more inventory on hand compared to September 30, 2023.

In the comparative nine months ended September 30, 2023, EBITDA and net income were positively affected by a large gain realized on the sale of real estate. Foothills sold their Kelowna warehouse in 2023 and is leasing the space back. Removing this \$1.1 million gain from the nine months ended September 30, 2023, provides for an adjusted net income for the comparative nine months of \$696,603 and adjusted EBITDA of \$2.7 million.

In the nine month period ended September 30, 2024, Western recorded equity income of \$163,027 from Foothills compared to equity income earned of \$877,561 in the comparative 2023 period, which included Western's share of the gain on sale of real estate. Western earns annual management fees of \$75,000 from Foothills. \$42,575 in interest was earned on the shareholder loan during the period (September 30, 2023 – \$31,999).

Three months ended September 30,		Nine mont Septem		
Financial results (\$)	2024	2023	2024	2023
Revenue	11,738,494	11,418,811	28,567,818	29,727,673
Gross profit	2,766,937	2,704,588	6,716,200	6,648,295
Net income	535,646	632,534	329,413	1,771,369
Interest Amortization and depreciation Tax	364,607 421,429 103,889	315,758 401,871 (39,418)	1,022,047 1,195,431 69,609	866,529 1,133,889 (27,615)
EBITDA	1,425,571	1,310,745	2,616,500	3,744,172

Financial highlights for Foothills (at 100%) are presented below:

Sales for the first nine months of 2024 are comparable with the prior year. A drop in butter sales and an increase in frozen product has improved margins slightly. Ice cream sales are lower than expectations as management was hoping to see growth in this area. The second quarter of 2024 was impacted by an unusually cool and wet spring, and summer sales were inconsistent. Despite Foothills increasing the number of scoop shop customers using their product, overall sales at scoop shops were down, possibly impacted by economic factors. When we normalize the prior year's results by removing the one-time gain on the sale of real estate, 2024 results are comparable with 2023.

Foothills will continue to focus on maintaining margins through a focus on high-margin frozen products and is working to find ways to grow sales. Foothills has plans to grow the frozen product category by \$3.1 million. In the butter category, to combat a tight market on this commodity, Foothills is moving its focus to the whipped butter category, where it can add more

Management's Discussion and Analysis

value and meet the needs of diverse customers. While total butter sales will drop, margins are expected to be higher.

A key challenge faced by Foothills is the amount of leverage they have. Total debt service requirements are \$1.6 million, including \$1 million in interest payments annually. Management actively manages cash flow and closely monitors bank covenants. During the second and third quarters of 2024, the company was offside on their debt covenants. Thanks to the addition of a new warehouse lease that started June 1<sup>st</sup>, covenants are now tighter with higher levels of debt on the balance sheet, and are being managed closely. Foothills is working with its lender on a recovery plan.

During the third quarter of 2024, Foothills received approval from Alberta Milk for a milk allocation from Dairy Innovation West, a new Alberta-based milk processor currently under construction. This partnership will assist Foothills in securing a stable supply of cream and showcase western dairy products. The new facility is expected to be ready for production sometime in 2025.

In October 2022, the Corporation advanced \$250,000 to Foothills Creamery in the form of a shareholder loan bearing interest at 13% per annum. Unpaid interest shall be added to the principal sum owing. The loan has a one-year maturity date, with the option to extend for four consecutive six-month periods. At the maturity date, Western has the option to convert the outstanding principal sum, together with all accrued and unpaid interest, into shares of Foothills at a conversion price of \$1.00 per share. If the conversion option is exercised, Western will receive share purchase warrants of Foothills in the amount of one-third of one share purchase warrant for every share issued upon loan conversion. Each warrant shall entitle Western to purchase one share of Foothills. As of September 30, 2024, the loan balance owing to Western was \$481,551 (December 31, 2022 - \$419,288). On October 27, 2024, Western exercised the third option to extend the maturity date for six months.

Foothills earns the majority of its income in the spring and summer months. Based on the seasonality of operations, readers are cautioned not to weigh quarterly financial data equally for all quarters.

Western has 50% ownership of Foothills; however, it appoints two of seven directors to the Board and does not have the voting authority to pass decisions without majority board approval. This gives Western significant influence but not control over the company. As such, the Corporation is accounting for this investment under the equity method.

## **Golden Health Care**

Western holds a 30% equity interest in three Saskatchewan senior care homes and a 25% interest in Golden Health Care Management Inc. The three homes are: Hill View Manor Ltd. in Estevan, The Good Shepherd Villas Inc. in Prince Albert, and William Albert House Ltd. in the Regina suburb of Emerald Park (together referred to as "**Golden**"). Western is pleased to be part of the skilled and experienced management team at Golden Health Care Management Inc., which provides management services to a portfolio of seven retirement communities and approximately 457 retirement suites, all under the Golden Health Care banner.

Golden Health Care is the largest full-service retirement operator in Saskatchewan. They have a unique model of "aging in place" where Golden's care homes adapt to the needs of individual

Management's Discussion and Analysis

residents from assisted living up to long-term care in each facility, maintaining a family environment rather than an institutional one regardless of the level of care required.

Key Highlights:

- Revenue grew 11% to \$7.4 million in the first nine months of 2024 compared with \$6.7 million in 2023, thanks to efforts to improve occupancy at underutilized homes.
- EBITDA grew 51% to \$1.4 million in the first nine months of 2024 compared with \$0.9 million in the comparative period of 2023.
- Net income grew 193% to \$402,668 in the first nine months of 2024 compared with \$137,525 in the same period of 2023.

For the period ended September 30, 2024, Western recognized equity income from Golden of \$158,041 compared with \$41,511 income for the period ended September 30, 2023. During this period, Western received \$90,000 in dividends whereas \$105,000 in dividends were received for the period ended September 30, 2023. The dividends were used to pay down the shareholder loan payable to Golden.

	Three months ended September 30,		Nine months ended September 30,	
Financial results (\$)	2024	2023	2024	2023
Revenue	2,437,957	2,291,210	7,406,497	6,675,793
Net income	102,442	188,011	402,668	137,525
Interest	120,077	92,578	328,867	273,383
Amortization and depreciation	135,568	141,202	405,019	427,002
Tax	63,469	(32,004)	218,477	61,518
EBITDA	420,556	389,787	1,355,031	899,428

Financial highlights for Golden (at 100%) are presented below:

Golden continues its work to improve occupancy at its underutilized homes. Thanks to these improvements, revenue has seen an 11% bump from the prior year. EBITDA has increased 51% from the nine months ended September 30, 2023. Care homes rely on qualified staff to provide quality care to their residents, and there continues to be pressure in this area with increasing costs required to retain staff.

Private homes in Saskatchewan face competition from government-run homes subsidized by tax dollars. Golden homes do not receive government subsidization to assist in meeting the health care needs of its residents. Management is working with the government to change this, where the government may use some of Golden's beds for their funded patients. We are optimistic that some form of government funding will occur at our homes.

Western appoints two of five members of the Board of Directors of Golden Health Care Management Inc., the company that oversees the operating companies. Through our shared ownership and appointments to the Board of Directors, the Corporation can exercise significant influence over the investment but not control over Golden. Accordingly, the Corporation is using the equity method to account for it.

Summarized financial information about Western's Associates and investments in these Associates is disclosed further in the notes to the financial statements.

Management's Discussion and Analysis

## Summary of Western's Quarterly Financial Information

C\$000s except for per share amounts	Sept 30, 2024	Jun 30, 2024	Mar 31, 2024	Dec 31, 2023	Sept 30, 2023	Jun 30, 2023	Mar 31, 2023	Dec 31, 2022
Income/(loss)	1,257.0	667.0	(43.8)	(549.9)	881.3	932.3	544.2	620.7
Operating expenses	735.9	563.0	431.3	414.3	392.7	539.1	355.9	339.5
Income tax recovery	-	-	-	114.0	-	-	-	-
Net income (loss)	521.1	104.0	(475.1)	(849.9)	488.6	393.2	188.3	281.2
Earnings (loss) per share								
- Basic and diluted	0.017	0.003	(0.016)	(0.028)	0.016	0.013	0.006	0.009
Total assets	21,128.2	19,999.1	19,156.6	19,864.5	19,913.3	19,690.7	18,658.3	18,615.4
Total long-term liabilities	7,634.1	7,292.3	6,636.4	5,603.3	2,585.9	2,696.3	2,241.4	6,083.5

Selected unaudited financial data for our operations during the last eight quarters are as follows:

## **Quarterly Trends and Seasonality**

Certain Associates of the Corporation experience seasonal fluctuations in activity and financial performance. The spring and summer months are generally the busiest for our seasonal Associates. Income for the first quarter of 2023 was impacted by a couple of one-time items, such as the sale of real estate at Foothills. Removing these items would bring Western's 2024 first quarter in line with 2023. The decrease in income for the second quarter of 2024 was due to lower equity income from GlassMasters, which was affected by the cost of opening new locations, and at Foothills, which was affected by an unseasonably cold spring. Recovery occurred in the third quarter of 2024, where revenue exceeded all other third quarters for the past five years.

Expenses are relatively stable from quarter to quarter but have increased this year with inflation and rising interest rates. In 2024 the Corporation is carrying higher levels of debt. Costs related to the pending transactions have also caused a jump in expenses. Variances in costs occur based on activity and will be higher when a transaction is underway, as is the case in 2024.

The increase in long-term liabilities in 2024, is due to the 2025 Debentures issued in December 2023, plus the repayment of the 2024 Debentures in March 2024, which was funded by the Corporations' operating line in the first quarter of 2024. The operating line was used to fund operations through the second and third quarters of 2024.

## **Liquidity and Capital Resources**

The following table is a summary of our statement of cash flow:

\$	Nine months ended September 30, 2024	Nine months ended September 30, 2023
Cash used in operating activities	(1,376,624)	(268,382)
Cash provided by investing activities	(2,356)	248,020
Cash provided by financing activities	766,430	645
Decrease in cash	(612,550)	(19,717)
Cash, beginning of period	618,673	25,715
Cash, end of period	6,123	5,998

## **The Western Investment Company of Canada Ltd.** Management's Discussion and Analysis

The net cash used in operating activities for the period ended September 30, 2024, relates to management fees and interest income, less cash flow required to fund operations, including general and administrative costs, professional fees, salaries, and working capital needs. Movement of working capital items accounted for over half the cash used, with payments made on 2023 expenses for the debenture issuer bid and the deferral of collection on related party financing income. Western deferred the collection of interest on the notes receivable until after the busy summer season to allow GlassMasters to use its cash to stock up on inventory and open new locations. In the prior year, interest payments on these notes were made quarterly. Payment of interest on the debentures and other loans account for another portion of the cash used. Cash needs are currently higher than the prior period with increased administrative expenses on the pending transaction.

Cash provided from investing activities in 2024 and 2023 relates to dividends received from Golden offset with advances made to Associates. In 2023, Western also received repayments on related party loans.

Cash provided by financing activities for 2024 relates to advances taken on the operating line used for the repayment of \$1,125,000 in convertible debentures and general working capital needs. Western also made a repayment on our related party loan. In the comparative quarter of 2023, advances were taken on the operating loan, offset by a repayment on our related party loan.

¢	Sontombor 20, 2024	December 21, 2022
	September 30, 2024	December 31, 2023
Demand revolving operating loan facility	1,981,430	-
Loan from related party	1,005,000	1,095,000
Convertible debentures	4,647,654	5,630,981
Less: cash	(6,123)	(618,673)
Net loans	7,627,961	6,107,308
Shareholders' equity	12,907,037	12,780,056

Our capital structure is composed of shareholders' equity and borrowings, less cash. The following table summarizes our capital structure:

The Corporation has a committed revolving operating loan facility available to the maximum amount of \$2,000,000. The facility has a three-year revolving period with a maturity date of October 6, 2025. Interest is paid monthly at the bank's prime rate plus 2% per annum and carries a standby fee of 0.5% per annum on the unused portion. Security includes a share pledge agreement with respect to the Corporation's interest in some of its Associates. The corporation used this facility to facilitate the repayment of \$1.125 million in debentures that matured on March 31, 2024.

Western holds a \$1.005 million loan from Golden Health Care. The loan bears an annual interest rate of 6.09% with interest-only payable monthly and matures on January 31 each year, with automatic annual renewal. The Corporation may prepay amounts owing at any time. During the first quarter, Western received dividends in the amount of \$90,000, which was applied to the outstanding balance on the loan. With the perpetual nature of the loan, Western has no set plans to repay amounts on the outstanding principal balance and expects to make payments from time to time as cash is available and dividends are received. Effective April 1, 2024, this

Management's Discussion and Analysis

loan's interest rate increased from 4.09% to 6.09%. Based on this new rate, the total annual interest payments on this loan are \$61,204 per year.

On December 1, 2023, the corporation closed a private placement of a new convertible debentures (2025 Debentures) and an issuer bid for the exchange of its existing convertible debentures (2024 Debentures). In line with this closing, \$2.875 million in 2024 debentures that were due to mature on March 31, 2024, were exchanged for the new issuance of 2025 Debentures that mature on December 31, 2025. \$1.125 million in 2024 Debentures were held to maturity and repaid on March 31, 2024. In addition to the exchange, \$2.125 million in additional 2025 Debentures were issued, bringing the total face value of 2025 Debentures issued to \$5 million. The exchange was treated as an extinguishment of debt as the contractual terms of the replacement debenture are substantially different. In line with this extinguishment, Western incurred a \$205,594 loss in the year ended December 31, 2023, on the settlement of these Debentures.

As at September 30, 2024 the Corporation had issued \$5.0 million of unsecured convertible 2025 Debentures with a principal value of \$1,000 each. Each Debenture is convertible into common shares of Western at a conversion price of \$0.48 per share at the holder's discretion. The Debentures mature on December 31, 2025, and bear interest at the rate of 9.6% per annum, payable semi-annually at the end of March and September. If the closing price of Western's shares on the TSX Venture Exchange is \$0.65 or greater for 20 consecutive trading days, Western may, at its option, force the conversion of the Debentures into common shares.

The 2025 Debentures are a compound financial instrument containing both a liability and equity component. The liability component represents the present value of interest and principal payments over the life of the financial instrument discounted at a rate of 15%, which was the approximate rate available to the Corporation for similar debt without the conversion feature at the date the Debentures were issued. The residual value of \$497,046 (net of pro-rated issuance costs), was allocated to the equity component. The liability component is accreted to the principal value using an effective rate of 16%.

The Corporation generates operating cash from finance income, management fees, and dividends from its portfolio investments. Disposing of an investment, or a portion thereof, is also a potential source of cash for the Corporation. The Corporation's regular income does not cover current working capital requirements. Western is dependent on the performance of its Associates to provide sufficient cash flow to the Corporation to cover operating expenditures and relies on the operating line to cover any shortfall. Western projects the operating line balance to fluctuate as expenses are incurred and cash is generated from Associates. Management uses forecasts to monitor and manage the cash position and ensure sufficient room is available to meet operating requirements.

The Corporation is currently working to close a capital raise (see strategic developments section) which will be used in part to provide the working capital needed to meet the Corporation's obligations for the next 12 months and beyond. A risk exists that the Corporation will not be successful in raising sufficient capital. Should this situation occur, the corporation has alternative sources of financing available to cover operating expenses for the next 12 months. The Corporation may also raise funds through the disposal of some or all of an investment in an associate as necessary to meet its obligations. Alternative sources of financing include the

Management's Discussion and Analysis

collection of shareholder loans and borrowings from Associates. Management believes a market would be available to liquidate an investment in an associate should the need arise.

## **Outstanding Share Data**

No shares were issued in the nine months ended September 30, 2024, and 2023. During the period ended September 30, 2024, no shares were repurchased by the Corporation in conjunction with its normal course issuer (September 30, 2023 – 80,000 shares repurchased at a cost of \$29,726). The total common shares outstanding at September 30, 2024, was 30,207,756 (December 31, 2023 – 30,207,756). No additional shares have been repurchased subsequent to September 30, 2024, and up to the date of this MD&A. Currently, the total common shares outstanding is 55,401,678, with 25,193,922 shares of the Corporation issued in conjunction with the Fortress acquisition on October 1, 2024. The Corporation has regulatory approval for a normal course issuer bid whereby Western may purchase up to 1,500,000 common shares in the capital of the Corporation, representing approximately 5.0% of the total issued shares.

In the period ended September 30, 2024, no stock options were issued (September 30, 2024 – 275,000 options issued). On September 30, 2024, total stock options outstanding was 2,939,000 (December 31, 2023 – 2,939,000), with exercise prices ranging from \$0.27 to \$0.65.

## **Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements**

As at September 30, 2024, and up to the date of this MD&A, the Corporation had no off-balance sheet arrangements.

## **Related Party Information**

The Corporation has related party transactions with management and the Corporation's Associates. A detailed description of these transactions is presented in the notes to the financial statements for the period ended September 30, 2024, to be read in conjunction with this MD&A. Related party transactions are in the normal course of operations and are recorded at the exchange amount.

#### **Risks and Uncertainties**

The Corporation and its Associates are subject to a number of risks as they relate to the organizational structure and the operations of each company. When reviewing forward-looking statements and information contained within this report, investors and others should carefully consider these factors, as well as other uncertainties, potential events, and industry and company-specific factors that may adversely affect the future results of each company. The Corporation and its Associates' environment is highly competitive, and it is not possible for management to predict all risk factors or the impact these risks may have on the businesses. The December 31, 2023, annual MD&A sets out a discussion of the factors which may have a material impact on our future business or financial performance. No significant changes to those factors have occurred to date of this report.

#### Subsequent Events

On October 1, 2024, Western completed the acquisition of the First Tranche of additional shares of Fortress Insurance Company, increasing Western's percentage of ownership in Fortress from

Management's Discussion and Analysis

28.45% to 83.57%. The acquisition was paid for by the issuance of Western shares, in which Western issued an aggregate of 25,193,922 common shares at a deemed price of \$0.40 per share, in exchange for 3,875,988 shares of Fortress. Western has entered into agreements to acquire the remaining outstanding shares Fortress payable in either cash, at \$2.60 per Fortress share, or Western Shares at a deemed price of \$0.40 per share, at the option of the shareholders. This final acquisition is expected to close later this year. In line with this acquisition, Western obtained control over Fortress and its results going forward will be accounted for on a consolidation basis. The Corporation's equity interest will be revalued based on the current acquisition price, and Western is expected to recognize a gain of approximately \$2.6 million on this revaluation. The total value of Western's 83.57% interest in Fortress on the close of this acquisition is approximately \$16 million based on the closing price of Western shares of \$0.42 per share on the October 1, 2024. Western is in the process of completing a preliminary purchase price allocation for this acquisition and the final results are yet to be determined. Final values are subject to change as work is completed on the purchase.

On October 7, 2024, Western announced that it will be completing a rights offering in which holders of record of the Corporation's common shares, as at the record date of October 15, 2024, will receive rights to subscribe for common shares of the Corporation on the basis of one right for each one common share held. Each right will entitle the holder to subscribe for one common share of the Corporation at a subscription price of \$0.40 per Common Share. The rights offering will expire on November 29, 2024. As at October 15, 2024, Western had 55,401,678 Common Shares outstanding. A maximum of 55,401,678 common shares will be issued under the rights offering. If all the rights issued are exercised, the offering will raise gross proceeds of approximately \$22,160,671.20, the net proceeds of which will be used for general corporate purposes and future acquisitions of portfolio companies or interests in portfolio companies in the insurance sector.

Western is currently in the process of raising additional capital through a private placement financing, with a maximum offering of \$30 million. This private placement may result in the issuance of up to 75,000,000 units at a price of \$0.40 per unit. Each unit will consist of one common share of the Corporation and one warrant to purchase a common share, with each warrant exercisable to purchase one additional common share for a period of five years from the date of closing at an exercise price of \$0.47. The Corporation plans to use the proceeds from the private placement to fund working capital and provide funds for acquisitions. A portion of the proceeds may be used to pay the cash portion for the purchase of additional shares in Fortress as discussed above. The private placement is expected to close in early December. As of the date of these financial statements, the private placement is fully subscribed.

On October 17, 2024, Western issued 120,000 stock options to directors of the Corporation at a total value of \$40,632. The exercise price was \$0.49 per share. The options vest immediately and expire on October 16, 2034.

## **Proposed transaction**

As at September 30, 2024, and up to the date of this MD&A, there were no proposed transactions of the Corporation other than as disclosed above.

Management's Discussion and Analysis

## **Critical Accounting Estimates and Accounting Policies**

This MD&A is based on the financial statements, which are prepared in accordance with IFRS. The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with IFRS requires management to make judgments, estimates, and assumptions that affect the application of accounting policies and the carrying amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues, expenses, and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results may differ from these estimates, and the differences could be material. Estimates, judgments, and assumptions are reviewed on a continuous basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognized in the year in which the estimates are revised and in future years. The critical accounting estimates and judgments are described in detail in note 5 of Western's annual audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2023.

#### **Financial Instruments and Risk Management**

A financial instrument is any contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument to another entity. Upon initial recognition, all financial instruments are recognized on the statement of financial position at fair value. Subsequently, Western's financial instruments, including cash, accounts receivable, certain amounts due from related parties, accounts payable and accrued liabilities, and loans and borrowings, are measured at amortized cost. Financial instruments classified at fair value through profit or loss are carried in the statement of financial position at fair value with net changes in fair value recognized in the statement of profit or loss and include certain amounts due from related parties.

The Corporation, as part of its operations, is exposed in varying degrees to a variety of risks from the use of financial instruments. Risk management strategies are established to identify and analyze risks faced and to ensure risks and related exposures are consistent with the Corporation's business objectives and risk tolerance levels. As a result of the use of the abovementioned financial instruments, the Corporation is exposed to risks that arise from their use, including market risk, credit risk, and liquidity risk. A detailed assessment of each of these risks is presented in the notes to the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2023, to be read in conjunction with this MD&A.

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

Certain statements contained in this document constitute "forward-looking information". When used in this document, the words "may", "would", "could", "will", "intend", "plan", "propose", "anticipate", "believe", used by any of the Corporation's management, are intended to identify forward-looking information. Such statements reflect the Corporation's forecasts, estimates, and expectations, as they relate to the Corporation's current views based on their experience and expertise with respect to future events and are subject to certain risks, uncertainties, and assumptions. Many factors could cause the Corporation's actual results, performance, or achievements to be materially different from any future results, performance, or achievements that may be expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements.

Given these risks and uncertainties, readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on such forward-looking statements. The Corporation does not intend and does not assume any obligation to update any such factors or to publicly announce the result of any revisions to any

Management's Discussion and Analysis

of the forward-looking statements contained herein to reflect future results, events, or developments unless required by law.

## **Description of Non-IFRS Measures**

The Corporation uses accounting principles accepted in Canada under the International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS"). Certain supplementary measures in this document do not have any standardized meaning as prescribed by IFRS, including the non-IFRS measures "earnings before interest, taxes, and depreciation and amortization" ("EBITDA") used in relation to our analysis of the results of the Corporations Associates. At times adjusted net income may be presented, to remove non-operating income or expenses or one-time transactions. This is believed to provide a better picture of true results from operations and/or be comparable to prior year results.

The Corporation's method of calculating non-IFRS measures may differ from other issuers, and therefore may not be comparable to similar measures presented by other reporting issuers. These non-IFRS financial measures are included because management uses this information to analyze operating performance. Readers are cautioned that these non-IFRS financial measures should not be considered in isolation or as a substitute for measures of performance prepared in accordance with IFRS.