



ANNUAL INFORMATION FORM

March 5, 2024

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This annual information form includes forward-looking statements. By their nature, forward-looking statements involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions. We have based these forward-looking statements on our current expectations and projections about future events. These forward-looking statements include, among other things, our anticipated growth strategies, anticipated trends in our business and our ability to expand our business activities.

The forward-looking statements included in this annual information form are subject to risks, uncertainties and assumptions about Pollard Banknote Limited (“Pollard Banknote” or “the Company”) and its direct and indirect subsidiaries and affiliates. Our actual results of operations may differ materially from the forward-looking statements as a result of, among other things, general risks related to the lottery and charitable gaming industries, our reliance on key personnel, changes in technology, fluctuating results of operation, impact from inflation and fluctuation of foreign exchange rates. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. In light of these risks, uncertainties and assumptions, the forward-looking events discussed in this annual information form might not occur and accordingly, readers are advised not to place undue reliance on forward-looking statements.

Unless the context indicates otherwise, the information appearing herein is stated as at December 31, 2023 and all dollar amounts referred to in this document are references to Canadian dollars.

Use of Non-GAAP Financial Measures

Reference to “EBITDA” is to earnings before interest, income taxes, depreciation, amortization and purchase accounting amortization. Reference to “Adjusted EBITDA” is to EBITDA before unrealized foreign exchange gains and losses, and certain non-recurring items including acquisition costs, litigation settlement costs, contingent consideration fair value adjustments and insurance proceeds (net). Adjusted EBITDA is an important metric used by many investors to compare issuers on the basis of the ability to generate cash from operations and management believes that, in addition to net income, Adjusted EBITDA is a useful supplementary measure. EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA are measures not recognized under Generally Accepted Accounting Principles “GAAP” and do not have a standardized meaning prescribed by GAAP. Therefore, these measures may not be comparable to similar measures presented by other entities. Investors are cautioned that EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA should not be construed as alternatives to net income as determined in accordance with GAAP as an indicator of Pollard’s performance or to cash flows from operating, investing and financing activities as measures of liquidity and cash flows.

POLLARD BANKNOTE LIMITED AND OTHER PARTIES

Pollard Banknote Limited (“Pollard Banknote”, “Pollard” or “the Company”), formerly 7510101 Canada Limited, was incorporated under the laws of Canada on March 26, 2010. The principal head and registered office is at 140 Otter Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, R3T 0M8. The Company was incorporated to continue the business of Pollard Holdings Limited Partnership.

Prior to January 1, 2015, the Company owned directly 100% of the common shares of Pollard Banknote GP Limited as well as 100% of the Partnership Units of Pollard Holdings Limited Partnership (“Pollard LP”). Pollard LP, in turn, held the assets used to carry on the business directly or through its subsidiaries.

On January 1, 2015, Pollard Banknote Limited completed a short form amalgamation combining Pollard Holdings Limited Partnership, Pollard Banknote GP Limited, Pollard Banknote Limited Partnership and Pollard (Canada) Inc. with the Company. This had no material impact to the operations of the Company on a consolidated basis and was designed to simplify the organization structure.

On December 31, 2019, Pollard completed an internal reorganization of a number of its U.S. based companies. The reorganization had no material impact on the operations of the business and was implemented to simplify the structure and eliminate certain inactive companies.

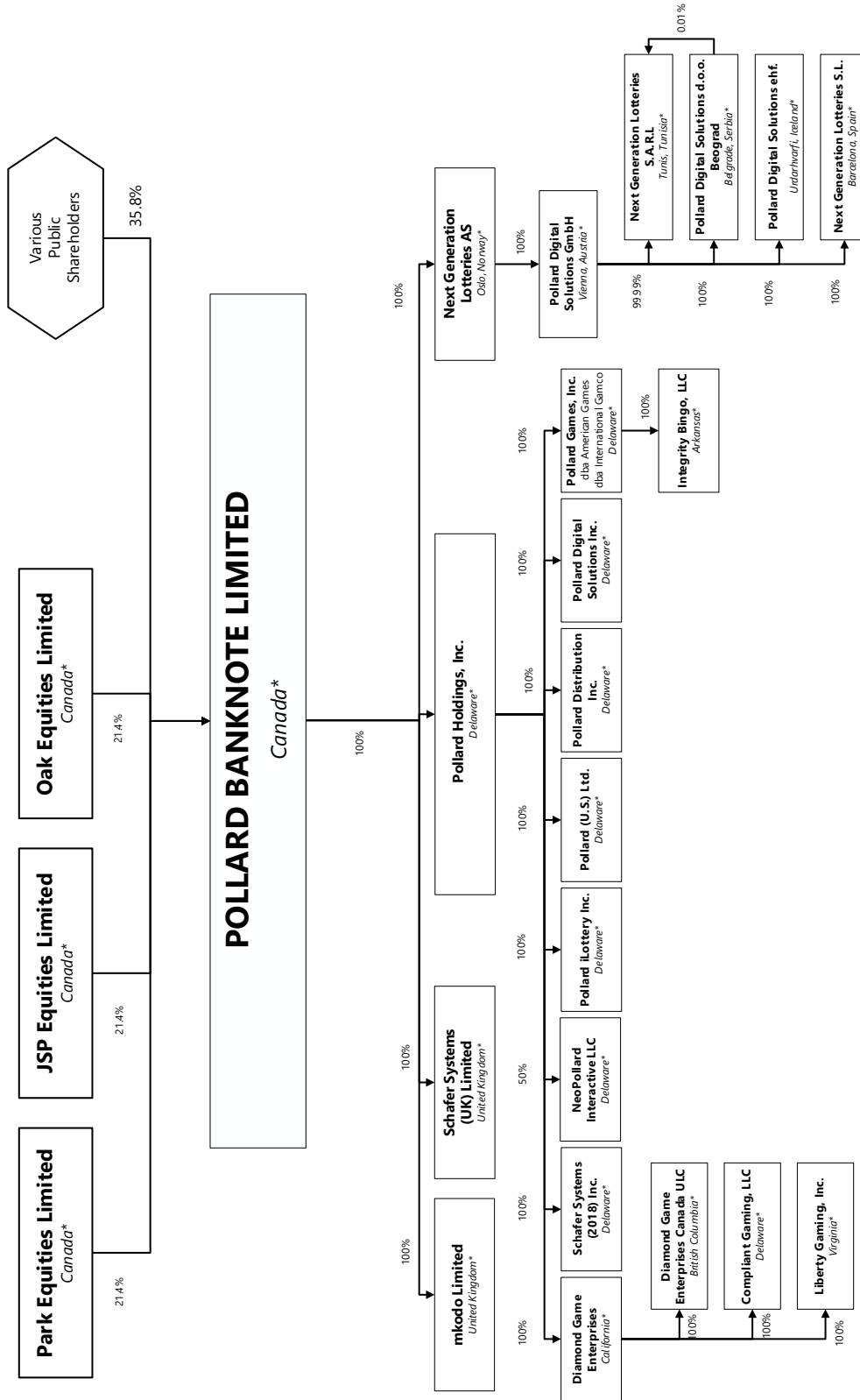
Effective December 29, 2023, Pollard Equities Limited, which was jointly controlled by John Pollard, Douglas Pollard and Gordon Pollard, transferred 5,768,386 common shares of Pollard, representing approximately 21.4% of the issued and outstanding common shares of Pollard, equally each to JSP Equities Limited, which is controlled by John Pollard, Park Equities Limited, which is controlled by Gordon Pollard, and Oak Equities Limited, which is controlled by Douglas Pollard (collectively, the “Common Share Transfers”). The purpose of the Common Share Transfers was to reorganize the holdings of common shares by the Pollard family. Prior to giving effect to the Common Share Transfers, Pollard Equities Limited held 17,305,158 common shares representing approximately 64.2% of the issued and outstanding common shares.

In connection with the Common Share Transfers, each of John Pollard, Gordon Pollard, Douglas Pollard, JSP Equities Limited, Park Equities Limited and Oak Equities Limited and their respective shareholders (collectively, the “Control Group”), entered into a shareholders’ agreement regarding the common shares of Pollard. Pursuant to the shareholders’ agreement, the parties agreed to vote their common shares in the same manner, collectively, as a single block.

STRUCTURE OF THE COMPANY AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES

The following corporate chart illustrates the Company and its significant related affiliates as at December 31, 2023.

Pollard Banknote Limited – January 1, 2024



* Denotes jurisdiction of incorporation/amalgamation/continuance/establishment.

INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

GENERAL

The gaming industry has experienced tremendous growth over the last 30 years in North America and internationally. The gaming industry is generally considered to include lotteries, charitable gaming organizations, internet gaming, pari-mutuel wagering (such as horse racing), sports betting and games typically associated with casino operations, such as table games and slot machines.

According to LaFleur's World Lottery Almanac, in 2022, the North American lottery market generated revenues of approximately US\$110.7 billion and the worldwide lottery market generated revenues of approximately US\$348.4 billion. Management believes the North American charitable gaming market generated revenues of approximately US\$30.0 billion. The worldwide lottery ticket manufacturing industry, which manufactures tickets for the lottery market, is estimated by management to be an approximately US\$900.0 million market, measured in terms of total annual sales of instant tickets and related services to lotteries. The North American lottery ticket manufacturing industry is estimated by management to be an approximately US\$500.0 million market, measured in terms of total annual sales of instant tickets and related services to lotteries. Preliminary information on retail dollar sales of instant tickets for 2023 is showing a slight increase over 2022 levels.

LOTTERIES

Lotteries are operated by domestic and foreign governmental authorities and their licensees in more than 200 jurisdictions throughout the world. Currently, 46 jurisdictions in the United States and all ten provinces and three territories in Canada sell instant tickets. Governments typically authorize lotteries as a means of generating revenues without the imposition of additional taxes. Net lottery proceeds are frequently set aside for particular public purposes and many jurisdictions have come to rely heavily on this means of generating revenues.

The lottery market primarily consists of lotto or draw based games (such as Lotto 649[®] and Powerball[®]) and instant ticket games. It also consists of a variety of products and services which support these games. Based on industry information, 2022 instant ticket retail sales in North America totalled approximately US\$66.8 billion and lotto retail sales totalled approximately US\$38.6 billion. North American instant ticket retail sales grew at a compound annual growth rate of approximately 6.0% from 1995 to 2022, a rate faster than North American lotto retail sales, which grew at a compound annual growth rate of approximately 2.1% for the same period.

U.S. instant ticket retail sales grew at a compound annual growth rate of approximately 6.6% from 1995 to 2022, a rate faster than U.S. lotto retail sales, which grew at a compound annual growth rate of approximately 2.1% for the same period. In the United States, 2022 lotto retail sales totalled approximately US\$33.4 billion and instant ticket retail sales totalled approximately US\$64.5 billion. Canadian instant ticket retail sales grew at a compound annual growth rate of approximately 3.4% the same period. Retail sales of instant tickets in the United States decreased by approximately 3.8% in 2022 versus 2021 following two years of significant growth averaging 13.0%. Retail sales of instant tickets decreased by approximately 4.2% in Canada for the same period following two years of significant growth averaging 7.8%. While official 2023 data is not yet available, preliminary information is showing that retail instant ticket lottery dollar sales in the United States in 2023 has increased slightly compared to 2022.

Based on industry information, Pollard Banknote estimates that 2022 non-North American lotto retail sales totalled approximately US\$176.6 billion and that 2022 non-North American instant ticket retail sales totalled approximately US\$46.9 billion.

Lotteries are increasingly looking to ancillary products and services to generate revenue including extended play options such as digital apps and iLottery operations, alternate gaming machines and increased distribution methods such as vending machines and innovative retail merchandising.

CHARITABLE GAMING

The charitable gaming products that Pollard Banknote currently produces and distributes consist mainly of pull-tab tickets, bingo paper and pull-tab vending machines and with the acquisitions of INNOVA Gaming Group Inc. (“Diamond Game”) in 2017 and Compliant Gaming LLC (“Compliant”) on December 30, 2020, eGaming systems. In the United States and Canada, pull-tab tickets are generally sold at charitable bingo halls and chartered membership clubs such as veteran and fraternal clubs. In the United States, pull-tab tickets are currently permitted in 39 states. In Canada, pull-tab tickets are currently permitted in all ten provinces and all three territories. In several states and some provinces, pull-tab tickets are approved for sale in third-party retail locations, including bars and taverns. Nine US states and six provinces in Canada also permit the sale of pull-tab tickets, in addition to instant tickets, in their lottery ticket sales. Management estimates that the annual dollar value of pull-tab tickets and bingo paper sold to distributors in Pollard Banknote’s market is approximately US\$200 million. Sales and demand for our charitable products continues at strong levels limited somewhat by production capacity. Investments in new equipment are being made to increase capacity.

In the United States, traditional paper bingo is permitted in all states except Hawaii, Tennessee, and Utah. Electronic bingo systems are currently operating in 37 states in some form and across the United States in Indian gaming halls in compliance with the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. In Canada, traditional paper bingo is permitted in all ten provinces and three territories. Fixed-base electronic bingo systems, however, may only be used in halls owned or authorized by certain provincial governments.

Where approved by regulators, charitable gaming organizations are expanding their product offerings, including the use of charitable gaming machines and interactive vending machines to expand the sale of pull-tab tickets or electronic versions of pull-tab tickets in additional retail outlets such as bars and restaurants.

PRODUCTS

The principal categories of lottery and charitable gaming products are:

Paper Tickets

Paper tickets include instant, pull-tab and draw tickets. An instant ticket is typically played by removing a coating from a pre-printed ticket. The product is referred to as “instant” because the player knows instantly whether they have won a prize. A draw lottery ticket involves a player purchasing a ticket which is manually processed for a future drawing for prizes of a fixed amount. This type of lottery is predominantly played in Europe, South America, and Asia. Pull-tabs or break-open tickets involve prizes hidden under ticket flaps which are opened by the player. These

tickets are more commonly associated with charitable gaming, although some North American lotteries sell this product line.

Lotto (Draw Based) Products

Lotto (Draw Based) games (such as Lotto 649[®] and Powerball[®]) are based on a random selection of a series of numbers. Lotto prizes are generally based on the number of winners who share the prize pool and are conducted through a computerized system in which lottery terminals in retail outlets are continuously connected to a central computer system. Participants in the games receive a paper receipt when they purchase a ticket. Other lotto games include Keno and sports lotto.

iLottery and Internet Gaming

This distribution channel is increasingly become a focal point of lotteries. Currently there are a number of North American lotteries that have set-up or are in the process of setting up their own websites to sell lottery and gaming products. Non-North American lotteries have utilized the internet for gaming for a number of years. Existing iLottery operations have experienced significant growth in the last three years and are expected to continue to grow in significance in the future.

iLottery vendors provide the digital platform for players to play eInstant and draw based games as well as player account management (“PAM”) software which allows iLottery operators to manage the relationship with their players. iLottery vendors also sell eInstant game content to the iLottery operators in addition to internet casino content, sports betting, draw based games and Keno games content.

Charitable eGaming Machines

Through the use of technology, gaming venues and retailers in North America are increasingly focused on the “self-retailing” concept, whereby consumers can purchase products without any direct interaction with staff and expand the gaming experience for the consumer. These products are designed to allow a consumer to play a game on a kiosk machine, tablet or terminal which displays the results on a video monitor in an entertaining manner. Game data, such as winnings and games played can be fed to a central distribution system which allows full monitoring of machine use.

Sports Betting

Sports betting is a growing global trend. Many jurisdictions support various forms of sports gaming in both a retail bricks and mortar setting as well as on-line in conjunction with casinos or other distribution channels, and lotteries are increasingly looking at this product as a way of growing sales where allowed by regulation. Current legislative frameworks relating to sports gaming are rapidly evolving in many jurisdictions and, in conjunction with governments, lotteries are actively reviewing opportunities to expand. Currently sports betting is legal in 38 states in the United States.

Loyalty Programs

These programs are designed to enhance the player experience by providing an additional venue for the player to interact with the lottery. By registering on the lottery website members can gain access to unique invitations and opportunities offered by the lottery, enter into second chance draws and gather news about new ticket concepts. The value for the lottery is that it can now understand its players better, gain data and target areas that are of interest to its members and is an important foundational step in building further digital engagement including iLottery.

In-Lane and Self-Checkout Solutions

Lotteries are continually looking for innovative ways to increase product awareness and expand their retail distribution of instant tickets. Products like Pollard Banknote's EasyVEND™ solution allows players to add traditional scratch tickets to an existing transaction within a clerk-operated multi-lane retail environment. Another Pollard solution, scanACTIV™ was developed to provide flexibility, convenience, and security, in order to help lotteries and retailers in their efforts to drive instant ticket sales. Customers can conveniently select, purchase and activate a scanACTIV™ instant ticket at the clerk-operated point of sale. The scanACTIV™ platform allows for an easy, seamless, and secure customer transaction with tickets not being activated until they are purchased. As retailers continue to add customer self-checkout options lotteries and their ticket and technology partners will develop innovative solutions that seamlessly integrate with retailers' existing point-of-sale technology and the lotteries' central gaming systems.

Omni Channel Solutions

As technology continues to evolve, the ability to allow both retail printed tickets and interactive digital channels to share the same central system and provide lottery players with a seamless gaming experience opens up growth opportunities for lotteries. Omni channel systems allow players to buy tickets through traditional retail channels and have winnings paid into their digital wallets. Games can be bought at retail but played through interactive channels. Omni channel systems allow the lottery and the players to engage any time, anywhere and through any channel.

Lottery Management Services

Various operating and managerial services are connected to the paper ticket market including warehousing, inventory control, sales force management, retail support, advertising and marketing and distribution to the retail outlets. These services can be performed by the lottery or outsourced to a third-party provider such as Pollard Banknote. Lotteries may choose to outsource specific applications of their operations (for example allow a third party to run the distribution operations) or choose to outsource an entire product line (for example the complete instant ticket operation) or may outsource the entire management of the lottery operation.

Some lotteries are relying on outside providers such as Pollard to provide computerized validation systems to support their instant ticket product line.

Licensed Products

Lotteries look to expand and augment their lottery offerings by utilizing licensed or branded products or themes. By offering specific licensed products, the lotteries are able to access additional demographics as well as offering unique branded merchandise as part of the prize packages.

Vending Machines

Consistent with the movement toward “self-retailing” vending machines are used by lotteries to increase the scope of distribution and increase the effectiveness of traditional retailers. Vending machines enable lotteries to expand their sales channels and reach their customers in new locations, such as airports, bars, and restaurants. Instant ticket vending machines offer the benefit of allowing retailers to reduce their labour costs related to the sale of instant tickets.

Lottery Ticket Dispensers and Point-of-sale Displays

Lotteries are increasingly using effective merchandising techniques to sell to lottery customers with new and unique ticket dispensers, point-of-sale displays and investigate in-lane big box store distribution. These products offer enhanced visibility at retail using a minimal footprint, are designed for ease of ticket dispensing and provide opportunities for additional promotional space for the customer.

Bingo

Bingo involves a game played with some form of playing card where a player covers squares when objects similarly numbered and lettered are randomly drawn to complete lines or other patterns. Bingo is played either on pre-printed paper bingo cards or “faces” or through electronic devices.

Interactive Digital Games and Apps

Many lotteries are marketing value-added interactive features to instant tickets, which are often connected to loyalty programs, to further enhance the value of the game as well as increasing satisfaction of the entire playing experience. For example, second-chance draws allow the player to enter a valid ticket into a website for a chance to play an additional game for fun or possibly to win additional prizes. Tablet and smart phone digital apps enable the use of mobile technology which enhances sales of core games by keeping the offering fresh as well as attracting new and younger customers in the coveted 18-34- year-old demographic. The development of ancillary products like Geo-Location software to manage geo-boundaries is another potential revenue source for lottery service providers as regulatory requirements mandate these controls.

Video Lottery Terminals

A video lottery terminal (“VLT”) is a gambling machine operated by inserting bills or coins into a slot, and then either pulling down on a handle or pushing a button. VLTs enable players to play many traditional card games, ranging from poker and blackjack to a variety of multi-symbol match games. A player’s randomly generated cards or game symbols appear on the video screen. Players bet whatever amount they choose with each game and, depending on the game, sometimes have the option of doubling their bets after the game has started. When finished playing, the player touches the “Cash Out” button on the screen and the VLT either releases the prize amount in coins or prints a ticket showing how much they have won, which typically can be redeemed in the establishment where the VLT is located.

THE BUSINESS OF POLLARD BANKNOTE LIMITED

OVERVIEW

Pollard Banknote is one of the leading providers of products and services to the lottery and charitable gaming industries throughout the world. Management believes that Pollard Banknote is the largest provider of instant tickets based in Canada, second largest producer of instant tickets in the world, the largest supplier of iLottery systems in the United States through our 50% owned joint venture and the second largest provider of charitable gaming products in North America.

Pollard's vision is to be the partner of choice to lotteries and charities. Our complimentary product lines allow us to provide all their needs from systems to physical gaming products to digital products. We are focused on delivering excellence in three key dimensions for success: outstanding games that excite loyal players and attract new ones, retail excellence through effective in-store strategies and retail network expansion, and digital innovation that allows lotteries and charities to connect with players in new ways

Pollard Banknote derives most of its revenues from the sale of instant tickets and related services including the provision of internet lottery services (iLottery) and Lottery Management Services, which accounted for approximately 76.1% of total revenue for the year ending December 31, 2023. Pollard Banknote also manufactures and sells paper products for the charitable gaming market (pull-tabs, bingo paper and vending machines), which together accounted for 13.3% of total revenues in the year ended December 31, 2023, and beginning with the acquisition of Diamond Game in 2017 and Compliant at the end of 2020, 10.6% in eGaming systems. Sales and demand for our charitable products including eGaming systems continues to be strong. Investments in additional equipment are being made to increase capacity.

Geographically, Pollard Banknote products are offered in markets throughout North America and internationally, where permitted by regulation. For the year ended December 31, 2023, 17.4% of revenue was generated in Canada and 62.5% was generated in the United States with the remaining 20.1% generated from sales outside North America, predominately Europe and Asia.

In the year ended December 31, 2023, Pollard Banknote sold over 13.3 billion instant tickets, 1.8 billion individual bingo cards, 2.1 billion pull-tab tickets, 1,130 vending machines and leased approximately 3,000 charitable gaming machines and over 4,000 electronic pull tab tablets.

Pollard Banknote produces and provides a comprehensive line of instant tickets and lottery services including licensed products, distribution, interactive digital internet games including eInstants, iLottery services including platform and PAM software, loyalty and engagement programs, marketing, and instant ticket vending machines. Pollard Banknote's easyVEND™ in-lane ticket vending solution and scanACTIV™ retail solution for in-lane retail distribution of instant tickets provides innovative solutions to expanding retail instant ticket sales in big-box retail outlets. In addition, Pollard Banknote's charitable gaming product line produces pull-tab (or break-open) tickets ("pull-tab tickets"), bingo paper, pull-tab vending machines and ancillary products such as pull-tab counting machines. Pollard Banknote also markets gaming products to the commercial gaming sector including such items as promotional scratch and win, transit tickets and parking passes. Pollard Banknote, through its subsidiary Diamond Game, designs, produces, and services games, gaming systems, and tickets for various gaming markets, such as lottery and charity gaming. Diamond Game's NexPlay® and EZ Tab® allow lotteries and charity gaming markets to expand their retailer base into less traditional establishments, such as bars, taverns, bingo halls, and social clubs. With the purchase of the business operations of Schafer Systems during 2018 and Fastrak Retail (UK) Limited ("Fastrak") in 2019, Pollard now offers a complete range of retail

dispensers and other merchandising support to maximize instant ticket sales at the retail level. Our December 30, 2020, purchase of Compliant expanded our product portfolio to include electronic tablet-based pull-tabs. Our acquisitions of mkodo Limited (“mkodo”) in 2020 and Next Generation Lotteries AS (“NGL”) in January 2021, significantly expands Pollard’s product offering for both retail and iLottery gaming including dedicated mobile apps, game content and complete iLottery platforms. Pollard Banknote’s lottery products are offered for sale in North America and throughout the world, while Pollard Banknote’s charitable gaming products are principally sold in the United States.

Pollard Banknote services a wide variety of lottery customers under the Pollard Banknote brand name and sells products and services directly to lotteries throughout North America and throughout the world. Of the largest 20 lotteries ranked by instant ticket sales, 16 are customers of Pollard Banknote.

In addition to the Pollard Banknote Lottery Product Group, which largely focuses on instant ticket printing and distribution, the business is structured with four other major product line groupings. The Pollard Charitable Games Group sells charitable gaming products in the United States under the brand names “American Games” and “International Gamco.” Gaming machines are sold or leased under the “Diamond Game” and “Compliant” brand names. The Schafer Retail Solutions Group sells instant ticket merchandising services which are marketed under the “Schafer” brand. The Pollard Digital Solutions (“PDS”) Group operates all the digital products and services including the operations previously run by NGL. NeoPollard Interactive is jointly owned by Pollard Banknote Limited and NeoGames S.A.

GENERAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE BUSINESS

Inflation and supply chains

Pollard Banknote has long-term relationships with most of its suppliers and typically enters into various commitments for certain supplies of raw materials at fixed prices for various periods of time, frequently for one year. Significant inflationary pressures in the global economy primarily in 2021 and 2022 have resulted in suppliers implementing large price increases in various raw material product inputs, particularly in 2022. Supplier prices for our key instant ticket inputs, including paper and ink, remained generally at these higher levels during 2023. We have experienced some small price decreases during 2023 and we anticipate further decreases in 2024. We are optimistic that additional input cost decreases will be realized in the future for paper and ink and other areas like packaging, freight and other inputs.

Generally all of our supply chains are functioning efficiently and providing good access to products and services.

Repricing Instant Ticket Contracts

In response to the pressures of significantly higher input costs Pollard’s primary strategy is to aggressively reprice all customer contracts when the opportunity allows for it, usually when the contract is expiring and comes up for rebid. Starting in 2022 Pollard Banknote has been very successful in obtaining new higher selling prices to compensate for the higher costs allowing for a gradual return to historical profit margin levels. A majority of instant ticket contracts have been repriced, however new contract terms are usually negotiated well in advance of their effective date so improved profit margins will take some time to be reflected in the financial results.

Investment in iLottery Platform

The iLottery market has experienced strong growth in recent years and is expected to continue to grow in significance in the future. Pollard’s acquisition of Next Generation Lotteries AS (“NGL”) in early 2021 significantly expanded Pollard’s product offering for both retail and iLottery gaming as NGL has a proven track record in the European iLottery space. Over the past three years, Pollard has invested significant resources to upgrade and make NGL’s platform North American compliant and expand our overall eInstant game library. Pollard Digital Solutions (“PDS”) is the Group name for all Pollard’s digital related businesses. PDS has made a significant investment of resources in developing a large library of eInstant games as well as significantly enhancing its iLottery software platform and PAM. The investments have resulted in a state-of-the-art iLottery solution which allows Pollard the opportunity to bid independently on North American and international iLottery contracts.

Corporate Governance Developments

Carmele Peter was elected as an independent Director of Pollard Banknote Limited effective May 12, 2023. Jerry Gray, who was reappointed as an independent Director of Pollard Banknote Limited effective August 10, 2022 on an interim basis did not stand for re-election. Ms. Peter serves as a member and Chair of the Compensation Committee and the Governance and Nominating Committee and as a member of the Audit Committee.

Largest Worldwide Lotteries Ranked By 2022 Retail Sales of Instant Tickets

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Lottery</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Total Sales (US\$MM)</u>	<u>Pollard Customer</u>
1	IGT Lottery	Italy	11,718	
2	La Française des Jeux	France	10,557	*
3	Florida Lottery	United States	7,092	*
4	Texas Lottery Commission	United States	6,725	*
5	California Lottery	United States	6,514	*
6	U.K. National Lottery	U.K.	4,375	*
7	New York Lottery	United States	4,373	*
8	China Welfare Lottery	China	4,381	
9	China Sports Lottery	China	4,201	
10	Massachusetts State Lottery	United States	3,884	*
11	Georgia Lottery Corporation	United States	3,723	*
12	Pennsylvania Lottery	United States	3,444	*
13	North Carolina Education Lottery	United States	2,829	*
14	Michigan Lottery	United States	2,451	*
15	Ohio Lottery	United States	2,283	*
16	Taiwan Lottery	Taiwan	2,236	*
17	New Jersey Lottery	United States	2,188	*
18	Illinois Lottery	United States	2,085	*
19	Santa Casa de Misericordia de Lisboa	Portugal	1,716	
20	South Carolina Education Lottery	United States	1,563	*

Source: LaFleur’s 2023 World Lottery Almanac

BUSINESS STRENGTHS

Management believes that Pollard Banknote has several competitive strengths that make its performance sustainable and provide a solid base for continued growth. These strengths are the result of specialized manufacturing and process platforms, complementary benefits of a wide product portfolio, unique proprietary products and services, and the focus and discipline of Pollard Banknote's senior management team.

Industry Thought Leader and Partner of Choice

Pollard Banknote is a leader in supplying lotteries and charities with new and innovative products and solutions. For over 30 years, we've brought customers innovations, flexibility, openness, and fresh ideas. We have introduced innovations that have helped our customers realize incremental sales—and they have become widely used in the industry.

Pollard Banknote takes finding new ways to innovate the instant ticket industry seriously. We've already proven with our Scratch FX[®], translucent latex and multiple Fusion[®] offerings, that when it comes to driving instant ticket innovations Pollard Banknote is the industry trendsetter. Further innovations include easyVEND[™] in-lane ticket vending solution and scanACTIV[™] retail solution for in-lane retail distribution of instant tickets. easyVEND[™] was selected as a finalist at the 2024 International Gaming Awards in the Lottery Product of the Year Category. Our focus on a strong digital strategy will help the lotteries lever their new and existing client base to access on-line products and services.

Leading Market Position

Pollard Banknote is a worldwide market leader in the lottery and charitable game products and solutions it produces.

Pollard Banknote maintains a dominant position in the instant ticket market in Canada with sales to all six lotteries. Pollard Banknote's multi-plant approach, utilizing four plants in Canada, allows Pollard Banknote to be responsive and efficient in meeting its Canadian customers' needs.

The United States is the largest individual market for instant tickets, representing approximately 56% of the world-wide market. Management believes Pollard Banknote is the second largest supplier of instant tickets for the North American market with a market share of approximately 22% of the number of instant tickets sold. Pollard Banknote has contracts as primary or secondary supplier of instant tickets with 26 of the 46 United States lotteries that sell instant tickets. Outside of North America, Pollard Banknote also maintains a significant market share position including contracts with several key European lotteries including, among others, France, Sweden, Austria, Finland, Poland, Denmark, and Ireland.

Including our joint operation of the Michigan iLottery contract, our total iLottery business currently has operating agreements in place for five of the eleven state/districts in the United States that currently have iLottery operations and one agreement in place for a province in Canada. Our U.S. iLottery contracts are responsible for approximately 65% of total U.S. iLottery wagering. In May 2022, NPI was named the Lottery Supplier of the Year for the third time in the eGaming Review North America Awards. The acquisitions of mkodo, Compliant and NGL will help ensure Pollard is well positioned to capitalize on future iLottery and digital revenue growth opportunities.

With the purchase of the operating business of American Games, Inc. in 2002, and the acquisitions of Diamond Game in 2017, Gamco in 2018 and Compliant in 2020, management believes we are the second largest supplier to the charitable gaming sector in North America. Sales and demand for our charitable products are at unprecedented levels.

The acquisition of Schafer in 2018 and Fastrak in 2019 have solidified Pollard's reputation in the instant ticket market as the leading supplier of ticket and merchandising solutions for the lottery industry.

World Class Manufacturer

As a result of its previous and ongoing investment in technological upgrades, Pollard Banknote has developed two distinct approaches to the printing of instant tickets, modular and in-line. The modular approach allows the printing process to be broken down into discreet stages, allowing for maximum flexibility in product planning. This is particularly useful for shorter run size games, which are an important segment with the lotteries.

In the fall of 2015 Pollard Banknote completed the installation of a new Tresu 22-station in-line press. This state-of-the-art press began live production at the end of the third quarter of 2015. The press, with a US\$20 million price tag, includes several unique features that ensures it provides the most efficient and flexible in-line instant ticket printing available.

In 2021 Pollard Banknote invested \$2.5 million in a new digital press which is intended to be used for short run work and to provide customers significant digital capabilities for unique game concepts. The installation of the digital press was completed in December 2021.

Pollard Banknote will continue to invest in technology to maintain its competitive advantage with the support of a team of research and development engineers and computer software technicians. The development of our automated packaging and finishing line during the past few years reflects the commitment Pollard Banknote has to leading edge technology. A number of equipment purchases, and improvements, are in process that will increase our production capacity in our growing charitable gaming businesses.

Pollard Banknote's manufacturing quality control procedures were recognized with the award of the ISO-9001 certification, originally in 1999 and subsequently renewed annually, which evidences that systems and controls ensuring proper documentation and monitoring of manufacturing and other processes have been instituted. In addition, Pollard has also been awarded with ISO-14001 certification for Environmental management, ISO-45001 certification for Occupational Health and Safety, ISO-27001 certification for Information Security and SA 8000 certification for its Ypsilanti and Winnipeg plants for its Social Accountability Management System. Pollard is also Forestry Stewardship Council "FSC" certified for chain of custody documentation. In 2023 Pollard started the process to add its three Pollard Digital Solutions EU locations in Spain, Iceland and Serbia under the Pollard Banknote Limited certificates for quality, and information security (ISO9001, ISO27001 and WLA).

Pollard Banknote believes it is the only manufacturer of both lottery and charitable gaming products. This unique combination of expertise across the gaming product markets allows significant transfer of manufacturing and marketing knowledge and expertise. Alternate product developments can be offered to lotteries and charitable gaming customers, while at the same time new and innovative manufacturing methods ensure low-cost production is achieved in both product areas.

Our charitable gaming businesses operating as American Games and Gamco are the single largest manufacturer of pull-tab tickets to lottery jurisdictions and the second largest bingo paper manufacturer in the world.

Our Diamond Game operation manufactures and sells industry leading gaming machines while our Schafer and Fastrak operations manufactures popular instant ticket dispensers and innovations such as Select 4 Instant Ticket Vending machines, digital menu boards and Halo

enhancement for retail displays to assist the lottery in effective retail merchandising, further strengthening our strategy as being a one-stop company for lottery customers.

iLottery Expertise

Important to Pollard Banknote's future business is our expertise in helping lotteries develop their on-line presence. Our iLottery joint operation installation in Michigan has been the most successful launch of an iLottery platform in the U.S. In December 2020, the Michigan iLottery agreement was extended from July 2022 to July 2026. Our second installation began operations in 2016 in the state of Virginia and our third installation began operations in September 2018 in the state of New Hampshire. On February 13, 2019, Pollard Banknote's joint venture was awarded a new five-year contract to supply the North Carolina Education Lottery an on-line play system, player loyalty program and related services which launched November 8, 2019. In early 2024 the North Carolina Education Lottery contract was extended for two additional years to June 30, 2026. On March 17, 2020, Pollard Banknote's joint venture was awarded a new seven-year contract to supply the Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission an on-line play system, player loyalty program and related services which launched on September 30, 2020. In October 2023, Pollard Banknote's 50% owned joint venture was awarded a new ten-year contract to provide the West Virginia Lottery with a turn-key iLottery System, including a fully integrated omnichannel Player Loyalty Program and full-featured mobile application. Building on successful launches in 2016 for the Virginia Lottery and 2019 for the North Carolina Education Lottery for draw based game digital purchases, the Virginia Lottery expanded its offering by introducing eInstant game verticals in July 2020 and the North Carolina Education Lottery expanded its offering by introducing eInstant game verticals in November 2023.

The acquisition of NGL in January 2021 and subsequent rebranding to PDS, significantly expands Pollard's product offering for both retail and iLottery gaming. PDS provides an extensive range of products and services for the lottery industry including a flexible state of the art gaming platform for online and mobile lottery games, a player account management system and a broad portfolio of eInstant games. In January 2022 NGL was granted the World Lottery Association Security Control Standard 2020 Level 2 certification, making it one of the first organizations to receive it. In addition, NGL is ISO27001 and ISO 9001 certified.

Since the acquisition of NGL, Pollard has invested significant resources in building on these expert systems to develop a state-of-the-art iLottery platform and PAM in conjunction with an expanded eInstant game content library. The platform is a modern, modular, omni channel offering unmatched in the current marketplace and Pollard is receiving positive feedback as we begin demonstrating and responding to bids.

In 2022 NeoPollard Interactive LLC, for the third time, was recognized as the Lottery Supplier of the Year and its in-house digital marketing agency, Ignite Player Marketing, was awarded the Acquisition and Retention Partner of the Year at the 2022 eGaming Review North America Awards. The eGaming Review Awards celebrate excellence in the North American online gaming industry and is considered the premier gaming awards for companies operating in the North American market.

In January 2023 a formal joint venture operating agreement was entered into with NeoGames S.A. which reinforces the long-term approach to ensure the continued success of NeoPollard Interactive LLC and the operations of its customers. The agreement allows Pollard Banknote and NeoGames S.A. the option to pursue future iLottery opportunities in the North American market either in partnership, as part of the Joint Venture, or independently.

In April 2023 the Virginia Lottery, one of NeoPollard Interactive LLC's customers, achieved an industry milestone by becoming the first U.S. lottery to operate a completely cloud-based iLottery program. As the first vendor in the iLottery space to operate its solution in the cloud, this achievement reflects NPI's ongoing commitment to enhance its technology to meet the evolving needs of its lottery partners and their players.

Proprietary Innovative High Value Products

A key component of Pollard Banknote's business is the production and supply of proprietary, high value products. Utilizing various patented technologies, processes and products, Pollard Banknote has a portfolio of unique products to offer lotteries. Such properties include patented PlayBook®, Scratch FX® (a proprietary process providing holographic base and scratch-off printing), instant tickets utilizing Pollard Banknote's translucent scratch-off technology, Clear-Play™, which provides unique and eye-catching visual appeal and playability and Lottery Management Services using its proprietary SureTrack® lottery management system. Other innovative products include folded tickets, pop-up scratch-off tickets, new environmentally friendly Eco Scratch™, easyVEND™ in-lane ticket vending solution and scanACTIV™ retail solution for in-lane retail distribution of instant tickets.

Expanding Product Portfolio

Pollard Banknote strives to continually bring new and creative ideas to the marketplace. Our focus is five-fold as it pertains to new product development:

1. To bring eye-catching, visually appealing tickets to the marketplace that continue to out-perform at retail;
2. To introduce new and different play formats to the marketplace that extends and expands the perceived value to the clients;
3. To introduce and enhance the use of mobile devices such as phones and tablets that allow lottery players to play anywhere and at any time; and
4. To enhance the retail experience including innovative dispensing, non-traditional outlets and maximizing entertainment value for players.
5. Expanding and entertaining game content.

Since instant tickets represent one of the largest growth segments in the lottery business, Pollard sees this approach to new and innovative products as extremely valuable to the lotteries overall business strategy.

The acquisition of Diamond Game, Gamco, Schafer and Fastrak have expanded our product lines further allowing Pollard Banknote to continue as the one-stop shop for all lottery and charitable gaming organizations.

Digital products are playing an ever-increasing role for the lotteries as they seek to engage younger more tech-savvy players, expand their customer base and to better understand their existing clients. Our products such as scanACTIV™ and PlayOn™ are designed specifically for these purposes and include digital games, loyalty programs and extensive marketing services. The acquisitions of mkodo, Compliant and NGL significantly expands Pollard's leading edge digital solutions and offerings to our lottery and charitable gaming customers. Mkodo was shortlisted in the Lottery Product of the Year category at the 2024 International Gaming Awards for its work on building state-of-the-art lottery apps for industry-leading operators. The nomination recognizes a company with a product that demonstrates an innovative approach, the ability to connect and engage customers, and offers the very best play experience.

Significant Barriers to Entry

The lottery industry has significant barriers to entry that limit the number of suppliers who have access to the industry.

The most important product that lotteries sell is integrity. Very few lotteries will risk their credibility by taking a chance on a new supplier. Many of the requests for proposals that are issued by lotteries for instant tickets mandate that suppliers have at least 10 or more years' experience in producing instant tickets. Pollard Banknote has over 30 years of experience in servicing the lottery industry.

It is currently illegal to import instant tickets into the United States from anywhere other than Canada and Mexico. This limits the opportunities for other printers or manufacturers located outside of North America to access the U.S. markets for lottery products.

In addition, the technical process and expertise required to produce instant tickets is extremely complex and difficult to acquire. Pollard Banknote has already committed the expense and resources necessary to support and maintain these processes.

Long-Term Customer Relationships

Pollard Banknote has a strong and stable history with its customers. Many of its customer contracts are long-term, ranging from two to ten-year terms. Pollard Banknote has maintained many of its customer relationships for over 30 years. Many of these relationships are formalized through long-term contracts.

With our recent acquisitions we have increased the number of touch points with lotteries through the provision of multiple products, therefore enhancing the strength of these relationships.

Pollard Banknote's Material Long-Term Customer Contracts

Lottery/Name	Type of Contract	Contract Commencement Date	Estimated Contract Termination Date (Before Exercise of Remaining Extension Options)	Extension Options Remaining	Client Since
<u>CANADA:</u>					
Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation	Instant Tickets	August 2007	July 2032	1 five-year	1987
Loto-Québec	Distribution & Management System	July 2015	July 2025	none	2005
Interprovincial Lottery Corporation	Instant Tickets	December 2018	⁽³¹⁾	⁽³¹⁾	1990
Western Canada Lottery Corporation	Instant Tickets, Pull-Tab & Pull-Tab Vending Machines	April 2013	April 2028	none	1985
British Columbia Lottery Corporation	Instant Tickets & Pull-Tab	February 2019	December 2028	Up to 5 years	1986
Manitoba Lotteries Corporation ⁽¹⁾	Pull-Tab Bingo Paper	October 2018 October 2018	April 2024 April 2024	⁽³²⁾ none	2006
Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission	iLottery	March 2020	April 2028	2 two-years 1 one year	2020
Atlantic Lottery Corporation ⁽²⁾	Instant Tickets iLottery Digital Game Content Pull-Tab	February 2023 November 2021 July 2017	February 2028 November 2026 March 2025	5 one-year 5 one-year none	1989
<u>UNITED STATES:</u>					
Arizona Lottery	Instant Tickets Pull-Tabs, Distribution & Management System Ticket Dispensers & Play Centers Instant Ticket Warehousing & Distribution	January 2020 November 2020 February 2019	January 2025 August 2026 August 2026	none none none	1997
California State Lottery ⁽³⁾	Instant Tickets	December 2013	November 2024	1 one-year	1997
Connecticut Lottery Corporation	Instant Tickets	August 2020	August 2025	3 one-year	2002
DC Office of Lottery and Gaming ⁽⁴⁾	Instant Tickets	December 2019	December 2024	none	2016
State of Florida, Department of the Lottery	Instant Tickets Instant Ticket Dispensers	February 2020 October 2022	March 2027 October 2025	Up to 7 years Up to 3 years	2009
Georgia Lottery Corporation ⁽⁵⁾	Instant Tickets	July 2023	June 2025	None	2020
Hoosier Lottery (Indiana)	Instant Tickets Instant Ticket Dispensers	April 2013 December 2020	April 2025 September 2024	none 1 one-year	2002

Lottery/Name	Type of Contract	Contract Commencement Date	Estimated Contract Termination Date (Before Exercise of Remaining Options)	Extension Options Remaining	Client Since
Idaho Lottery Commission	Instant Tickets	March 2021	March 2025	2 two-year	2008
	Touch-Tab, Pull-Tab	June 2008	June 2026	none	
Allwyn Illinois LLC as private manager for the Illinois Lottery	Instant Tickets	January 2020	October 2027	Up to 7 years	1993
	Instant Ticket Dispensers	December 2018	December 2027	none	
Iowa Lottery Authority ⁽⁶⁾	Instant Tickets	January 2019	December 2024	none	1993
	Pull-Tab	January 2023	December 2024	3 one-year	
	Pull-Tab Vending Machines	October 2016	December 2024	none	
Kansas Lottery ⁽⁷⁾	Instant Tickets	September 2016	June 2025	1 one-year	1998
	Loyalty Program	June 2017	October 2026	none	
	Instant Ticket Dispensers	June 2023	June 2028	none	
Kentucky Lottery ⁽⁸⁾	Instant Tickets	December 2011	July 2026	Up to Dec 2026	2011
	Ticket Dispensers	July 2022	June 2024	3 one-year	
Louisiana Lottery Corporation ⁽⁹⁾	Ticket Dispensers & Play Centers	December 2006	June 2024	⁽³²⁾	2007
Maryland State Lottery	Instant Tickets & Related Services	September 2021	August 2025	1 three-year	2004
	Charitable Gaming Machines	February 2014	September 2024	none	
Massachusetts State Lottery Commission	Instant Tickets	October 2020	October 2025	none	1999
	Pull-Tab	February 2022	February 2025	none	
Michigan Lottery ⁽¹⁰⁾	Instant Tickets	December 2023	December 2028	5 one-year	1996
	Pull-Tab	December 2023	December 2028	5 one-year	
	iLottery	January 2014	July 2026	none	
	Charitable Gaming Ticket Vending Machines	September 2014	September 2027	5 one-year	
Minnesota State Lottery	Instant Tickets	July 2022	June 2026	2 one-year or 1 two-year	2007
	Mobile App Development	November 2021	3 years from go-live	none	
Missouri State Lottery ⁽¹¹⁾	Instant Tickets	September 2021	June 2026	5 one-year	2011
	Pull-Tab & Ticket Dispensers	October 2023	October 2026	3 one-year	
New Hampshire Lottery Commission	iLottery	February 2018	June 2025	none	2018
	eInstant Lottery Games	May 2020	June 2025	Up to two-years	
North Carolina Education Lottery ⁽¹²⁾	Instant Tickets	May 2016	June 2025	Up to two-years	2019
	On-line Play System & PlayOn Loyalty	February 2019	June 2026	3 one-year	
	Digital Support and Related Services	November 2022	October 2025	3 one-year	
Northstar New Jersey Lottery Group LLC	Instant Tickets	January 2014	December 2029	none	1996
	Marketing & POS Equipment	October 2022	October 2024	none	

Lottery/Name	Type of Contract	Contract Commencement Date	Estimated Contract Termination Date (Before Exercise of Remaining Extension Options)	Extension Options Remaining	Client Since
New York State Lottery ⁽¹³⁾	Instant Tickets	August 2011	April 2024	⁽³²⁾	1994
Ohio Lottery Commission	Ticket Dispensers & Play Centers	April 2022	March 2026	none	1995
	Self-Service Ticket Dispensers and Instant ticket vending machines	October 2020	August 2024	none	
Oregon State Lottery Commission ⁽¹⁴⁾	Instant Tickets	September 2023	August 2028	⁽³²⁾	2005
South Carolina Education Lottery	Instant Tickets	October 2020	October 2026	1 one-year	2013
Texas Lottery Commission	Instant Tickets	September 2022	August 2034	Up to 6 months	1999
Vermont Lottery Commission ⁽¹⁵⁾	Instant Tickets	January 2018	July 2024	none	2014
Virginia Lottery ⁽¹⁶⁾	iLottery	October 2016	October 2026	1 five-year	2014
	Instant Tickets	July 2023	July 2026	Up to four-years	1995
	Instant Ticket Dispensers	February 2019	February 2024	none	
Washington's Lottery	Instant Tickets	March 2014	March 2024	none	2014
	Play Centers	January 2020	January 2025	1 one-year	
	Instant Ticket Dispensers	October 2022	September 2024	2 two-year	
West Virginia Lottery ⁽¹⁷⁾	iLottery	August 2023	August 2033	1 one-year	2023
Wisconsin Lottery ⁽¹⁸⁾	Instant Tickets	May 2017	May 2026	1 one-year	1993
	Pull-Tab	March 2021	February 2025	2 one-year	
	Instant Ticket Dispensers	May 2022	May 2024	3 one-year	
INTERNATIONAL:					
The Lottery Corporation Limited (Australia) ⁽¹⁹⁾	Instant Tickets	January 2018	March 2026	2 one-year	2014
	Game & Distribution Management	June 2021	June 2024	3 two-year	
Lotterywest (Australia)	Instant Tickets	May 2019	May 2024	2 two-year plus 1 one-year	2010
New South Wales Lotteries Corporation (Australia) ⁽²⁰⁾	Instant Tickets	April 2023	March 2026	2 one-year	2014

Cyprus Government Lottery	Instant Tickets	March 2010	December 2023	⁽³²⁾	2010
Danske Lotteri Spil A/S (Denmark)	Instant Tickets	July 2021	July 2025	none	2007
La Française des Jeux (France)	Instant Tickets	January 2020	December 2024	none	1996
Loterias de Catalunya (Spain) ⁽²¹⁾	iLottery	July 2015	March 2024	none	2015
	Instant Tickets	February 2024	February 2026	1 two-year	
	Systems services	April 2024	April 2026	none	
Loterie Nationale (Belgium) ⁽²²⁾	Instant Tickets	June 2020	June 2024	none	2005
Loterie Romande (Switzerland)	Instant Tickets	August 2021	August 2031	⁽³²⁾	2000
Lotto Hessen (Germany) ⁽²³⁾	Instant Tickets	January 2023	December 2024	none	2017
Premier Lotteries Ireland Ltd. ⁽²⁴⁾	Instant Tickets	December 2014	November 2034	none	1999
Mifal Hapayis (Israel) ⁽²⁵⁾	Instant Tickets	October 2023	October 2025	⁽²⁵⁾	2003
Nederlandse Loterij (Netherlands) ⁽²⁶⁾	Instant Tickets	September 2023	⁽²⁶⁾	⁽²⁶⁾	2023
Österreichische Lotterien GmbH (Austria)	Instant Tickets	March 2013	December 2024	⁽³³⁾	2000
Veikkaus Oy (Finland) ⁽²⁷⁾	Instant Tickets	January 2022	⁽²⁷⁾	⁽²⁷⁾	1993
AB Svenska Spel (Sweden)	Instant Tickets	June 2020	June 2024	1 one-year	1993
Norsk Tipping AS (Norway)	Instant Tickets	December 2022	December 2025	1 one-year	2004
	eInstants	October 2020	October 2024	none	
Sazka (Czech Republic) ⁽²⁸⁾	Instant Tickets	August 2014	December 2024	⁽³²⁾	2014
NIKÉ spol (Slovakia)	Instant Tickets	May 2013	May 2024	1 one-year	2013
Taiwan Lottery Co., Ltd. ⁽²⁹⁾	Instant Tickets	January 2024	December 2028	1 five-year	2001
Totalizator Sportowy SP.ZO.O. (Poland) ⁽³⁰⁾	Instant Tickets	January 2019	March 2024	1 one-year	2007
Junta de Proteccion Social (Costa Rica)	Instant Tickets	December 2021	December 2023	Up to two years	2011

- (1) During 2023, the Manitoba Lotteries Corporation extended their Pull-Tab and Bingo Paper contracts until April 2024.
- (2) During 2023, the Atlantic Lottery Corporation extended their Pull-Tab ticket contract until March 2025.
- (3) During 2023, the California State Lottery extended their instant ticket printing contract until November 2024.
- (4) During 2023, the DC Office of Lottery and Gaming exercised their option to extend their instant ticket printing contract until December 2024.
- (5) During 2023, Pollard Banknote was awarded a new instant ticket printing contract with the Georgia Lottery Corporation which runs until June 2025.
- (6) During 2023, the Iowa Lottery Authority exercised their option to extend their instant ticket printing contract until December 2024.
- (7) During 2023, the Kansas Lottery exercised their right to extend their instant ticket printing contract until June 2025. The Kansas Lottery also extended their loyalty program until October 2026.
- (8) During 2023, the Kentucky Lottery exercised their option to extend their ticket dispenser contract until June 2024.
- (9) During 2023, the Louisiana Lottery Corporation exercised their option to extend their ticket dispensers and play centers contract until June 2024.
- (10) During 2023, Pollard Banknote was awarded a new five-year instant ticket printing contract with the Michigan Lottery which runs until December 2028.
- (11) During 2023, Pollard Banknote was awarded a new three-year Pull-Tab ticket and dispenser contract with the Missouri State Lottery which runs until October 2026.
- (12) During 2024, the North Carolina Education Lottery exercised their option to extend their On-line Play System & PlayOn Loyalty contract until June 2026.
- (13) During 2023, the New York State Lottery extended their instant ticket printing contract until April 2024.
- (14) During 2023 Pollard Banknote was awarded a five-year instant ticket printing contract with the Oregon State Lottery Commission which runs until August 2028.
- (15) During 2023, the Vermont Lottery Commission extended their instant ticket printing contract until July 2024.
- (16) During 2023, the Virginia Lottery awarded Pollard Banknote a new three-year instant ticket printing contract which runs until July 2026.
- (17) During 2023, Pollard Banknote's 50% joint venture, NeoPollard Interactive LLC, was awarded a new ten-year contract for a turn-key iLottery system, including a fully integrated omnichannel Player Loyalty Program and a full-featured mobile application service by the West Virginia Lottery.
- (18) During 2023, the Wisconsin Lottery exercised their option to extend their Pull-Tab ticket contract until February 2025.

- (19) During 2023 The Lottery Corporation Limited (Australia) exercised its option to extend their instant ticket printing contract until March 2026.
- (20) During 2023, Pollard Banknote was awarded a new instant ticket printing contract by the New South Wales Lotteries Corporation (Australia) which runs until March 2026.
- (21) Pollard Banknote's subsidiary, Next Generation Lotteries AS was awarded the iLottery contract by the Loteries de Catalunya (Spain) in July 2015. In 2024 Loteries de Catalunya (Spain) awarded Pollard Banknote a new instant ticket printing contract which runs until February 2026 and Pollard Banknote's subsidiary PDS was awarded a systems services contract which runs until April 2026.
- (22) During 2023, Loterie Nationale (Belgium) extended their instant ticket printing contract until June 2024.
- (23) During 2023, Lotto Hessen (Germany) awarded Pollard Banknote a new instant ticket printing contract which runs until December 2024.
- (24) During 2023, Premier Lotteries Ireland Ltd. extended their instant ticket printing contract until November 2034.
- (25) During 2025, Pollard Banknote was awarded a new instant ticket printing contract with Mifal Hapayis (Israel) which runs until October 2025. The contract includes an option to renew the terms for additional periods not to exceed 72 months.
- (26) During 2023, Pollard Banknote was awarded a new instant ticket printing contract by Nederlandse Loterij (Netherlands). The agreement remains in force for an indefinite period of time, until either party gives the other not less than 6 months' notice of termination.
- (27) The instant ticket contract with Veikkaus Oy (Finland) is valid indefinitely with either party being able to terminate it by giving written notice.
- (28) During 2023, Sazka (Czech Republic) extended their instant ticket printing contract until December 2024.
- (29) During 2023, Pollard Banknote was awarded a new five-year instant ticket printing contract with the Taiwan Lottery Co., Ltd which runs until December 2028.
- (30) During 2023, Totalizator Sportowy SP.ZO.O. (Poland) exercised their option to extend their instant ticket contract until March 2024.
- (31) Current contract included 1-five-year extension which is in the process of being executed and will result in a December 2028 termination date.
- (32) Contract may be extended upon mutual agreement of the contracting parties.
- (33) Contract is automatically extended annually for one year unless written notice to cancel received.

Excellent History of Growth

Since its strategic shift into the lottery and charitable gaming market in the mid-1980s, Pollard Banknote has generated significant increases in its profits through organic growth and acquisitions. Pollard Banknote has successfully established a number of green field manufacturing facilities over the course of the last 25 years including Barrhead, Alberta and Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

Pollard Banknote has successfully integrated ten acquisitions, including the acquisition of Diamond Game in 2017, Gamco and Schafer in 2018, Fastrak in 2019, mkodo and Compliant in 2020, NGL in 2021, and Liberty Gaming Inc. in 2023. Pollard Banknote's worldwide market share of instant ticket sales has grown from 0% in the mid-1980s to approximately 22% currently.

Experienced Management Team

Pollard Banknote has a strong and experienced management team. The Pollard family has managed the organization since its founding in 1907. Currently, three members of the Pollard family are in senior management positions with total experience at Pollard Banknote of almost 100 years. The average age of the senior executives is 59 and they combine for over 200 years of experience with Pollard Banknote, averaging 20 years of experience each. Many of Pollard Banknote's other managers have extensive experience dating back to when Pollard Banknote began focusing exclusively on lottery tickets in the mid-1980s. The management team has successfully integrated ten significant business acquisitions. In 2020 Pollard's Co-Chief Executive Officer John Pollard was inducted into the Lottery Industry Hall of Fame, recognition for his promotion of

excellence, integrity and success in the lottery industry joining Co-Chief Executive Officer Doug Pollard and Executive VP, Sales & Customer Development Jennifer Westbury as members in the Hall.

CORPORATE STRATEGY

Pollard Banknote has a track record of revenue growth through organic means and by acquisitions, having experienced an approximate compound annual growth of revenues of 12.3% in the last 36 years (from \$7.0 million in fiscal 1986 to \$520.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2023). For the last 5 years Pollard's approximate annual revenue growth rate is 9.4% (from \$331.9 in 2018 to \$520.4 for the year ended December 31, 2023). Pollard Banknote's history of sales growth and growth of earnings is in part due to the strength of the North American instant ticket market, which has an approximate compound annual growth rate of 6.0% from 1995-2022 and Pollard's sales have grown faster than the overall market reflecting an expanding portfolio of products and solutions.

By focusing on these strategies, Pollard Banknote intends to continue to increase its competitiveness, expand its existing markets and penetrate new markets with appropriate investments in key equipment, facilities, and human resources, and improve the quality of its revenues in terms of gross margins and Adjusted EBITDA.

Industry Thought Leader and Partner of Choice

Pollard Banknote is a leader in supplying lotteries and charities with new and innovative products. For over 30 years, we've brought customers innovations, flexibility, openness, and fresh ideas. We have introduced innovations that have helped our customers realize incremental sales that have become widely used in the industry.

Pollard Banknote takes finding new ways to innovate the instant ticket industry seriously. We've already proven with our Scratch FX®, translucent latex and multiple Fusion® offerings, that when it comes to driving instant ticket innovations, we are the industry's trendsetter. Further market leading innovations include easyVEND™ in-lane ticket vending solution, and scanACTIV™ retail solution for in-lane retail distribution of instant tickets. easyVEND™ was selected as a finalist at the 2024 International Gaming Awards in the Lottery Product of the Year Category. Our focus on a strong digital strategy will help the lotteries lever their new and existing client base to access on-line products and services.

iLottery, Game Content, Internet, and Digital Applications

In 2014, Pollard Banknote was contracted to start-up and operate the iLottery internet-based gaming site of the Michigan Lottery. In 2020 this contract was extended from July 2022 until July 2026. In addition, Pollard's 50% owned joint venture operation was awarded a contract to manage the Virginia Lottery's e-Subscription website in 2016 and expanded its offering by introducing eInstant game verticals in July 2020. In 2018 Pollard's 50% owned joint venture was awarded the contract to provide iLottery and Customer Relationship Management (CRM) services to the New Hampshire Lottery Commission. On February 13, 2019, Pollard Banknote's 50% owned joint venture was awarded a new five-year contract to supply the North Carolina Education Lottery an online play system, player loyalty program and related services which launched November 8, 2019, and expanded its offering by introducing eInstant game verticals in November 2023. In 2020 Pollard Banknote's 50% owned joint venture was awarded a new seven-year contract with options to extend the contract for up to five more years, to build and maintain an online gambling platform for the Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission which launched September 30, 2020. In 2021 Pollard's 50% owned joint venture was awarded a new five-year agreement to provide

games and related services to the Atlantic Lottery Corporation Inc. In 2023 Pollard Banknote's 50% owned joint venture was awarded a new ten-year contract to provide the West Virginia Lottery with a turn-key iLottery System, including a fully integrated omnichannel Player Loyalty Program and full-featured mobile application.

In January 2023 a formal joint venture operating agreement was entered into with NeoGames S.A. which reinforces the long-term approach to ensure the continued success of NeoPollard Interactive LLC and the operations of its customers. The agreement allows Pollard Banknote and NeoGames S.A. the option to pursue future iLottery opportunities in the North American market either in partnership, as part of the Joint Venture, or independently.

In April 2023 the Virginia Lottery, one of NeoPollard Interactive LLC's customers, achieved an industry milestone by becoming the first U.S. lottery to operate a completely cloud-based iLottery program. As the first vendor in the iLottery space to operate its solution in the cloud, this achievement reflects MPI's ongoing commitment to enhance its technology to meet the evolving needs of its lottery partners and their players.

The acquisition of NGL in January 2021, significantly expands Pollard's product offering for both retail and iLottery gaming and is a strong complement to Pollard's North American leading joint venture, NeoPollard Interactive LLC. NGL provides an extensive range of products and services for the lottery industry including a flexible state of the art gaming platform for online and mobile lottery games, a player account management system, and a broad portfolio of eInstant games.

Since the acquisition of NGL, Pollard has invested significant resources in building on these expert systems to develop a state-of-the-art iLottery platform and PAM in conjunction with an expanded e-Instant game content library. The platform is a modern, modular omni channel offering unmatched in the current marketplace and Pollard is receiving positive feedback as we begin demonstrating and responding to bids.

Digital gaming and the mobile experience will continue to play an increasing role in lottery strategy to grow and enhance the user experience for younger more tech-savvy players. Loyalty and engagement programs extend the value proposition for the player by allowing them to continue playing and winning on websites by scanning the code on the printed lottery ticket. The acquisitions of mkodo and Compliant in 2020 and NGL in 2021 have strengthened Pollard's digital product offering and provided additional technical resources for future product expansion.

Ongoing Technological Advancements to Improve Productivity

Pollard Banknote is committed to the continued development of low-cost, efficient manufacturing improvements. Pollard Banknote plans to continue to aggressively develop newer and more efficient methods to improve the productivity and lower the cost of manufacturing instant tickets. Increasing the use of technology, leveraging its buying power through procurement management, and maximizing the best practices achieved throughout Pollard Banknote's network of manufacturing facilities are anticipated to result in further manufacturing efficiencies. Pollard Banknote will continue to develop proprietary machinery and technology relating to the finishing and packaging of instant tickets and utilize these developments to further advance its productivity. In 2015 the company purchased and installed a new Tresu 22-station press. The investment of US\$20 million on this equipment has resulted in improved efficiencies and lower print operating costs for this platform. In 2021 Pollard Banknote invested \$2.5 million in a new digital press which is intended to be used for short run work and to provide customers significant digital capabilities for unique game concepts. The installation of the digital press was completed in December 2021.

Innovation and Increased Development and Sale of Proprietary Products

Pollard Banknote has developed many unique and proprietary products and processes for both lottery and charitable gaming products. Pollard Banknote's translucent scratch-off process has provided enhanced playability for key instant ticket play formats such as bingo and crossword. Management believes that Pollard Banknote's development of its Fusion[®], games (including patented Pollard Playbooks[®] and other various combination products involving pull-tab and instant scratch-off functionality) has assisted Pollard Banknote in penetrating new lottery markets and generating additional lottery sales. Pollard Banknote's unique pouching process allows it to provide a value-added high-end style game format which lotteries utilize to round out their price point strategy. Scratch FX[®] (a proprietary process providing holographic base printing and scratch-off), has generated significant sales growth. Other recent innovations include Play Around[™] fold-over tickets, Pop 'n' Play[™] tickets, Clear Play[™] tickets and our environmentally friendly Eco Scratch[™] tickets. Many of these products and processes are patented. Pollard Banknote plans to use its proprietary products to grow sales to existing customers and use these products to enter into relationships with new lotteries.

Digital products are playing an ever-increasing role for the lotteries as they seek to engage younger more tech-savvy players, expand their customer base and to better understand their existing clients. Our products such as easyVEND[™], scanACTIV[™] (in-lane big box store distributing), PlayOn[™] (extensive loyalty offerings) and development of unique loyalty programs are designed specifically for these purposes and include digital games, customer reward programs and extensive marketing services. easyVEND[™] was selected as a finalist at the 2024 International Gaming Awards in the Lottery Product of the Year Category.

Licensed Products and Merchandise

Lottery use of licensed or branded properties in their instant ticket product offerings has grown in the past few years. Pollard Banknote is committed to the continuing development of its licensed game portfolio. A listing of all Pollard's available licensed properties is disclosed under the ***Licensed Games*** section of the **PRODUCTS AND SERVICES** section of this report. In addition to offering unique instant ticket game formats, Pollard Banknote offers merchandise prize packages through instant win or second chance draw formats. Turn-key draw management services, internet and web support and order fulfillment are critical components of the complete licensed product portfolio offered by Pollard Banknote.

Pollard Banknote will continue to add licensed properties to its game portfolio and in turn, market this portfolio to increase its growth in both the lottery and charitable gaming sectors.

Outsourcing

Lotteries are increasingly looking at various outsourcing opportunities, including the possibility of complete privatization. Pollard Banknote is focused on providing these new and expanded lotteries with a variety of gaming products and services. The international market lags the North American market in terms of instant ticket sales and Pollard believes it is well positioned to help these lotteries increase their business significantly.

Acquisitions

Pollard Banknote intends to continue to focus on our acquisition strategy by targeting organizations that will broaden and strengthen its market penetration, both in new and existing lottery and charitable gaming markets. Pollard Banknote has completed ten successful acquisitions since the mid-1990s, including the purchase of Webcraft Games Inc. in 1996, the purchase of the operating business of American Games, Inc. in 2002, the acquisitions of Diamond Game completed in 2017, the acquisition of Gamco and Schafer in 2018, the acquisition of Fastrak in 2019, the acquisition of mkodo in February 2020, the acquisition of Compliant in December 2020, the acquisition of NGL in January 2021, and the acquisition of Liberty Gaming, Inc. in August 2023.

Management believes increasing lottery requirements for bundling of services and outsourcing larger portions of their products will increase the opportunities for consolidation within the lottery industry, particularly where suppliers only offer single or a limited product selection. Increasing expansion of lottery product lines and service requirements has provided Pollard Banknote with the opportunity to expand its value-added proposition through seeking various strategic alliances.

The charitable gaming product industry is fragmented among a number of producers, with many only producing one segment or product line within the market. Many are small or have limited financial resources. This presents opportunities to pursue and execute acquisitions as illustrated by our purchase of Gamco. Consolidation will allow for increased buying power, larger market share and increased economies of scale resulting in cost reductions. In addition, Pollard Banknote believes a number of the participants in the charitable gaming market do not have the financial strength or resources required to compete in the increasingly sophisticated charitable gaming market. Pollard Banknote's financial strength provides an opportunity to consolidate suppliers and distributors that supplement its current product offerings or provide opportunities to generate greater manufacturing efficiencies. The acquisition of Compliant in December 2020, expanded Pollard's charitable gaming product line into digital tablet play.

As the market is continually changing and adapting to new digital technologies, Pollard will continue to look at acquisitions that enhance our digital presence and expertise in technology. Targets will include digital and technological companies that have a strong presence in the gaming industry and whose product will enhance and broaden our current digital offerings.

In assessing acquisitions opportunities, Pollard Banknote will consider the following criteria:

- Whether the acquisition is accretive to Shareholders;
- Profitability of the target business and market share;
- Continuing involvement of key management personnel; and
- Compatibility with the Pollard Banknote culture.

Lottery Management and Information Systems

Pollard Banknote is experienced in providing complete instant ticket management services and anticipates that outsourcing opportunities will continue to increase. Pollard Banknote currently manages the instant ticket distribution operation for the Maryland Sate Lottery and the distribution of pull-tabs for the Arizona Lottery. During 2015 Pollard was awarded a five-year contract to install and manage our SureTrack® lottery management system for Loto-Québec. During 2020 Loto-Québec exercised their option to extend the contract until July 2025. In February 2019, Pollard Banknote was awarded a contract to supply instant ticket and warehousing distribution for the

Arizona Lottery which began operations in March 2020. The current contract runs until August 2026.

Lotteries are under increasing pressure to produce greater net revenue for sponsoring governments and utilizing third-party private operators allows a more cost-efficient method of operations. As more North American and foreign lotteries opt for outsourcing, Pollard Banknote plans to aggressively pursue these opportunities, leveraging its existing lottery knowledge to obtain additional lottery operating contracts.

Keeping with our strategy to continually improve our products Pollard is investing in enhancements to its SureTrack[®] 2.0 software solution used to support our warehousing and distribution operation in Arizona. This new version is more user friendly and makes extensive use of other on-line and integrative tools to ensure our customer experience is world class. Continued efforts are being made to enhance the software solution to introduce new and improved features for other upcoming customer implementations.

Strategic Partnerships

Pollard Banknote will pursue strategic partnerships, where appropriate, to expand product offerings or geographical distributions. For example, during 2014, Pollard entered into a joint venture, NeoPollard Interactive, to provide iLottery solutions including modular and full turn-key offerings to create and operate interactive web and mobile channels in order to assist the lottery industry to grow, retain and optimize player engagement. Pollard's joint venture interest is 50%. Further opportunities to partner with organizations to expand Pollard business will continue to be pursued.

Cross Fertilization of the Lottery and Charitable Gaming Market

Pollard Banknote believes it is the only manufacturer to produce both instant tickets and charitable gaming products. Governments are increasingly looking at alternate sources of revenue including maximizing the gaming revenue within their jurisdictions. Pollard Banknote believes that governments will continue to look for opportunities to maximize their revenue sources and increasingly look to other existing gaming products to add to their product mix. As the only gaming product supplier to provide both charitable gaming and lottery products, Pollard Banknote is uniquely situated to capitalize on this opportunity.

Expanding the Breadth of Products and Services

Pollard Banknote will continue to look at new and innovative products and services to help our customers grow. With the addition of loyalty programs, charitable gaming machines and other related support services, Pollard Banknote will continue to look at unique ways to assist our customers as they seek growth in both their product lines and target markets.

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Pollard Banknote manufactures and sells a broad range of gaming products and services for the lottery and charitable gaming industry.

Designing, manufacturing and distributing instant tickets and related services represents the largest share of Pollard Banknote's revenue, constituting approximately 76.1% of revenue in the year ended December 31, 2023. In addition, Pollard Banknote provides several ancillary products to lotteries including warehouse and distribution services, in-lane instant ticket distribution systems (easyVEND[™] and scanACTIV[™]), complete lottery management services, internet-based gaming (iLottery), eInstant game content, specialized proprietary products, digital

apps and various licensed products. Charitable gaming products offered include a complete array of pull-tab tickets, bingo paper, charitable gaming machines and pull-tab vending machines.

Instant Tickets

In 1985, Pollard Banknote made the decision to focus its resources on the instant ticket market. Today, Pollard Banknote is a leading designer, manufacturer, and distributor of instant tickets worldwide. Pollard Banknote markets instant tickets and services to domestic lottery jurisdictions, foreign lottery jurisdictions and commercial customers. Pollard Banknote presently has contracts with or sells lottery tickets to all the Canadian lotteries and to 26 of the 46 lotteries in the United States which currently sell instant tickets and a number of leading international lotteries worldwide.

There are a multitude of variations that can be used in the design, manufacture, and retail display of instant tickets, including:

- *Color pulsing* — Different *background* colors on the same basic design freshen up a base game.
- *Die-cut tickets* — Tickets can be “die-cut” into virtually any shape including: hearts, dollar signs, Christmas trees and stockings, juke boxes, footballs, lady bugs, clover leaves, roulette wheels, flower pots, barrels, figure eights, lips, treasure maps, corzandas (four hearts joined to form a flower shape), skillets and rabbits.
- *Fluorescent inks* — Tickets *produced* in fluorescent and metallic colors stand out at retail locations and promote impulse purchases.
- *Eco Scratch™* — These tickets are produced on environmentally friendly paper. Their appeal is to both the lottery and the players who are actively searching for ways to diminish their environmental footprint.
- *Play Around™ fold-over tickets* — These tickets offer increased playability for the lottery players by expanding the play area and improve the *perceived* value to the player creating greater returns for the lottery.
- *Gift tags* — An alternative to the conventional *Christmas* gift tags, these products can include a column of multiple scene tags with individual perforations, separating them and imprinting unique barcodes on each for validation.
- *Holographic tickets* — HOLOGRAFX tickets, feature *striking* holographic images and multiple play areas, provide a striking and visible product.
- *Multi scene tickets* — Multi-scene tickets enhance sales as *players* try to collect the entire series and/or try their luck on more than one scene.
- *Play area on ticket back* — This technique allows for stunning graphics on the front, uncluttered by play areas, an excellent option whenever a ticket *theme* demands maximum visual impact.
- *Scored tickets* — Pollard Banknote can manufacture tickets with a score line, i.e. an indented line, anywhere on a ticket. Many clients have successfully drawn on this technique to transform lottery tickets into greeting cards.
- *Pouched tickets* — Pouched tickets provide *another* innovative marketing tool to enhance instant games. Typically, pouches move players to higher price points and allow for value added gaming.

- *Scratch FX[®] process* — Pollard Banknote’s Scratch FX[®] process is an industry first— allowing lotteries to replicate the look of either foil or holographic foil using recyclable paper stock. Scratch FX[®] can be applied to both the base graphic and overprint areas of a ticket, allowing great customization of games to achieve maximum impact at retail.
- *PlayBook[®]*— Pollard Banknote’s PlayBook[®] is a multi-page booklet usually featuring 6 or more separate instant ticket games designed to enhance the playing experience. This product has proven to be a market leader in moving *players* up the price point ladder thereby increasing lottery revenues.
- *Clear PlayTM* — Pollard Banknote’s Clear PlayTM tickets have a unique look and feel allowing the light to shine through bringing graphics and colours to life that is not available on conventional substrates. These tickets are designed to stand out at retail point of sale outlets which is important to retailers in building volumes.
- *Digital printing* — In 2021 Pollard Banknote invested \$2.5 million in a new digital press which is intended to be used for short run *work* and to provide customers significant digital capabilities for unique game concepts. The installation of the digital press was completed in December 2021.
- *scanACTIV InstantsTM* — Lottery players can conveniently select, purchase and activate a scanACTIVTM instant ticket at the point of sale. It is unlike traditional instant tickets that require lottery terminals and staff resources to manage the sale of lottery products. This innovative solution will enable retailers to easily drive even more lottery sales by placing this mostly impulse-driven purchase in-lane, directly in view of consumers. When the cashier scans the card at the register, an outcome is assigned, and the digital experience is ready to engage with. Scratching the game card reveals a QR code, which players scan with their mobile device to access the digital game and reveals its outcome. The player then returns to retail with a redemption barcode to claim any winnings.
- *easyVENDTM*— Revolutionizes the way traditional scratch tickets are made available for purchase. The easyVENDTM solution allows players to conveniently add traditional scratch tickets to an existing transaction within a multi-lane retail environment.
- *EasyPackTM* — Provides maximized instant ticket gameplay in an oversized format designed to be fully compatible with standard dispensers and Instant Ticket Vending Machines.

iLottery Platform and Game Content

Currently there are a number of North American lotteries that have set-up their own websites to sell lottery and gaming products. Pollard Banknote was awarded the contract to provide the iLottery platform for the Michigan State Lottery and it has been operating successfully since mid-2015. In December 2020, the agreement for the Michigan State iLottery was extended from July 2022 to July 2026. In addition, our 50% owned joint venture was awarded a contract to manage the e-Subscription platform for the Virginia Lottery which became operational in 2016 and expanded its offering by introducing eInstant game verticals in July 2020. In 2018 Pollard’s 50% owned joint venture operation was awarded the contract to provide iLottery and Customer Relationship Management (“CRM”) services to the New Hampshire Lottery Commission. Pollard Banknote’s 50% owned joint venture was awarded a new five-year contract to supply the North Carolina State Lottery an on-line play system, player loyalty program and related services which launched November 8, 2019, and expanded its offering by introducing eInstant game verticals in

November 2023. In 2020 Pollard Banknote's 50% owned joint venture was awarded a new seven-year contract with an extension of up to twelve-years possible, to build and maintain an online gambling platform for the Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission which launched in October 2020. In 2021 Pollard's 50% owned joint venture was awarded a new five-year agreement to provide games and related services to the Atlantic Lottery Corporation Inc. In 2023 Pollard Banknote's 50% owned joint venture was awarded a new ten-year contract to provide the West Virginia Lottery with a turn-key iLottery System, including a fully integrated omnichannel Player Loyalty Program and a full-featured mobile application. Non-North American lotteries have utilized the internet for gaming for a number of years.

In January 2023 a formal joint venture operating agreement was entered into with NeoGames S.A. which reinforces the long-term approach to ensure the continued success of NeoPollard Interactive LLC and the operations of its customers. The agreement allows Pollard Banknote and NeoGames S.A. the option to pursue future iLottery opportunities in the North American market either in partnership, as part of the Joint Venture, or independently.

Since the acquisition of NGL in 2021, Pollard has invested significant resources in building on these expert systems to develop a state-of-the-art iLottery platform and PAM in conjunction with an expanded eInstant game content library. The platform is a modern, modular omni channel offering unmatched in the current marketplace and Pollard is receiving positive feedback as we begin demonstrating and responding to bids.

Bingo Paper

Pollard Banknote offers a wide array of bingo and bingo-related products as a result of its acquisition on January 1, 2002, of the operating business of American Games, Inc. Pollard Banknote is capable of supplying a bingo hall with all the products and equipment necessary to operate a bingo game of any size, including bingo paper, ink dabbers, pull-tab tickets, bingo ball blowers and flashboards.

Pollard Banknote sells a complete line of bingo paper, which is generally sold in booklet form and is available in a variety of sizes, styles, and colors. Pollard Banknote distributes ink dabbers, used to mark numbers on paper bingo sheets, and ink refills for such dabbers. Pollard Banknote distributes an exclusive line of electronic bingo hall equipment traditionally used in bingo establishments.

Pull-tab Tickets

Pollard Banknote manufactures and sells pull-tab tickets, which are also referred to as break-open tickets, lucky seven tickets, instant bingo, and Nevada tickets, to both government lotteries and the charitable gaming industry. Pollard Banknote also manufactures pull-tab ticket vending machines and pull-tab ticket counting machines. With the acquisition of Gamco in February 2018 Pollard has greatly expanded its pull-tab offerings.

Licensed Games

Licensed games are increasingly being used throughout the gaming market to grow sales and reach non-traditional lottery customers. In identifying brands that will be successful for licensed games, Pollard Banknote has worked closely with licensing organizations such as the Licensing Industry Merchandiser's Association ("LIMA") and is an active member of LIMA.

Pollard Banknote also provides a comprehensive solution for licensed games. This includes ticket design and manufacturing, prize structure consultation, merchandise selection and fulfillment, publicity and promotional opportunities, and second chance draw management (including all customer service, internet marketing and post-game analysis).

Current licensed properties offered to lotteries include Frogger, Tetris®, DIG DUG™, Atari® (Centipede®, Pong®, Tempest®, Missile Command® Asteroids®), Single, Double, Triple Play Bingo™, Chevrolet® Silverado®, Corvette Stingray®, Hold'em Poker, PAC-MAN®, Ms. PAC-MAN®, Win for Life®, America's Got Talent, Galaga™, Ultimate Getaway Games, Guy Fieri and Flavortown™ and TEKKEN™.

Lottery Ticket Dispensers and Point-of-sale Displays

Pollard can offer our lottery customers new and unique ticket dispensers and point-of-sale displays through Schafer. These products offer enhanced visibility at retail using a minimal footprint and are designed for ease of ticket dispensing and provide opportunities for additional promotional space for the customer. In 2020 Schafer was awarded a four-year contract with the Ohio Lottery commission for electronic, networked, and self-service lottery instant ticket vending machines. In 2021 the Ohio Lottery Commission was the first Lottery to deploy the new Select 4™ instant ticket self-service lottery vending machines. Schafer's new Select 4™ instant ticket vending machine was shortlisted in the category of Lottery Product of the Year at the 2022 International Gaming Awards. This award recognizes a product that is innovative in approach, provides the ability to connect and engage customers and offers the very best options in playing.

Charitable Gaming Machines

Our advanced line of e-gaming machine products offers a breadth of styles and formats that combine instant tickets, e.g. scratch tickets and pull-tabs, with entertaining video graphics. NexPlay™ and LT-3 kiosks display the gaming results on a video monitor in an entertaining manner. Our e-tab systems provide electronic instant tickets on cabinet devices and handheld tablets. Our sophisticated central systems capture game play data, offer remote shut-down, and provide central invoicing among other features. All together, we deliver advanced technology, exciting game design, and retail satisfaction to the industry.

Lottery Management Services and Information Systems

Some lotteries are outsourcing their entire instant ticket product operation as a means of reducing operating costs and increasing revenues. Pollard Banknote provides these services through its Lottery Management Services ("LMS"). LMS contracts can include instant or pull-tab tickets, systems, facilities management, design and installation of game management software, telemarketing, field sales, accounting, game design, inventory and distribution, sales staff training, managing staff and advising with respect to security, maintenance, communication network and sales agent hot line service for lottery jurisdictions.

Keeping with our strategy to continually improve our products Pollard is investing in enhancements to its SureTrack® 2.0 software solution used to support our warehousing and distribution operation in Arizona. This new version is more user friendly and makes extensive use of other on-line and integrative tools to ensure our customer experience is world class. Continued efforts are being made to enhance the software solution to introduce new and improved features for other upcoming customer implementations.

Pollard Banknote currently manages the instant ticket distribution operation for the Maryland Sate Lottery and the distribution of pull-tabs for the Arizona Lottery. During 2015 Pollard was awarded a five-year contract to install and manage our SureTrack® lottery management system for Loto-Québec and during 2020 Loto-Québec exercised their option to extend the contract until July 2025. In February 2019 Pollard Banknote was awarded a contract to supply instant ticket and warehousing distribution for the Arizona Lottery which began operations in March 2020. The contract is in place until August 2026. Pollard's wholly owned subsidiary, PDS was successful in

securing a two-year lottery systems services contract with Loteria de Catalunya in Spain which is effective April 1, 2024.

Loyalty and other digital solutions

Many lotteries are marketing value-added interactive features to instant tickets to further enhance the perceived value of the game as well as increasing satisfaction of the entire playing experience. For example, second-chance draws allow the player to enter a valid ticket into a website for a chance to play an additional game for fun or possibly to win additional prizes. Pollard Banknote developed PlayOn™ a player engagement solution designed to generate unprecedented omnichannel player engagement. Pollard also developed gameON™ a second chance digital platform which allows players to enter tickets into any number of second chance draws. It also gives lotteries the opportunity to build a player database and communicate more directly with players that register.

Pollard's subsidiary mkodo developed GeoLocs, a product used by iGaming operators helping them to quickly and seamlessly ensure their apps and websites are in line with regulations by verifying player location.

Digital products are playing an ever-increasing role for the lotteries as they seek to engage younger more tech-savvy players, expand their customer base and to better understand their existing clients. The acquisitions of mkodo, Compliant and NGL will greatly enhance Pollard's expertise in digital product development.

Vending Machines

Pollard Banknote also offers a range of pull-tab Vending Machines ("PTVM") which are sold to both lotteries in support of their pull-tab product lines as well to private distributors. Pollard Banknote operates a payment program which allows private taverns and bars to economically utilize PTVMs to sell pull-tabs.

CUSTOMERS, SALES AND MARKETING

Lottery Market

Pollard Banknote sells its suite of lottery products to organizations throughout North America and around the world. Most lotteries in North America are directly run by government agencies. In Canada there are six licensed lottery organizations (including a national organization, Interprovincial Lottery Corporation ("ILC")). In the United States there are currently 46 jurisdictions operating lotteries. World-wide there are over 200 jurisdictions operating lotteries. In most cases due to the public nature of government lotteries, contracts for instant ticket and other services are awarded through an open Request for Proposals process. Pollard Banknote currently has instant ticket contracts with, or sells to, all the 6 Canadian lottery organizations, 26 U.S. organizations and 24 non-North American organizations.

Pollard Banknote's instant ticket contracts typically have an initial term of 2-5 years and frequently include multiple renewal options, which its customers generally exercise for additional periods ranging from one to five years. Pollard Banknote typically sells instant tickets for a per unit price or for a percentage of the retail value of the instant tickets sold.

Marketing to Lotteries

The fundamental purpose for which lotteries are created is to maximize the financial return to their stakeholders, which is usually the government, but may also include charitable or private operators, through the sale of secure, marketable lottery products. The company that can develop and apply these products to opportunities in the lottery marketplace is the company that has the greatest likelihood of retaining current clients and acquiring new ones.

Pollard Banknote has developed its strategies to uncover opportunities in the market and then develop lottery products to exploit these opportunities. There are two ways for Pollard Banknote to identify opportunities in which to showcase its strategies products and services: formal Request for Proposals (“RFPs”) issued by entities which operate lotteries and contracts or sales which are awarded outside a formal RFP process. Ultimately success in either forum depends on understanding what products lottery players want to play, developing those products and then executing marketing and distribution strategies that present these products to lotteries and to players. Current and potential lottery clients evaluate these products and strategies and award work accordingly.

The RFP Process

Lottery contracts are typically 2-5 years in length with options to renew for a set number of years. When a lottery contract expires an official RFP is issued. Since these contracts are documents of public record, Pollard Banknote is aware of all lottery contracts and when they expire. Well in advance of a contract’s expiration, Pollard Banknote begins a systematic marketing campaign to position itself to do well in the RFP process. Pollard Banknote’s strategies are targeted at understanding the markets in question, developing strategies that capitalize on opportunities uncovered and forging relationships with the lottery’s decision makers so that they are intimately aware of all the benefits of becoming a client of Pollard Banknote. RFP’s increasingly allow for multiple supplier awards for secondary suppliers rather than limiting the award to one exclusive supplier. Fixed prices with additional option and special pricing for additional services historically has allowed for increased average selling prices as special options and other services are added to the products and solutions sold.

The sudden and significant inflationary cost increases on our manufacturing inputs including raw materials, coupled with fixed selling prices, have significantly reduced gross margins in 2022 and 2023. Pollard Banknote’s strategy to restore margins on its instant ticket printed products is to aggressively reprice our lottery contracts when they come up for re-bid.

Awards Outside the RFP Process

Particularly outside North America, Pollard Banknote continuously seeks to identify opportunities to provide lotteries with its products and services. These opportunities may arise from a combination of factors — lotteries may have an existing supplier but may be better served to have a dual-supplier situation due to capacity, price or service capability issues, lotteries may be seeking assistance to enhance their product offering through Pollard Banknote’s proprietary products, or lotteries may award work on a game-by-game basis rather than through a long-term contract. Pollard Banknote therefore keeps in regular contact with all lotteries through personal visits and presentations, direct mail, and targeted sales efforts to create opportunities to generate work.

In addition, in the international market, there are new lottery organizations that are entering the market. Pollard Banknote therefore maintains and implements a marketing strategy to create awareness of its capabilities for those organizations that are seeking out a supplier of products or services that Pollard Banknote provides. This strategy includes advertising in industry journals and directories, maintaining a website, attending, and speaking at industry conferences and actively developing and maintaining contacts throughout the industry.

Charitable Gaming Market

Pollard Banknote sells its charitable gaming products to a diverse set of end-user groups through a network of more than 150 independent distributors and wholly owned distributors. Pollard's charitable gaming sales and marketing team are made up of industry veterans that combine for close to two hundred years of charitable gaming experience. The marketing team provides support in game design recommending game offerings, prize structures, pricing, and point-of-sale strategies. The team has a long and impressive history of creating specialty and proprietary products that players embrace. We are proud of the impact our games have had on our clients' sales growth, and we continue to build on these successes to bring more marketing innovations to our clients and their players. Sales are maintained through these long-term relationships rather than long-term formal contracts. This allows for timely changes in terms, including selling prices, when required.

SUPPLIERS AND RAW MATERIAL

Pollard Banknote has long-term relationships with most of its suppliers and typically enters into various commitments for certain supplies of raw materials at fixed prices for various periods of time, frequently for one year. Significant inflationary pressures in the global economy primarily in 2021 and 2022 have resulted in suppliers implementing large price increases in various raw material product inputs, particularly in 2022. Supplier prices for our key instant ticket inputs, including paper and ink, remained generally at these higher levels during 2023. We have experienced some small price decreases during 2023 and we anticipate further decreases in 2024. We are optimistic that additional input cost decreases will be realized in the future for paper and ink and other areas like packaging, freight and other inputs.

The main raw materials used in the manufacturing of Pollard Banknote's products are various substrates (foil, paper), inks and coatings and various machine and metal components used in the manufacturing of vending machines, all of which may be sourced from a number of suppliers. In most cases Pollard Banknote sources its primary raw materials from more than one supplier.

Pollard's production processes were impacted somewhat by delays in the supply chains for certain inputs which resulted in scheduling inefficiencies and some production delays in 2022. Transportation of Pollard's finished goods to its lottery customers were also impacted by both delays from logistical bottlenecks together with increased costs due to increased inflation rates. In 2023 supply chains have returned to pre-2022 operating levels providing greater access to key manufacturing inputs and improved scheduling efficiencies.

EMPLOYEES

As at December 31, 2023, Pollard Banknote had 2,285 full-time employees and 62 part-time employees for a total of 2,347. Approximately 510 of the employees work in the charitable gaming business.

Approximately 170 of Pollard Banknote’s full-time employees, all of whom are employed at the Ypsilanti, Michigan facility, belong to a collective bargaining unit. A 48-month collective agreement was negotiated during 2021 and expires on August 31, 2025. Pollard Banknote has never experienced a work stoppage because of a labour disruption.

Many key manufacturing personnel — including production managers, supervisors and lead hands — have been with Pollard Banknote since or prior to the commencement of instant ticket production in the mid-1980s. Employee turnover rate is very low and continuing growth has allowed extensive training and advancement opportunities. Similar to many other companies in recent years it has been increasingly more difficult to find qualified staff to fill open positions or to recruit for new positions to support our future growth plans. A variety of processes and recruiting changes have been implemented to help address these issues including significant increases in starting salaries for entry level positions and expanded referral bonuses.

PENSION PLANS

Pollard Banknote sponsors four non-contributory defined benefit pension plans, of which three are final pay plans and one is a flat benefit plan. As of December 31, 2023, the aggregate fair value of the assets of Pollard Banknote’s defined benefit pension plans was \$91.6 million, lower than the accrued benefit plan obligations which was \$94.2 million. Pollard Banknote’s total annual funding contribution for all defined benefit pension plans in 2024 is expected to be approximately \$3.6 million compared to the \$3.0 million funded in 2023.

PROPERTIES

Pollard Banknote manufactures its products at ten facilities, four of which are owned by Pollard Banknote.

The following table identifies, for each of Pollard Banknote’s material facilities, its approximate square footage, its main activity and whether the facility is owned or leased.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Approximate Square Footage</u>	<u>Use</u>	<u>Owned or Leased</u>
Winnipeg, Manitoba	62,295	Manufacturing	Leased ⁽¹⁾
Winnipeg, Manitoba	144,000	Manufacturing/Warehousing/ Head Office	Leased ⁽²⁾
Barrhead, Alberta	21,480	Manufacturing	Owned
Ypsilanti, Michigan	88,329	Manufacturing	Owned
Council Bluffs, Iowa	125,050	Manufacturing	Leased ⁽³⁾
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario	47,100	Manufacturing/Warehousing	Leased ⁽⁴⁾
Chatsworth, California	28,654	Manufacturing/Office	Leased ⁽⁵⁾
Jefferson City, Missouri	10,000	Warehousing/Office	Leased ⁽⁶⁾
Stoney Creek, Ontario	8,016	Warehousing/Office	Leased ⁽⁷⁾
Mentor, Ohio	6,000	Warehousing/Office	Leased ⁽⁸⁾
Adair, Iowa	90,000	Manufacturing/Office	Owned
Omaha, Nebraska	67,670	Manufacturing/Office	Owned
Macclesfield, England	16,300	Manufacturing/Office	Leased ⁽⁹⁾
London, England	2,620	Office	Leased ⁽¹⁰⁾
Newcastle, England	2,200	Office	Leased ⁽¹¹⁾

<u>Location</u>	<u>Approximate Square Footage</u>	<u>Use</u>	<u>Owned or Leased</u>
Kópavogur, Iceland	8,000	Office	Leased ⁽¹²⁾
Barcelona, Spain	22,900	Office	Leased ⁽¹³⁾
Belgrade, Serbia	11,190	Office	Leased ⁽¹⁴⁾

- (1) Effective July 1, 2021, a 5-year lease renewal was entered into with an indirect subsidiary of the Control Group with monthly rent of approximately \$33,641.
- (2) Effective October 1, 2023, a 5-year lease with a further 5-year renewal term was entered into with an indirect subsidiary of the Control Group with monthly rent of \$93,000.
- (3) The Council Bluffs property was purchased during the first quarter of 2008 from an arms-length party for US\$3.3 million. Effective December 31, 2008, the Council Bluffs property was sold and subsequently leased back from an indirect subsidiary of the Control Group for US\$3.3 million. On January 1, 2019, a five-year lease with a further 5-year renewal term was entered into with a monthly rent of US\$33,895.
- (4) The lease for the Sault Ste. Marie property expires on June 30, 2030, with monthly rent of \$26,926.
- (5) The lease for the Chatsworth property expires on June 30, 2025, with monthly rent of US\$33,941.
- (6) The lease for the Jefferson City property expires on September 30, 2026, with monthly rent of US\$4,300.
- (7) The lease for the Stoney Creek property expires on November 30, 2025, with monthly rent of \$5,077.
- (8) The lease for the Mentor property expires on November 30, 2024, with monthly rent of US\$2,900.
- (9) The leases for the Macclesfield properties expire on July 11, 2033, and March 5, 2028, with combined quarterly rent of £38,031.
- (10) The lease for the London property expires on January 9, 2024, with monthly rent of £10,480.
- (11) The lease for the Newcastle property expires on March 7, 2027, with monthly rent of £2,467.
- (12) The lease for the Kópavogur property expires on November 30, 2024, with monthly rent of ISK 1,800,898.
- (13) The lease for the Barcelona property expires on April 30, 2026, with monthly rent of €23,490.
- (14) The lease for the Belgrade property expires on December 31, 2028, with monthly rent of €24,519.

COMPETITION

Lottery Market

The instant ticket and lotto business is highly competitive, and Pollard Banknote faces competition from a number of domestic and foreign instant ticket manufacturers and other competitors. Pollard Banknote currently has two instant ticket competitors in North America: Scientific Games Corporation, (or “Sci Games”) and International Gaming Technology PLC (or “IGT”). Internationally, there are a number of lottery instant ticket vendors which compete with Pollard Banknote including Sci Games, IGT and Eagle Press Group of Companies.

Charitable Gaming Market

The charitable gaming markets in which Pollard Banknote’s products compete are extremely competitive. The industry remains relatively fragmented. The principal competitive factors in the bingo paper and pull-tab ticket markets are quality, service, and price. Pollard Banknote’s major competitors in the bingo paper and pull-tab markets are Arrow International, Inc. and Douglas Press Inc. and there are a number of competitors in the eGaming machine market.

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE

Pollard Banknote is committed to be a good corporate citizen and maintaining the highest standard of responsibility with respect to environmental, social and governance (“ESG”) matters. Pollard makes every effort to ensure that its products and services are delivered with the utmost integrity and that our stakeholders are confident in Pollard’s commitment to ethical and responsible business practices in every aspect of its operations. Pollard Banknote has developed a Business Management Policy which serves as the guiding principles for matters relating to environmental and social practices. In 2022 Pollard completed its first step in formalizing an ESG strategy by issuing its initial ESG Report which highlights some of the key aspects of an ESG roadmap that are already embedded in Pollard’s culture today, as well as outlining Pollard’s objectives to build on its sustainable foundation. Efforts are continuing to further develop and formalize the objectives, targets, measurements, and communications required to document and strengthen Pollard’s approach to ESG. The full report is available on Pollard Banknote’s website.

Environmental Responsibility

Pollard Banknotes environmental commitment is a broad-based company pledge to conduct itself in an environmentally responsible manner. This includes compliance with all environmental legislation but also goes much further into driving the development of new, environmentally positive technologies and practices in all areas of the business.

Pollard Banknote is registered to ISO 14001:2015 certification which is the internationally recognized standard that outlines the requirements that Pollard must comply with in order to operate in an officially environmentally responsible manner. It provides the framework for assisting the company in reaching its environmental protection goals. In addition, Pollard is Forestry Stewardship Council “FSC” certified for chain of custody documentation. The FSC has developed a system of forest certification and product labeling that enables businesses and consumers to identify responsibly sourced wood, paper, and other forest products. This certification allows Pollard to use the FSC label on its products that are made with FSC stock, which in turn enables consumers to identify and choose products that support responsible and sustainable forest management. Pollard’s major suppliers of paper products are also members of FSC. In 2023 Pollard provided FSC stock to twenty-one lotteries, which in total represented approximately fifteen percent of Pollard’s instant ticket manufacturing volumes.

As the most significant material utilized in Pollard Banknote’s manufacturing process, all of the paper-based instant tickets are fully recyclable. Pollard gives its customers access to multiple stocks that can contain virgin wood fiber, pre-consumer recycled fiber and post-consumer recycled fiber and Pollard strives to have its customers use environmentally-friendly paper. Primarily due to the adoption of environmentally-friendly water-based inks and coatings Pollard has been able to realize a sixty-seven percent reduction in volatile organic compound (“VOC”) emissions since 2010.

Pollard Banknote began monitoring its carbon footprint in 2014 in its Ypsilanti, Michigan and Winnipeg, Manitoba facilities and since that time, despite significantly increased production volumes, there has been no significant increase to its carbon footprint. This success can be attributed to a number of factors, including the ongoing drive for process improvements across the entire organization, efficient building design, and state-of-the-art production methods. Pollard is fortunate in several of its locations to benefit from access to clean, renewable energy sources. Its largest printing and office location in Winnipeg, Manitoba benefits from access to clean hydroelectric electricity, with over ninety seven percent of electricity generated in Manitoba by water-driven turbine generation. All jurisdictions in which Pollard operates have a focus on how to decrease reliance on fossil fuels.

Pollard Banknote's operations and real property are subject to a broad range of increasingly complex federal, provincial, state, and local laws and regulations as well as permits and other approvals governing environmental and workers' health and safety matters, including those relating to air emissions, water discharges, the storage, handling, use, discharge and disposal of hazardous materials and contaminants (including waste) (the "E, H & S Requirements"). Certain E, H & S Requirements may impose joint and several liabilities on lessees and owners or operators of facilities for the costs of investigation or remediation of contaminated properties regardless of fault or the legality of the original release or disposal.

Pollard Banknote's past and present operations that are subject to E, H & S Requirements include the use, storage, handling and contracting for recycling or disposal of hazardous and non-hazardous materials such as washes, inks, alcohol-based products, fountain solution, photographic fixer and developer solutions, machine and hydraulic oils, and solvents. The use and management of such materials, the nature of the manufacturing and printing process, and the ownership and/or management or control of commercial properties carries an inherent liability risk that must be carefully managed. Pollard Banknote believes that the conduct of its operations is in material compliance with applicable E, H & S Requirements. Maintaining such compliance in the conduct of its operations has not had a material adverse effect on Pollard Banknote's financial condition or operating results.

Pollard Banknote believes the best way to reduce the impact of its business on the planet is to make efficient use of the resources required to make its products. Pollard strives to do this in a variety of ways:

- Computerized *production* planning tools to maximize product output of instant tickets on a given roll size of raw material;
- Use of digital *platemaking* systems that do not require any chemicals/solvents/washes to complete the plates;
- Use of an Enterprise *Resource* Planning system to develop appropriate inventory levels of raw materials to avoid overstocks and obsolete inventory; and
- Preventative maintenance programs on all key printing equipment to ensure quality of output, minimize idle time, and avoid costly manor repairs.

Pollard Banknote has a very strong recycling program for key product inputs that cannot be re-used or repurposed in their original form. Pollard strives to recycle all paper, cardboard, plastic shrink wrap, and cold foil substrates that do not form part of the final finished products shipped to customers. Wherever possible, office equipment is reused, reassigned, and/or reconfigured for use in other applications. Obsolete or failed company computers and related equipment are recycled by an ISO 14001- certified company.

Future environmental responsibility goals include the establishment of baselines for waste and recycling against which Pollard Banknote will be able to collect data and report on performance. Additionally, Pollard Banknote will be developing a baseline assessment of its current green house gas emissions including the establishment of science-based targets for future reductions.

Social Responsibility

Pollard Banknote is committed to be a good corporate citizen and maintaining the highest standards of social responsibility. This commitment is evident through the company's governance, policies and practices. Pollard Banknote believes everyone has the right to work in a professional environment where the principles of the Social Accountability 8000 ("SA8000") standard are in harmony with the company values. The SA8000 Standard is the world's leading social certification program which was established by Social Accountability International in 1997. The standard and Certification System provide a framework for organizations of all types, in any industry, and in any country, to demonstrate their adherence to the highest social standards. Pollard Banknote is committed to the establishment and maintenance of the social accountability system and will conform to the principles of the SA8000 standard. Additionally, Pollard Banknote and its suppliers, sub-contractors, private employment agencies, and sub suppliers will comply with the company's policies, national and international laws and regulations, and respect the core elements of SA8000. Pollard Banknote's Ypsilanti plant received its SA8000 certification in 2021 and its Winnipeg plant received its certification in 2023. Regular auditing of Pollard's operations ensures the continued presence and effectiveness of its policies and practices. Pollard's commitment to be an outstanding corporate citizen extends to our work with lotteries, in addition to ensuring we adhere to all responsible gaming practices.

Pollard Banknote is committed to continually improve the ways in which it promotes, communicates and manages its social accountability obligations with its employees, clients, suppliers, sub-contractors, and the wider communities in which it operates. Pollard Banknote is committed to reviewing its social accountability policy statement periodically and will ensure it is communicated to and accessible by all; workers, suppliers, sub-contractors, and the public. Pollard Banknote will not knowingly conduct business with clients, suppliers, or sub-contractors that fail to comply with the requirements of SA8000, and hence undermine its standards, damage its reputation and/or threaten its commercial success.

During 2022 Pollard established its Canadian Diversity Advisory Committee ("DAC") to act as an internal advisory group to define its priorities and actions to continue to foster a diverse and inclusive workplace and culture. The Committee is composed of a diverse group of employees and leaders from across Pollard's Canadian operations and the group provides their insights on a number of diversity, equity and inclusion ("DEI") topics. Pollard's goal is to expand the DEI strategy to all its locations in 2024.

Pollard established its first Joint Planning Committee ("JPC") in Winnipeg in 1975. The JPC provides a medium by which topics, ideas, suggestions, and other matters can be brought to a joint staff-management planning group for discussion and resolution. The JPC is chaired by an outside facilitator and meets on a regular basis to discuss and review day-to-day operating and policy matters that can impact a positive working environment. Pollard Banknote aims to create a safe and motivating environment for its employees. The Code of Business Conduct and Ethics applies to all employees and recognizes that the company expects business to be conducted in a socially responsible and ethical manner. Pollard Banknote is committed to providing equal opportunity in all aspects of employment and to ensuring the work environment is positive, respectful, and safe and honours the well being and human rights of its employees.

Going forward Pollard will continue its efforts to embed and enhance throughout the organization the foundation of key social-focused initiatives that exist in our culture. The short-term goal is to continue to roll out its Diversity Advisory Committee and its Joint Planning Committee to those remaining locations where it has not yet been established.

As a proven partner to lotteries worldwide, Pollard Banknote is committed to helping its lottery and charitable gaming customers grow revenue for good causes in a socially responsible manner. Drawing on its extensive lottery experience and leadership in the industry, Pollard Banknote understands that supporting responsible gaming requires a complete ecosystem that involves education, knowledgeable and aware lottery teams, a communications plan, and tools to enable lotteries to promote a positive play experience, including by preventing underage gambling.

Responsible gaming policies and practices are inherent across all aspects of Pollard Banknote’s business — from the careful design of instant scratch tickets to appeal strictly to adults, to the tools and safeguards embedded as core components of its digital solutions — ensuring that Pollard Banknote’s products uphold the highest standards of quality, fairness, and safety. As a testament to its ongoing commitment to responsible gaming, Pollard Banknote holds an Associate Member World Lottery Association (“WLA”) Responsible Gaming certification.

Pollard Banknote’s efforts to be progressive and forward thinking was recognized by being selected as one of Manitoba’s Top Employers for 2023. The award is a testament to Pollard’s ongoing efforts to foster a safe, healthy, and overall positive working environment for its employees and its continuous commitment to local communities.

Governance Responsibility

Governance is an integral part of Pollard Banknote’s ESG framework. The key principles promoting good corporate governance, including ethics, integrity, and transparency, are inextricably linked to all aspects of Pollard’s daily operations and company culture. The Company’s governance framework focuses on the internal system of practices, controls, and procedures that Pollard adopted in governing its business to ensure that Pollard continually meet the needs of all stakeholders. For more specific details on Pollard’s approach to governance see the “**GOVERNANCE OF POLLARD BANKNOTE**” section of this Annual Information Form.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Capital Expenditures (CDN)</i>
2023	\$14.6 million
2022	\$14.3 million
2021	\$22.2 million
2020	\$13.0 million
2019	\$17.2 million
2018	\$15.1 million

In 2023 capital expenditures totaled \$14.6 million. Approximately \$2.1 million was spent on finishing line equipment at our Sault Ste. Marie facility to improve the efficiency of product handling. Approximately \$1.1 million was spent on production equipment upgrades at our American Games production facility. Approximately \$0.5 million was spent upgrading ultraviolet lights on a press at our Winnipeg production facility. The remaining \$10.9 million was spent on various pieces of equipment designed to increase efficiencies, lower costs, and produce revenues. Not included in the above total is an additional \$23.5 million expended for intangible assets, mainly related to our software development of our iLottery platform including game content library, and software development in our Diamond Game operation for expanded game content.

In 2022 capital expenditures totaled \$14.3 million. Approximately \$2.5 million was spent on upgrades to our printing press at our Ypsilanti printing facility. Approximately \$1.3 million was spent on the development of an instant ticket vending machine for the sale of conventional instant tickets at individual checkout lanes of multi-lane retailers. The remaining \$10.5 million was spent on various pieces of equipment designed to increase efficiencies, lower costs and produce revenues. Not included in the above total is an additional \$18.9 million expended for intangible assets, mainly related to our software development of our iLottery platform including game content library, and software and equipment development in our Diamond Game operation for expanded game content.

In 2021 capital expenditures totaled \$22.2 million. Approximately \$3.9 million was spent on upgrades to our printing press at our Ypsilanti printing facility. Approximately \$2.5 million was spent on a new digital press at our Winnipeg printing facility and approximately \$1.7 million was spent on upgrades to our finishing lines at our Winnipeg facility. Approximately \$0.9 million was spent on new finishing line equipment at our American Games production facility. The remaining \$13.2 million was spent on various pieces of equipment designed to increase efficiencies, lower costs and produce revenues. Not included in the above total is an additional \$12.6 million expended for intangible assets mainly related to our software development of our iLottery platform including game content, and software and equipment development in our Diamond Game operation.

In 2020 capital expenditures totaled \$13.0 million. Approximately \$1.0 million was spent on upgrades to our finishing lines at our Sault St Marie facility for improved product handling. Approximately \$0.8 million was spent on press line automations at our Ypsilanti facility and \$0.6 million was spent on finishing line upgrades at our Winnipeg facility. The remaining \$10.6 million was spent on various pieces of equipment designed to increase efficiencies, lower costs, and produce revenues. Not included in the above total is an additional \$6.0 million expended for intangible assets mainly related to our investment in our PlayOn™ Loyalty software solution, SureTrack®2.0 LMS software system development, our in-lane big box store retail system scanACTIV™ and software and equipment development in our Diamond Game operation.

In 2019 capital expenditures totaled \$17.2 million. Approximately \$1.5 million was spent on a new digital press in our Council Bluff's charitable gaming facility. \$1.4 million was spent on increasing capacity of our original instant ticket press in our Ypsilanti facility. Approximately \$1.2 million was spent on upgrades to our finishing lines for improved product handling. The remaining \$13.1 million was spent on various pieces of equipment designed to increase efficiencies, lower costs and produce revenues. Not included in the above total is an additional \$8.6 million expended for intangible assets mainly related to our investments in our PlayOn™ Loyalty software solution, SureTrack®2.0 LMS software system development, our in-lane big box store retail system scanACTIV™ and software and equipment development in our Diamond Game operation.

In 2018 capital expenditures totaled \$15.1 million. Approximately \$2.1 million was spent on the Ypsilanti Comco Press refurb, \$1.5 million was spent on a new internal plate making process, \$1.9 million was spent on additional finishing equipment and \$0.9 million for the Winnipeg office expansion. The remaining \$8.7 million was spent on various pieces of equipment designed to increase efficiencies, lower costs, and produce revenues. Not included in the above total is an additional \$6.9 million expended for intangible assets mainly related to our investments in SureTrack®2.0 LMS software system development, software and equipment development in our Diamond Game operation, our Sales Force Automation software development, and other digital offerings.

PATENTS, TRADEMARKS AND LICENSES

Patents

Pollard Banknote holds several Canadian, U.S., and international patents it considers integral to business operations. Specific technology associated with Pollard Banknote’s lottery products and related gaming procedures constitute the subject matter of the patents. These patents afford Pollard Banknote certain protections pertaining to the production and distribution of instant lottery tickets. Countries vary with respect to the actual legal term of patents and the nature of the protections granted differs throughout the world, and is based on the type of patent issued, its scope and the accessibility of legal recourses within individual nations.

Trademarks

Pollard Banknote uses several trademarks, including: Action Pack™, Cash Vault Progressive™, Clear Play™, Play Around®, Pull Tab Plus®, Double Play®, Fusion™, Eco Scratch®, gameON™, Mystery Box®, optiFORCE™, PlayOn®, PlayBook®, scanACTIV™, retailerHUB™, Shine FX®, Scratch FX®, Scratch FXtra®, SMART®, Win for Life®, Winner Wonderland®, easyVEND™, sureTRACK™, The Space Between™, and EasyPack™. In general, trademark protection extends in Canada, the U.S., and selected countries for as long as the mark is used, but in other countries this protective term is fixed, though renewable.

Licensed Games

Pollard Banknote offers a diverse portfolio of licensed games. We offer comprehensive turn-key solutions for our licensed games, which includes ticket design and manufacturing, prize structure consultation, merchandise selection and fulfillment, publicity and promotional opportunities, second-chance draw management, as well as all client service, internet marketing, and post-game analysis. See “**PRODUCTS AND SERVICES – *Licensed Games***” for a detailed list of Pollard’s current licensed properties.

REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT

General

Lotteries and charitable gaming activities may be lawfully conducted only in jurisdictions that have enacted enabling legislation. In jurisdictions that currently permit gaming operations, regulation is extensive and evolving but usually includes some form of licensing or approval of a supplier. Regulators in those jurisdictions review many facets of an applicant for or holder of a license or approval including, among other items, financial stability, integrity, and business experience.

Pollard Banknote believes it is currently in substantial compliance with all regulatory requirements in the jurisdictions where it operates. Pollard Banknote has developed and implemented an extensive internal compliance program to ensure that it complies with legal requirements imposed in connection with its gaming related activities.

Lottery Market

At the present time, 46 jurisdictions in the United States, all the Canadian provinces and territories, Mexico and many other foreign countries authorize lotteries. Lottery contracts and ongoing operations of lotteries both domestically and abroad are subject to extensive regulation. Although certain of the features of a lottery, such as the percentage of gross revenues that must be

paid back to players in prize money, are usually fixed by legislation, the various lottery regulatory authorities generally exercise significant discretion, including the determination of the types of games played, the price of each wager, the manner in which the lottery is marketed and the selection of the vendors of equipment and services and retailers of lottery products. Furthermore, laws and regulations applicable to lotteries in the United States and foreign jurisdictions are subject to change, and the effect of such changes on Pollard Banknote's ongoing and potential operations cannot be predicted with certainty. To ensure the integrity of the contract award and wagering process, most jurisdictions require detailed background disclosure on a continuous basis from, and conduct background investigations of, the vendor, its officers and directors, its subsidiaries and affiliates and its principal shareholders. Background investigations of the vendor's employees who will be directly responsible for the operation of the system are also generally conducted, and most states reserve the right to require the removal of employees whom they deem to be unsuitable or whose presence they believe may adversely affect the operational security or integrity of the lottery. Certain jurisdictions also require extensive personal and financial disclosure and background checks from persons and entities beneficially owning a specified percentage (typically five percent or more) of a vendor's securities.

From time-to-time Pollard Banknote retains governmental affairs representatives in various states to advise legislators and the public concerning its views on lottery legislation, and to monitor such legislation and to advise Pollard Banknote in its relations with lottery authorities. Pollard Banknote believes it has complied with applicable laws and regulations concerning lobbying disclosures.

The award of lottery contracts and ongoing operations of lotteries in international jurisdictions are also extensively regulated, although this regulation usually varies from that prevailing in the United States. Restrictions are frequently imposed on foreign corporations seeking to do business in such jurisdictions and, consequently, Pollard Banknote has, in a number of instances, allied itself with local companies when seeking foreign lottery contracts. Laws and regulations applicable to lotteries in the United States and foreign jurisdictions are subject to change, and the effect of such changes on Pollard Banknote's ongoing and potential operations cannot be predicted with certainty.

Charitable Gaming Market

Pollard Banknote is subject to regulation in most jurisdictions in which its bingo and bingo-related products (including pull-tabs) are sold or used by persons or entities licensed to conduct gaming activities. The gaming regulatory requirements vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction and licensing, other approval or finding of suitability processes with respect to Pollard Banknote, its personnel and its products, can be lengthy and expensive. Most jurisdictions have comprehensive licensing, reporting and operating requirements with respect to the sale and manufacture of bingo and bingo-related products, including bingo paper and pull-tab tickets.

GOVERNANCE

DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS OF POLLARD BANKNOTE LIMITED

The following table sets out, for each of the Directors and executive officers of Pollard Banknote Limited as at December 31, 2023, the person's name, municipality of residence, position with Pollard Banknote Limited and principal occupation.

Name and Municipality of Residence	Positions with Pollard Banknote Limited	Principal Occupation
DAVE BROWN Winnipeg, Manitoba	Director	Executive Vice President, Richardson Financial Group Limited
LEE MEAGHER ⁽¹⁾ Winnipeg, Manitoba	Director	Corporate Director
CARMELE PETER ⁽²⁾ Winnipeg, Manitoba	Director	President, Exchange Income Corporation
GORDON POLLARD Winnipeg, Manitoba	Director and Executive Chair of the Board	Executive Chair of the Board, Pollard Banknote Limited
DOUGLAS POLLARD Winnipeg, Manitoba	Director and Co-Chief Executive Officer	Co-Chief Executive Officer, Pollard Banknote Limited
JOHN POLLARD Winnipeg, Manitoba	Director and Co-Chief Executive Officer	Co-Chief Executive Officer, Pollard Banknote Limited
ROBERT ROSE Winnipeg, Manitoba	Executive Vice-President, Finance and Chief Financial Officer	Executive Vice-President, Finance and Chief Financial Officer, Pollard Banknote Limited
RIVA RICHARD Winnipeg, Manitoba	Executive Vice President, Legal Affairs, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary	Executive Vice President, Legal Affairs, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, Pollard Banknote Limited

(1) Lee Meagher is appointed as the lead independent Director.

(2) Carmele Peter was elected as an independent Director of Pollard Banknote Limited effective May 12, 2023. Jerry Gray who was reappointed on an interim basis effective August 10, 2022 did not stand for re-election on May 12, 2023.

Each of the Directors and executive officers has held the same principal occupation, or in the case of the executive officers, other executive offices, with the Company Group or its predecessors, for the five preceding years except Lee Meagher who was elected on May 14, 2021, and Carmele Peter who was elected May 12, 2023. See “**BIOGRAPHIES OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS**” below for a description of their previous occupations during the past five years.

The term of office for each of the Directors survives until he or she resigns or is replaced at a meeting of Shareholders.

BIOGRAPHIES OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

The following are brief profiles of the Directors and Executive Officers of Pollard Banknote Limited.

Dave Brown, Director, is an Executive Vice-President of Richardson Financial Group Limited and a Managing Director of RBM Capital Limited (a private investment firm). Previously, he was Chief Executive Officer of Richardson Capital Limited, the private equity arm of James Richardson & Sons, Limited, the Corporate Secretary of James Richardson & Sons, Limited, and a partner in the independent law and accounting firm of Gray & Brown. He also serves as Independent Chair of the Board of Directors of Boyd Group Services Inc. and as a Director of RF Capital Group Inc. and is a former Director of the Manitoba Hydro Electric Board. He has served various Manitoba charities including acting as director of the Misericordia Hospital and Pavilion Gallery Museum Inc. and as Co-chair of Major Donors for the Children's Hospital Foundation Capital Campaign. He graduated from the University of Manitoba law school and is a Chartered Professional Accountant.

Lee Meagher, Director, founded Scootaround, Inc. in 1997, an international personal transportation solutions company providing rentals, sales and service to the travelling public. She served as its Chief Executive Officer from inception to 2019, when Scootaround merged its operations with Whill Inc., a Tokyo based mobility device company. She currently serves as a Director of Scootaround Mobility Holdings Inc. Mrs. Meagher is the current Chair of the Board of CancerCare Manitoba Foundation. She also serves as a Director of the Pan Am Clinic Foundation, sits on the Advisory Committee of The Co-Habit Project and is past Chair of the St. Boniface Hospital Research Foundation. She holds a B.A. from the University of Manitoba.

Carmele Peter, Director, is currently President of Exchange Income Corporation, where she joined in November 2012 as Chief Administrative Officer. Prior to joining Exchange Income Corporation, Ms. Peter practiced law for 23 years at the law firm of Aikins, MacAulay & Thorvaldson LLP, where she specialized in transactional and tax work. Ms. Peter was appointed K.C. in 2019. Ms. Peter also currently serves as a Director of James Richardson & Sons, Limited, Chair of the Manitoba Civil Service Superannuation Fund and is a member of the International Women's forum.

Douglas Pollard, Director and Co-Chief Executive Officer, joined Pollard Banknote in 1997 as Vice President, Lottery Management Services and on May 1, 2011, was appointed Co-Chief Executive Officer. From 1997 to 1999 he was a director and the General Manager of Imprimerie Spéciale de Banque, a subsidiary of Pollard Banknote based in Paris, France. Prior to 1997 Mr. Pollard was a Senior Consultant with PricewaterhouseCoopers. Mr. Pollard has an M.B.A. from The Richard Ivey School of Business at the University of Western Ontario and a B.A. from the University of Manitoba and is Chair of the Board of Directors of the Assiniboine Park Conservancy.

Gordon Pollard, Director and Executive Chair of the Board, joined Pollard Banknote in 1989 as Vice President, Marketing. He became Co-Chief Executive Officer in 1997 and on May 1, 2011, was appointed Executive Chair of the Board of Directors and is a former Director of the Manitoba Hydro Electric Board. Prior to 1989, he practiced law with a major Manitoba firm specializing in corporate and securities law. Mr. Pollard has an LL.B. from the University of Manitoba and a B.A. from the University of Winnipeg.

John Pollard, Director and Co-Chief Executive Officer, joined Pollard Banknote in 1986 as Vice President, Finance. He became Co-Chief Executive Officer in 1997. Prior to 1986, he was an associate with the accounting firm Deloitte & Touche LLP. Mr. Pollard has a B.Comm. (Honours) from the University of Manitoba and is a former member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Manitoba. He serves as a Director of The Winnipeg Foundation and as President and Director of Pulford Community Living Services Inc.

Robert Rose, Executive Vice President, Finance and Chief Financial Officer, joined Pollard Banknote Limited in 1994 as Corporate Controller. He became Chief Financial Officer in 1996. Prior to 1994, Mr. Rose served for 13 years in increasingly senior roles with the accounting firm of KPMG. He has a B. Comm. (Honours) from the University of Manitoba and is a member of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Manitoba.

Riva Richard, Executive Vice President, Legal Affairs and General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, joined Pollard Banknote Limited in 2010. Prior to joining Pollard Banknote, Ms. Richard served as Vice President, Legal Affairs and Corporate Secretary of CanWest Global Communications Corp. Until September 2001, Ms. Richard practiced as a corporate law associate with the Toronto office of McCarthy Tétrault LLP. Ms. Richard received her Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Civil Law Degrees, with distinction, from McGill University and holds an undergraduate business degree from the Richard Ivey School of Business at the University of Western Ontario. She is a member of the Ontario and Manitoba Bars.

GOVERNANCE OF POLLARD BANKNOTE LIMITED

Governance and Nominating Committee

The Governance and Nominating Committee is responsible for developing Pollard Banknote's approach to governance issues, filling vacancies among the directors and periodically reviewing the composition and effectiveness of the directors and the contribution of individual directors. Prior to May 12, 2023, Lee Meagher was the Chair of the Governance and Nominating Committee and Dave Brown and Gordon Pollard were the other members. Effective May 12, 2023 Carmelle Peter became the Chair of this Committee and Dave Brown and Lee Meagher are the other members.

Audit Committee

The Board of Directors have appointed an Audit Committee consisting of three directors, all of whom are independent of management and financially literate within the meaning of National Instrument 52-110 "Audit Committees." On May 11, 2017, Dave Brown was appointed Chair of the Audit Committee and the other members are Lee Meagher and effective May 12, 2023, Carmele Peter who replaced Jerry Gray who did not stand for re-election as a director on May 12, 2023. The Audit Committee is responsible for the oversight and supervision of: (1) the accounting and financial reporting practices and procedures of Pollard Banknote; (2) the adequacy of Pollard Banknote's internal accounting controls and procedures; and (3) the quality and integrity of Pollard Banknote's financial statements.

In addition to each member's general business experience, the education and experience of each member of the Audit Committee is financially literate, as such terms are defined in National Instrument 52-110 – Audit Committees.

A copy of the Charter of the Audit Committee of Pollard Banknote Limited is attached as Schedule A to this Annual Information Form.

Refer to the “**BIOGRAPHIES OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS**” section above for the biographies of the audit committee members.

Compensation Committee

Pollard Banknote Limited has appointed a Compensation Committee. Carmele Peter is the Chair of the Compensation Committee and Dave Brown and Lee Meagher are the other members. Carmele Peter replaced Gordon Pollard effective May 12, 2023, who had served as a member on an interim basis from March 9, 2022.

Guidelines for Continuous Public Disclosure

The Directors are responsible for adopting and periodically reviewing and updating the Pollard Banknote’s written disclosure policy regarding obligations for continuous public disclosure. This policy, among other things:

- articulates the legal *obligations* of Pollard Banknote, its affiliates and their respective directors, officers and employees with respect to confidential information;
- identifies *spokespersons* of Pollard Banknote who will be the only persons authorized to communicate with third parties such as analysts, media and investors;
- provides *guidelines* on the disclosure of forward-looking information;
- establishes a Disclosure Committee of senior representatives of Pollard Banknote to oversee the administration of the disclosure policy;
- requires advance review by the Disclosure Committee of Pollard Banknote of any disclosure of financial information, and to ensure that selective disclosure of material information is not permitted and that when selective disclosure occurs, a news release is issued immediately; and
- establishes black-out periods prior to and following the disclosure of quarterly and annual financial results by Pollard Banknote and prior to the disclosure of certain material changes during which Pollard Banknote, its affiliates and their respective directors, *officers* and employees may not purchase or sell Shares of Pollard Banknote.

The Directors are also responsible for adopting and periodically reviewing and updating Pollard Banknote’s written whistle-blowing procedures and Pollard Banknote’s policy regarding the hiring of former employees of the external auditor of the issuer.

OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

As at December 31, 2023, the Directors and Named Executive Officers of Pollard Banknote, as a group, beneficially owned or exercised control or direction over 48,380 common shares. Indirectly through the Control Group, Gordon Pollard, John Pollard and Douglas Pollard control 17,305,158 common shares of Pollard Banknote.

EXTERNAL AUDITOR SERVICE FEES

The aggregate amounts paid or accrued by Pollard Banknote Limited and subsidiaries with respect to fees payable to KPMG LLP, the auditors of Pollard Banknote, for audit, audit-related, tax and other services for the year ended December 31, 2023, and for the year ended December 31, 2022, is as follows:

Category	2023	2022
Audit Fees	\$475,000	\$443,000
Other Advisory Fees ⁽¹⁾	\$-	\$43,000
Tax Compliance Fees ⁽²⁾	\$246,335	\$215,620
Other Tax Fees ⁽³⁾	\$253,106	\$224,101
Total Fees	\$993,441	\$925,721

- (1) Other Advisory Fees in 2022 consist of a review of certain regulatory requirements.
- (2) Tax Compliance Fees includes the cost to prepare tax returns and related advisory services.
- (3) Other Tax Fees consists of tax advisory services for transfer pricing and inter-company transactions.

INDEBTEDNESS OF MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

None of the Directors or executive officers of Pollard Banknote or its subsidiary entities, nor any associate of such Director or executive officer, is currently indebted to Pollard Banknote or its subsidiary entities. In addition, Pollard Banknote and its subsidiary entities have not provided any guarantee, support agreement, letter of credit or similar arrangement or undertaking in respect of any indebtedness of any such person to any other person or entity.

INDEBTEDNESS

CREDIT FACILITY

Effective December 31, 2021, Pollard Banknote Limited and Pollard Holdings, Inc., renewed its syndicated Credit Facility with a group of Canadian chartered banks (the “Lenders”). The credit facility is currently comprised of a committed facility in the amount of CAD equivalent \$215.0 million and USD\$14.0 million. The credit facility also includes an accordion feature which can increase the facility by \$50.0 million.

As at December 31, 2023, the balance drawn under the credit facility was CAD equivalent \$119.9 million and outstanding letters of guarantee of \$0.1 million in Canadian equivalent of Euro and USD denominated guarantees.

The credit facility is used for general corporate purposes, including funding changes in working capital.

The credit facility has a four-year term, currently expiring December 31, 2025. The credit facility is prepayable without any prepayment penalties or bonus (subject to normal breakage costs and subject to the continuation of unexpired bankers’ acceptances, Secure Overnight Financing Rate (“SOFR”) advances, letters of credit and letters of guarantee). Loans under the credit facility will bear interest at fixed and floating rates based on the Canadian and U.S. prime bank rates, SOFR or banker’s acceptance rates plus, in each case, an applicable margin to those rates. Letters of credit and letters of guarantee are also available under the credit facility on customary terms for facilities of this nature. The rates vary with the ratio of total funded interest-bearing debt (the “funded debt”) (as adjusted for certain items) to Adjusted EBITDA.

As security for the credit facility, Pollard Banknote Limited and Pollard Holdings, Inc. have granted the Lender a security interest over all its assets. In addition, certain of its subsidiaries have guaranteed the obligations of Pollard Banknote under the credit facility and provided security on all of each of their assets to secure such guarantees.

The credit facility is subject to customary terms and conditions for borrowings of this nature, including limits on incurring additional indebtedness, granting liens, or selling assets without the consent of the Lenders. The credit facility is also subject to the maintenance of a maximum ratio of funded debt to Adjusted EBITDA and a minimum ratio of debt service coverage. As of December 31, 2023, Pollard is in compliance with all covenants.

The failure to comply with the terms of the credit facility would entitle the Lender to accelerate all amounts outstanding under the credit facility, and upon such acceleration, the Lender would be entitled to begin enforcement procedures against the assets of Pollard Banknote, including accounts receivable and inventory (subject to certain restrictions governing the right to pledge certain assets) and equipment. The Lender would then be repaid from the proceeds of such enforcement proceedings, using all available assets. Only after such repayment and the payment of any other secured and unsecured creditors would the Shareholders receive any proceeds from the liquidation of the assets of Pollard Banknote.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CANADA (“EDC”) FACILITY

Effective November 29, 2023, Pollard renewed an agreement with EDC to provide a €15.0 million facility whereby Pollard can issue qualifying letters of credit against the EDC facility. The agreement runs until November 30, 2024. The facility is guaranteed by a general indemnity from Pollard Banknote. At December 31, 2023, the outstanding letters of credit drawn on this facility were \$14.7 million (€9.0 million and USD\$1.2 million).

DESCRIPTION OF POLLARD BANKNOTE LIMITED

INCORPORATION

Pollard Banknote Limited (“Pollard Banknote”), formerly 7510101 Canada Limited, was incorporated under the laws of Canada on March 26, 2010. The principal head and registered office is at 140 Otter Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, R3T 0M8. The Company was incorporated to continue the business of Pollard Holdings Limited Partnership.

On January 1, 2015, Pollard Banknote Limited completed a short form amalgamation combining Pollard Holdings Limited Partnership, Pollard Banknote GP Limited, Pollard Banknote Limited Partnership and Pollard (Canada) Inc. with the Company. This had no material impact to the operations of the Company on a consolidated basis and was designed to simplify the organization structure.

On December 31, 2019, Pollard completed an internal reorganization of a number of its U.S. based companies. The reorganization had no material impact on the operations of the business and was implemented to simplify the structure and eliminate certain inactive companies.

Effective December 29, 2023, Pollard Equities Limited, which was jointly controlled by John Pollard, Douglas Pollard and Gordon Pollard, transferred 5,768,386 common shares of Pollard, representing approximately 21.4% of the issued and outstanding common shares of

Pollard, equally each to JSP Equities Limited, which is controlled by John Pollard, Park Equities Limited, which is controlled by Gordon Pollard, and Oak Equities Limited, which is controlled by Douglas Pollard (collectively, the “Common Share Transfers”). The purpose of the Common Share Transfers was to reorganize the holdings of common shares by the Pollard family. Prior to giving effect to the Common Share Transfers, Pollard Equities Limited held 17,305,158 common shares representing approximately 64.2% of the issued and outstanding common shares.

In connection with the Common Share Transfers, each of John Pollard, Gordon Pollard, Douglas Pollard, JSP Equities Limited, Park Equities Limited and Oak Equities Limited and their respective shareholders (collectively, the “Control Group”), entered into a shareholders’ agreement regarding the common shares of Pollard. Pursuant to the shareholders’ agreement, the parties agreed to vote their common shares in the same manner, collectively, as a single block.

DESCRIPTION OF SHARE CAPITAL

The Company is authorized to issue an unlimited number of preference shares, issuable in series, and an unlimited number of common shares.

Preference Shares

The Board of Directors of Pollard Banknote may issue preference shares at any time in one or more series and shall fix the number of shares in each series. Before any shares of a particular series are issued, the Board of Directors of Pollard Banknote is required to fix the number of shares in such series and to determine, subject to the limitations set out in the articles, the designation, rights, privileges, restrictions and conditions to be attached to the shares of such series, including, but without in any way limiting or restricting the generality of the foregoing, voting rights, the rate or rates, amount or method or methods of calculation of any dividends thereon and whether such rate(s), amount or method(s) of calculation shall be subject to change or adjustment in the future, the consideration and the terms and conditions of any purchase for cancellation, retraction or redemption rights (if any), the conversion or exchange rights attached thereto (if any) and the terms and conditions of any purchase obligation or sinking fund or other provisions attaching thereto. No rights, privileges, restrictions, or conditions attached to a series of preference shares will confer upon a series a priority in respect of dividends or return of capital over any other series of preference shares then outstanding. The preference shares are entitled to priority over the common shares and over any other share ranking prior to the common shares and over any other shares ranking junior to the preference shares.

Common Shares

Holders of common shares are entitled to receive notice of any meetings of shareholders of Pollard and to attend and to cast one vote per common shares at all such meetings. Holders of common shares do not have cumulative voting rights with respect to the election of directors and, accordingly, holders of a majority of the common shares entitled to vote in any election of directors may elect all directors standing for election. Holders of common shares are entitled to receive on a pro-rata basis such dividends, if any, as and when declared by Pollard Banknote’s Board of Directors at its discretion from funds legally available therefore and upon the liquidation, dissolution or winding up of Pollard Banknote are entitled to receive on a pro-rata basis the net assets of Pollard Banknote after payment of debts and other liabilities, in each case subject to the rights, privileges, restrictions and conditions attaching to any other series or class of shares ranking senior in priority to or on a pro-rata basis with the holders of common shares with respect to dividends or liquidation. The common shares do not carry any pre-emptive, subscription, redemption, or conversion rights, nor do they contain any sinking or purchase fund provisions.

The Articles of Incorporation of Pollard Banknote provide that if, in the opinion of the Board of Directors of Pollard Banknote, a person, or group of persons acting in concert (in each case excluding Equities) acquires, agrees to acquire, holds, beneficially owns or controls, either directly or indirectly, a number of common shares that is equal to or in excess of the Ownership Threshold (defined as five percent (5.0%) of the common shares (on a non-diluted basis) issued and outstanding from time to time), the Board of Directors of Pollard Banknote is entitled at any time, in its sole discretion, to take the following actions (each a “Constraint Action”):

- a) place a stop transfer on all or any of the common shares of the person, or group of persons, the Board of Directors of Pollard Banknote reasonably believes holds, beneficially owns, controls or directs, directly or indirectly, a number of common shares that is equal to or in excess of the Ownership Threshold;
- b) suspend all voting and/or dividend rights on all or any of the common shares the person, or group of persons, the Board of Directors of Pollard Banknote reasonably believes holds, beneficially owns, controls or directs, directly or indirectly, a number of common shares that is equal to or in excess of the Ownership Threshold;
- c) apply to a court of competent jurisdiction seeking an injunction to prevent a person or group of persons from acquiring, holding, owning, controlling and/or directing, directly or indirectly, a number of common shares that is equal to or in excess of the Ownership Threshold; and/or
- d) make application to the relevant securities commission, its successors or assigns or such other governmental regulatory agency having jurisdiction over the affairs of Pollard Banknote, to effect a cease trading order or such similar restriction against such person or group of persons until such time as the person or group of persons ceases to hold, own, control or direct, directly or indirectly, a number of common shares that is equal to or in excess of the Ownership Threshold.

In addition, if (i) a Gaming Regulatory Authority has determined that ownership by a holder of common shares is inconsistent with its declared policies, or (ii) the Board of Directors of Pollard Banknote, acting reasonably (including, where necessary or advisable, after receiving the advice of outside regulatory counsel), determines that a Gaming Regulatory Authority is likely to consider that ownership by a holder of common shares is inconsistent with its declared policies, the Board of Directors of Pollard Banknote shall be entitled to take Constraint Action against such shareholder. Any person who holds, owns, controls, or directs, directly or indirectly, common shares equal to or in excess of the Ownership Threshold, may be required to file an application, be investigated and have suitability as a shareholder determined by a Gaming Regulatory Authority, if such Gaming Regulatory Authority has reason to believe such ownership would otherwise be inconsistent with its declared policies. The shareholder must pay all of the costs of the investigation incurred by any such Gaming Regulatory Authority.

In order to apply the provisions concerning the Ownership Threshold, the Board of Directors of Pollard Banknote may, in their sole discretion:

- a) require a person in whose name common shares of Pollard Banknote are registered, the Agent of such person, the Participant in whose name such shares are registered, or the Securities Depository, to provide a statutory declaration under the Canada Evidence Act or otherwise concerning:
 - i. whether the shareholder is the beneficial owner of, or controls or directs, common shares of Pollard Banknote or holds them for a beneficial owner;
 - ii. whether the shareholder is an associate or affiliate of another shareholder;

- iii. the number of common shares beneficially owned, controlled, or directed, directly or indirectly; and
 - iv. any further facts that the Board of Directors consider relevant in their sole discretion.
- b) require any person seeking to have a transfer of a common share registered in its name or to have a common share issued to it to provide a declaration similar to the declaration a person may be required to provide in (a) directly above; and
 - c) determine the circumstances in which any declarations are required, their form and the times when they are to be provided or appoint one or more persons to make such determination on behalf of Pollard Banknote.

RISK FACTORS

The following are certain factors relating to the business and structure of Pollard Banknote and the industry within which it operates. These risks and uncertainties are not the only ones facing Pollard Banknote. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to Pollard Banknote, or that Pollard Banknote currently deem immaterial, may also impair the operations of Pollard Banknote. If any such additional risks occur, the business, financial condition, liquidity, and results of operations of Pollard Banknote could be materially adversely affected and the ability of Pollard Banknote to make dividends on the shares could be adversely affected.

RISKS RELATED TO THE BUSINESS AND THE INDUSTRY

Dependence on Key Products

Instant tickets and ancillary products accounted for approximately 76.1% of Pollard Banknote's revenues for Fiscal 2023. Pollard Banknote's financial results and condition are substantially dependent on the continued success and growth in sales of this product and the profitability of such sales. Competitive efforts by other manufacturers of similar or substitute products, shifts in consumer preferences or the introduction and acceptance of alternative product offerings could have a material adverse effect on Pollard Banknote's business, financial condition, liquidity and results of operations and the amount of cash available for dividends to Shareholders.

Inability to Sustain Sales or Adjusted EBITDA Margins

Pollard Banknote's income depends upon its ability to generate sales to customers and to sustain its Adjusted EBITDA margins. These margins are dependent upon Pollard Banknote's ability to continue to profitably sell lottery tickets and gaming products and to continue to provide products and services that make it the supplier of choice to its customers. If Pollard Banknote's cost of sales or operating costs increase, or other manufacturers of gaming products could compete more favourably with it, Pollard Banknote may not be able to sustain its level of sales or Adjusted EBITDA margins.

Inflationary Cost Increases

Various raw materials and other inputs are used in the products manufactured by Pollard Banknote, and, while historically such raw materials have not been subject to economic or seasonal cyclicalities and wide price variation, during the period of high inflation experienced primarily in 2022, significant input cost increases occurred, resulting in large negative margin erosion. Certain raw materials used by Pollard Banknote in its manufacturing processes are made from commodities that are vulnerable to significant fluctuations in price. Sudden increases in the price or a reduction in the availability of raw materials or commodities used to make raw materials used in the manufacture of lottery tickets and gaming products have a material adverse effect on Pollard Banknote's business, financial condition, liquidity and results of operations. Pollard Banknote is limited in being able to pass on the increased costs to customers due to the existence of long-term fixed price contracts with lotteries.

Inability to Reprice Fixed Price Customer Contracts

A substantial portion of Pollard Banknote instant ticket business is based on long-term fixed price contracts with its lottery customers. The sudden and significant inflationary cost increases on our manufacturing inputs including raw materials, coupled with fixed selling prices, have significantly reduced gross margins in 2022 and 2023. Pollard Banknote's strategy to restore margins on its instant ticket printed products is to aggressively reprice our lottery contracts when they come up for re-bid. While our repricing strategy has started to see some successes during 2023, there are no guarantees that our new higher prices will be accepted by lotteries and bidding higher prices could result in lost contracts or lower volumes of work if the lotteries don't accept our repricing or competitors bid lower prices to obtain the contracts. Reduction of volumes or failure to reprice our instant ticket contracts, particularly in light of the significant inflationary cost increase in our raw materials and manufacturing inputs such as packaging and freight in 2022, will have a significant negative impact on Pollard Banknote's business, financial condition, liquidity and results of operations. The lottery market continues to generally require long term fixed price contracts.

Staffing

Pollard Banknote relies on personnel to drive its strategic objectives and achieve operating and financial success. Similar to many organizations in recent years, Pollard has experienced challenges in identifying, attracting, hiring and retaining staff at a number of level throughout our operations, particularly in certain entry level positions. A number of initiatives have been introduced to address these challenges, however there is no guarantee these will ease the difficulty in attracting and retaining staff. An inability to hire suitable personnel will have a negative impact on Pollard Banknote's business and financial results, including inhibiting our ability to take advantage of increased customer demand and growth opportunities.

Lack of Long-Term Supplier Agreements

Historically, Pollard Banknote has not entered into long-term agreements with its suppliers. Generally, suppliers may terminate their relationship with Pollard Banknote on short notice. In addition, even if suppliers should decide to continue their relationship with Pollard Banknote, there can be no guarantee that suppliers will supply the same amount of product as in the past, or that supply will be on similar terms. Any loss of a significant supplier, or a change in the terms of the relationship with a significant supplier, including restricting availability of products and services, could have a material adverse effect on Pollard Banknote's business, financial condition, liquidity and results of operations.

Dependence on Sole or Limited Sources of Supply

Certain raw materials used in connection with the manufacture of Pollard Banknote's products and packaging materials are obtained from a sole or a limited group of suppliers. Pollard Banknote's reliance on a sole supplier, or limited groups of suppliers, involves several risks including increased risk of inability to obtain adequate supplies, reduced control over pricing and timely delivery, and in the case of substrate and ink, the long lead times required to approve the specifications necessary to produce products specific to Pollard Banknote's specifications. There are no assurances that this dependence on a limited group of suppliers will not have an adverse effect on Pollard Banknote's business, financial condition, liquidity, and results of operations. In addition, were it necessary for Pollard Banknote to source its substrate and ink needs from another supplier, disruption to Pollard Banknote's business would occur during the period in which Pollard Banknote sourced another supplier and was able to receive supplies based on its particular specifications.

Supply Chain & Finished Product Shipping Disruption

Materials used in the manufacturing of Pollard Banknote's products are sourced from different suppliers from different areas of the world and sales of Pollard Banknote's products are delivered to international customers. Delivery of raw materials to Pollard Banknote's facilities and delivering Pollard Banknote's finished products to its customers involves several risks which include strike and work disruptions, political decisions shutting borders and stopping the movement of goods and services, shipping logistical bottlenecks, acts of war and global pandemics that could result in massive disruption of supplies. There are no assurances that supply deliveries or finished product shipping would continue and this would have an adverse impact directly on Pollard Banknote. Should Pollard Banknote be forced to source new suppliers, disruption to our business would occur during the period in which another supplier was sourced and when product could be delivered to Pollard Banknote. Transportation of Pollard's finished goods to its lottery customers, during 2021 and 2022 were impacted by both delays from logistical bottlenecks together with increased costs due to higher global inflation rates. While the supply chain and shipping channels have improved significantly, the risk of revenue losses increases if Pollard Banknote is not able to deliver finished products on agreed delivery terms.

Responsible Gaming

Jurisdictions throughout the lottery and charitable gaming markets are increasingly expanding the requirements and legislation surrounding the need for formal responsible gaming initiatives through legislative, policy and other processes. Pollard Banknote fully supports and advocates for responsible gaming standards, however, these additional requirements may in the future result in reduced levels of opportunities for Pollard Banknote to pursue and grow its revenue as authorities limit or reduce the level or amount of gaming allowed or the types of products offered within their jurisdictions.

iLottery Joint Venture

The Michigan Lottery iLottery contract, which started in 2014 and in 2020 was extended until 2026, was Pollard Banknote's first iLottery contract and was entered into jointly with NeoGames as the technology provider. Following the awarding of the Michigan contract Pollard and NeoGames formed NeoPollard Interactive LLC ("NPI") which is 50% owned by each party and is the legal entity which holds the contracts to provide iLottery platforms to the Virginia Lottery, the North Carolina Education Lottery, the New Hampshire Lottery (as a subcontractor to Intralot), the Alberta Gaming Liquor and Cannabis Agency and starting in 2024 the West Virginia Lottery. On January 10, 2023, Pollard announced the signing of a formal operating agreement with NeoGames for the operations of NeoPollard Interactive LLC. The agreement confirmed the existing relationship including the right for the partners to bid on future iLottery opportunities through NeoPollard Interactive LLC or independently. Operating the iLottery business through a jointly owned entity adds risks typically associated with joint ventures some of which include the entities having differing economic and business interests and goals, the failure to maintain a good working relationship and the liability or reputational risks resulting from each partner's actions. Differences in views between Pollard Banknote and Neogames could result in delayed decision-making or disputes at the shareholder and board level that could negatively impact the operations of NPI and its relationship with its customers.

Should Pollard or NeoGames pursue future iLottery opportunities separately, there is a risk that Pollard may be unsuccessful in winning future iLottery contracts due to not having a competitive technology solution or through other competitive reasons.

General Economic Conditions

Instant lottery tickets and ancillary products account for approximately 76.1% of revenue and Pollard Banknote's financial results and condition are substantially dependent on the continued success and growth in sales of this product and the profitability of such sales. Historically the lottery industry, and particularly the instant ticket product lines, has not shown any significant negative impact during downturns in the economic cycles. However, lotteries, like many government agencies, are increasingly under pressure to reduce costs and expenditures. As such, Pollard Banknote has historically witnessed downward pressure on its selling prices. Continued pressure on lotteries to reduce their costs may further negatively impact Pollard Banknote's selling prices (see *Inability to Reprice Fixed Price Customer Contracts* in the **RISK FACTORS** section for recent developments). Significant shifts in consumer preferences or the introduction and acceptance of alternative product offerings could have a material adverse effect on Pollard Banknote's business, financial condition, liquidity, and results of operations.

Dependence on Major Customers

Pollard Banknote's 10 largest customers accounted for 47.8% of its Fiscal 2023 revenues. In 2023, sales to its largest customer accounted for 12.9% of consolidated sales. The nature of the worldwide lottery industry limits the absolute number of lottery operations. As is customary in the industry, Pollard Banknote does have long-term contracts with most of its customers. However, most allow the customer to cancel the contract at will and none guarantee volumes or order levels. A significant reduction of purchases by any of Pollard Banknote's largest customers could have a material adverse effect on Pollard Banknote's business, financial condition, liquidity, and results of operations.

In addition, order timing, quantities and product type can vary significantly from period to period depending on customer requirements, marketing plans and budget restrictions placed on lottery organizations. Significant variations in order timing can have negative implications on operating results and cash flow. Timing of revenue recognition for the sale of products and services is subject to detailed rules and standards as determined by various accounting regulations including the International Financial Reporting Standards (“IFRS”). As a result, reported financial results can vary significantly depending on when revenue can be recognized in the financial results.

Exchange Rate Fluctuations

A significant portion of Pollard Banknote’s revenues and expenses, principally related to its U.S. operations and to the purchase of raw materials, are denominated in U.S. dollars. Under the terms of its credit facility, Pollard can borrow funds in U.S. dollars. In addition, a portion of Pollard Banknote’s revenues and expenses are denominated in other currencies primarily Euros. Furthermore, although certain raw materials may be purchased in Canadian dollars, they may have inputs that are denominated in foreign currencies. Any changes in the exchange rate between the Canadian dollar and these foreign currencies could have a material effect on the results of Pollard Banknote. Pollard Banknote’s dividends to Shareholders are denominated in Canadian dollars.

For the purposes of financial reporting, any change in the value of the Canadian dollar against the U.S. dollar or other currencies during a given financial reporting period would result in a foreign exchange loss or gain on the translation of any foreign currency denominated monetary assets and liabilities. Further, Pollard Banknote’s reported earnings could fluctuate materially because of revenues and expenses denominated in U.S. dollars or other currencies under Canadian GAAP. There can be no assurance that changes in the currency exchange rate will not have a material adverse effect on Pollard Banknote Limited or on its ability to maintain a consistent level of dividends in Canadian dollars.

In addition, the use of certain cash flow and interest rate hedging strategies may result in increased volatility in net income due to mark-to-market accounting rules.

Additional Capital Requirements

Pollard Banknote believes that its operating income will be sufficient to fund operations and planned capital expenditures in the near term. However, Pollard Banknote may be required to raise additional capital in the future if it decides to make additional acquisitions or significant investments in capital projects. The availability of future borrowings and access to capital markets for financing depends on prevailing market conditions and the acceptability of financing terms offered to it. There can be no assurance that future borrowings or equity financing will be available to it, or available on acceptable terms, in an amount sufficient to fund its needs.

Inability to Sustain and Manage Growth

A principal component of Pollard Banknote’s strategy is to continue its internal growth. Pollard Banknote may not be successful in growing its business or in managing its growth. Pollard Banknote’s growth depends on its ability to accomplish a number of things, including:

- successfully introducing new products;
- identifying and developing new geographic markets;
- developing new products and gaining market acceptance for them;
- establishing and maintaining favourable relationships with customers in new markets and market segments, and maintaining these relationships in existing markets; and
- successfully managing expansion and obtaining the required financing.

Any growth Pollard Banknote achieves may require additional employees and an increase in the scope of both its operating and financial systems and the geographic area of its operations. Pollard Banknote may be unable to attract and retain qualified management and employees, and its existing operating and financial systems and controls may not be adequate to support any growth. Pollard Banknote's ability to improve its systems and controls may be limited by increased costs, technological challenges, or lack of qualified employees. The past results of Pollard Banknote may not be indicative of Pollard Banknote's prospects or its ability to penetrate new markets, many of which may have different competitive conditions and demographic characteristics than current markets.

Competition

The instant ticket business is highly competitive, and Pollard Banknote faces competition from a number of domestic and foreign instant ticket manufacturers and other competitors. Pollard Banknote currently has two instant ticket competitors in North America, Sci Games and IGT. Internationally, there are a number of lottery instant ticket vendors which compete with Pollard Banknote including Sci Games, IGT and Eagle Press Group of Companies. Pollard Banknote's major competitors in the charitable gaming printed product markets are Arrow International, Inc. and Douglas Press Inc. and there are a multiple number of competitors in the e-gaming machine market.

Some of Pollard Banknote's competitors have longer operating histories, greater name recognition, larger customer bases and greater financial, technical, and marketing resources than Pollard Banknote. These resources may allow them to respond more quickly than Pollard Banknote can to new or emerging technologies and to changes in customer requirements. It may also allow them to devote greater resources than Pollard Banknote can to the development, promotion, and sale of their products. Pollard Banknote's competitors may also engage in more extensive research and development, undertake more far-reaching marketing campaigns and adopt more aggressive pricing policies. The market for Pollard Banknote's products is highly competitive and it is fragmented at both the lottery and charitable gaming levels. Pollard Banknote expects competition to continue to be intense because of capacity in its markets. To the extent one of Pollard Banknote's competitors undertakes a consolidation program, Pollard Banknote's competition would increase further. Pollard Banknote faces an increased number of competitors in the growing iLottery, e-gaming and digital markets. Competition from other gaming products may weaken demand for Pollard Banknote's products.

Future Acquisition and Integration Risks

To grow by acquisition, Pollard Banknote must identify and acquire suitable acquisition candidates at attractive prices and successfully integrate any acquired businesses with its existing operations. If the expected synergies from acquisitions do not materialize or Pollard Banknote fails to successfully integrate any new businesses into its existing business, Pollard Banknote's financial performance could be significantly impacted. To the extent that businesses acquired by Pollard Banknote, or their prior owners failed to comply with or otherwise violated applicable laws, Pollard Banknote, as a successor owner may be financially responsible for these violations.

In connection with future acquisitions by Pollard Banknote, there may be liabilities that Pollard Banknote failed or was unable to discover in its due diligence prior to the consummation of the acquisition. The discovery of any material liabilities could have a material adverse effect on Pollard Banknote's business, financial condition, liquidity and results of operations or future prospects.

Reliance on Manufacturing Facilities

Pollard Banknote manufactures substantially all its lottery tickets and gaming products at its facilities. Pollard Banknote expects to continue to expand its manufacturing capabilities by adding production lines and additional acquisitions, either of which could result in disruptions to its manufacturing operations. Pollard Banknote's manufacturing operations use certain custom designed equipment which, if damaged or otherwise rendered inoperable or unavailable, could result in the disruption of its manufacturing operations. Further, Pollard Banknote does not generally maintain an inventory of finished products due, in part, to the customized nature of its product line and its "just in time" approach to manufacturing. Consequently, any interruption of operations at any of its manufacturing facilities or at any facility of a supplier to Pollard Banknote or at which Pollard Banknote outsources production could have a material adverse effect on Pollard Banknote's business, financial condition, liquidity, and results of operation.

Reliance on Key Personnel

Pollard Banknote's future performance and development will depend to a significant extent on the efforts and abilities of its executive officers and key management personnel. The loss of the services of one or more of its individuals or other senior managers could harm Pollard Banknote. Pollard Banknote's success will depend largely on Pollard Banknote's continuing ability to attract, develop and retain skilled employees in all areas of its business.

Technological Change

Lotteries continue to investigate the use of the internet to augment their product offerings either in conjunction with existing gaming products (such as providing for second chance drawings for customers who have purchased non-winning instant tickets, digital gaming products or through loyalty and engagement programs) or as additional platforms to providing gaming products (for example providing electronic versions of instant tickets). The use of the internet is increasing and will be a key distribution channel as lotteries look to expand their market share both with existing customers and through obtaining new customers. If Pollard Banknote is not able to efficiently adapt to the constantly changing needs of its lottery customers, its business could be negatively impacted.

Significant Changes to Government Regulations

Pollard Banknote is subject to various federal, provincial, state, and local laws and regulations. There are laws that regulate its transporting products, importing and exporting products, and employment. Furthermore, there are extensive gaming laws and approvals. Such laws, regulations and related rules and policies are administered by various federal, provincial, state, and local agencies and other governmental authorities. New laws governing its business could be enacted and changes to any existing laws could have a significant impact on business. Failure by Pollard Banknote to comply with applicable laws and regulations may subject it to civil or regulatory proceedings which may have a material adverse effect on Pollard Banknote's business, financial condition, liquidity and results of operations.

US-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement (USMCA)

The US-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement (USMCA) came into force July 1, 2020, replacing the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). To date, the agreement has not had any significant impact on the Pollard operations and while there is no reason to believe this will change, the regulations are relatively new and still subject to interpretation and application. In addition, there can be no assurances that future changes to trade regulations or cross-border transaction will not change or be reinterpreted that may have negative impacts on our ability to

operate our business or operate on similar economic terms as in the past. Pollard Banknote has significant manufacturing presence in both Canada and the United States and the impact of any possible changes to any cross-border agreement could have a significant impact on our operations.

Licensing and Regulatory Requirements

Pollard Banknote is subject to regulation in most jurisdictions in which its products are sold or used by persons or entities licensed to conduct gaming activities. The gaming regulatory requirements vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction and licensing, other approval or finding of suitability processes with respect to Pollard Banknote, its personnel, and its products, can be lengthy and expensive. These requirements have a direct impact on the conduct of the day-to-day operations of Pollard Banknote. There can be no assurance that Pollard Banknote, its products, or its personnel will receive or be able to maintain any necessary gaming licenses, other approvals or findings of suitability. Moreover, failure to comply with the licensing, reporting and operating requirements may subject Pollard Banknote to civil or regulatory proceedings, including the imposition of civil penalties or the suspension or revocation of a license. The loss of a license in a particular jurisdiction will prohibit Pollard Banknote from selling products in that jurisdiction and may prohibit Pollard Banknote from selling its products in other jurisdictions. The loss of one or more licenses held by Pollard Banknote could have an adverse effect on the business.

Certain jurisdictions require extensive personal and financial disclosure and background checks from persons and entities beneficially owning a specific percentage (typically five percent or more) of a vendor's or licensee's securities. The failure of beneficial owners of Pollard Banknote's securities to submit to background checks and provide such disclosure could result in the imposition of penalties upon these beneficial owners and could jeopardize the award of a lottery contract or the issuance of a gaming license to Pollard Banknote or provide grounds for termination of an existing lottery contract or gaming license.

Income and Other Taxes

Pollard Banknote is subject to income taxes, withholding taxes and Canadian, U.S. and other jurisdictions federal, provincial, and state taxes. As taxing regimes change their tax basis and rates or initiate reviews of prior tax returns, Pollard Banknote could be exposed to increased costs of taxation.

Intellectual Property

Pollard Banknote's commercial success depends, in part, on its ability to secure and protect intellectual property rights that are important to its business, including patent, trademark, copyright and trade secret rights, to operate without infringing third party intellectual property rights and to avoid having third parties circumvent the intellectual property rights that Pollard Banknote owns or licenses. In particular, the patents and trademarks Pollard Banknote owns, or licenses may not be valid or enforceable. In addition, Pollard Banknote cannot be certain that its proprietary technology affords a competitive advantage, does not infringe third party rights, or will not need to be altered in response to competing technologies. Pollard Banknote also cannot be certain that technologies developed in the future will be the subject of valid and enforceable intellectual property rights.

In addition, litigation may be necessary to determine the scope, enforceability, and validity of third-party intellectual property rights or to establish Pollard Banknote's intellectual property rights. Regardless of merit, any such litigation could be time consuming and expensive, divert management's time and attention, subject Pollard Banknote to significant liabilities, require Pollard Banknote to enter into costly royalty or licensing agreements, or require Pollard Banknote to modify or stop using intellectual property that it owns or licenses.

Litigation

Pollard Banknote is threatened from time to time with, or has been named as a defendant in, various legal proceedings and lawsuits based upon product liability, personal injury, breach of contract and lost profits or other consequential damages claims, in the ordinary course of conducting its business. Management has seen a growing trend across North America in litigation. A significant judgment against Pollard Banknote or the imposition of a significant fine or penalty, as a result of a finding that Pollard Banknote failed to comply with laws or regulations or being named as a defendant on multiple claims could have a material adverse effect on Pollard Banknote's business, financial condition, liquidity and results of operations.

Product Liability

Pollard Banknote, like other manufacturers and sellers of retail products, is subject to potential liabilities connected with its business operations, including potential liabilities and expenses associated with product defects, performance and reliability or delivery delays. A major product liability claim could have a material adverse effect on Pollard Banknote's business, financial condition, liquidity, and results of operations because of the costs of defending against lawsuits, diversion of key employees' time and attention from the business and potential damage to its reputation.

Research and Development ("R&D")

Pollard Banknote has invested, and may continue to invest, significant resources in our R&D efforts. Pollard Banknote invests in a number of areas, including our manufacturing processes, product development for game and system-based hardware, software and game content. There can be no assurance that Pollard Banknote's investment in R&D will lead to successful new technologies or products that gain market acceptance. If a new product is not successful, Pollard Banknote may not recover our development, regulatory approval, or promotion costs.

Inability to Innovate

The success of Pollard Banknote's products and services is affected by changing technology and evolving industry standards. Pollard Banknote's ability to anticipate or respond to such changes and to develop and introduce new and enhanced products and services, including, but not limited to, games, gaming machines, lottery tickets, gaming products and services, on a timely basis or at all is a significant factor affecting Pollard Banknote's ability to remain competitive, retain existing contracts or business, expand, and attract new customers and players. There can be no assurance that Pollard Banknote will achieve the necessary technological advances or have the financial resources needed to introduce new products or services on a timely basis, or at all, or that Pollard Banknote will otherwise have the ability to compete effectively in the industries we serve.

Pollard Banknote's success depends upon its ability to develop or obtain manufacturing capabilities and processes to meet the demands of producing new and innovative products. Because newer products are generally more technologically sophisticated than those produced in the past, we must continually develop or obtain improved production capabilities to meet the needs of product innovations. If Pollard Banknote cannot efficiently develop its own manufacturing infrastructure, or obtain such infrastructure from a reliable source, to meet the needs of Pollard Banknote's product innovations, or if Pollard Banknote is unable to increase its production capacity in a timely manner, the business could be negatively impacted. In addition, the social and mobile gaming landscape is rapidly evolving and is characterized by major fluctuations in the popularity of social and mobile products and platforms. Pollard Banknote may

be unable to develop products at a rate necessary to successfully enter and compete in the social and mobile product market.

Systems, Network or Telecommunications Failures or Cyber-attacks

Any disruption in Pollard Banknote's network or telecommunications services could affect Pollard Banknote's ability to operate its games or financial systems, which would result in reduced revenues and customer down time. Pollard Banknote's network and databases of business or customer information are susceptible to outages due to fire, floods, power loss, break-ins, cyber-attacks, network penetration, data privacy or security breaches, ransomware, denial of service attacks and similar events. Despite Pollard Banknote's implementation of network security measures and data protection safeguards, including a disaster recovery strategy for back-office systems, Pollard Banknote's servers and computer resources are vulnerable to viruses, malicious software, hacking, break-ins or theft, third-party security breaches, employee error or malfeasance and other potential compromises. Disruptions from unauthorized access to or tampering with Pollard Banknote's computer systems in any such event could have a material adverse effect on Pollard Banknote's business, reputation, operating results, and financial condition.

Money Laundering/Fraudulent Activity

Pollard Banknote's success depends on its ability to avoid, detect, replicate, and correct software and hardware errors and fraudulent manipulation of our games and systems. Pollard Banknote incorporates security features into the design of its games and other systems which are designed to prevent Pollard Banknote and its customers from being defrauded. However, there can be no guarantee that Pollard Banknote's security features will continue to be effective in the future. If Pollard Banknote's security systems fail to prevent fraud, Pollard Banknote's operating results could be adversely affected. Additionally, if third parties breach Pollard Banknote's security systems and defraud its customers, the public may lose confidence in Pollard Banknote's gaming products or Pollard Banknote could become subject to legal claims by its customers or to investigation by gaming authorities.

The occurrence of fraudulent manipulation of Pollard Banknote's games, gaming machines, systems, or online games and systems may give rise to claims for lost revenues and related litigation by Pollard Banknote's customers and may subject Pollard Banknote to investigation or other action by gaming regulatory authorities including suspension or revocation of Pollard Banknote's gaming licenses, or disciplinary action.

There is also a risk that Pollard Banknote will be subject to fraudulent activities by its employees. Any exposure to fraud and/or money laundering could subject Pollard Banknote to financial losses, business disruption and damage to Pollard Banknote's reputation. In addition, there is a risk that Pollard Banknote may be subject to investigation and sanctions by a regulator and/or to civil and criminal liability if we have failed to comply with Pollard Banknote's legal obligations relating to the reporting of money laundering or other offences.

Labour Disruptions

Approximately 170 of Pollard Banknote's full-time employees, all of whom are employed at the Ypsilanti, Michigan facility, are subject to a collective bargaining agreement which expires on August 31, 2025. While management believes that Pollard Banknote is generally on good terms with its employees, there are no assurances that a strike or other disruption by its unionized employees will not occur. A work disruption at this facility would likely have a material adverse effect on Pollard Banknote's business, financial condition, liquidity, and results of operations.

Operating Hazards

Pollard Banknote's revenues are dependent on the continued operation of its facilities. The operation of facilities involves some risks, including the failure or substandard performance of equipment, natural disasters, suspension of operations and new governmental statutes, regulations, guidelines, and policies. Pollard Banknote may also have exposure to future claims with respect to workplace exposure, workers' compensation, and other matters, arising from events both prior to and after any of its acquisitions. There can be no assurance as to the actual amount or the timing of these liabilities. The occurrence of material operational problems, including but not limited to the above events, may have a material adverse effect on Pollard Banknote's business, financial condition, liquidity, and results of operations.

Environment, Health and Safety Requirements and Related Considerations

Pollard Banknote's operations and real property are subject to a broad range of increasingly complex federal, provincial, state, and local laws and regulations as well as permits and other approvals governing environmental and workers' health and safety matters, including those relating to air emissions, water discharges, the storage, handling, use, discharge and disposal of hazardous materials and contaminants (including waste) (the "E, H & S Requirements"). Certain E, H & S Requirements may impose joint and several liability on lessees and owners or operators of facilities for the costs of investigation or remediation of contaminated properties regardless of fault or the legality of the original release or disposal.

Pollard Banknote's past and present operations that are subject to E, H & S Requirements include the use, storage, handling and contracting for recycling or disposal of hazardous and non-hazardous materials such as washes, inks, alcohol-based products, fountain solution, photographic fixer and developer solutions, machine and hydraulic oils and solvents. The use and management of such materials, the nature of the manufacturing and printing process, and the ownership and/or management or control of commercial properties carries an inherent liability risk that must be carefully managed. Pollard Banknote believes that the conduct of its operations is in material compliance with applicable E, H & S Requirements. Maintaining such compliance in the conduct of its operations has not had a material adverse effect on Pollard Banknote's financial condition or operating results.

As noted earlier, Pollard Banknote manufactures its products at ten facilities, four of which are owned by Pollard Banknote and six of which are leased. Four of the ten facilities (Barrhead, Alberta, Ypsilanti, Michigan, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario and the Winnipeg, Manitoba manufacturing facility site) were established by Pollard Banknote from green field sites.

Because of Pollard Banknote's historical and current operations, and its ownership, management and control of real property, it may be involved from time to time in administrative or judicial proceedings and inquiries relating to E, H & S Requirements. It may also be subject to regulatory orders or actions (including orders to remediate soil and groundwater contamination). Future inquiries, orders, actions, or proceedings of this nature could have material adverse effects on Pollard Banknote's business, financial condition, liquidity, and results of operations.

Changes to existing E, H & S Requirements and to the enforcement thereof or the adoption of new E, H & S Requirements in the future might, individually or in the aggregate, have a material adverse effect on Pollard Banknote's business, financial condition, liquidity, and results of operations. In addition, the discovery of unknown environmental or workers' health and safety issues at properties owned, managed, or controlled by Pollard Banknote, including the responsibility to remediate hazardous substances whether the contamination was caused by Pollard Banknote, could require expenditures that might materially affect Pollard Banknote's business, financial condition, liquidity and results of operations.

Social Responsibility

Pollard Banknote's reputation is critical to its on-going success and its businesses face increasing scrutiny from a constantly widening stakeholder base. Social risk management strategies can be extremely complex undertakings that must account for and balance numerous conditions, perspectives, and variables across its businesses. Pollard's reputation, and as an extension its businesses, could be damaged in cases where it is viewed as operating in ways that are not socially responsible.

As a proven partner to lotteries worldwide, Pollard Banknote is committed to helping its lottery and charitable gaming customers grow revenue for good causes in a socially responsible manner. Drawing on its extensive lottery experience and leadership in the industry, Pollard Banknote understands that supporting responsible gaming requires a complete ecosystem that involves education, knowledgeable and aware lottery teams, a communications plan, and tools to enable lotteries to promote a positive play experience, including by preventing underage gambling.

Responsible gaming policies and practices are inherent across all aspects of Pollard Banknote's business — from the careful design of instant scratch tickets to appeal strictly to adults, to the tools and safeguards embedded as core components of its digital solutions — ensuring that Pollard Banknote's products uphold the highest standards of quality, fairness, and safety. As a testament to its ongoing commitment to responsible gaming, Pollard Banknote holds an Associate Member World Lottery Association ("WLA") Responsible Gaming certification.

Insufficient Insurance Coverage

Pollard Banknote maintains property, general liability, cyber, errors and omissions, business interruption insurance and directors and officer's liability insurance on such terms as it deems appropriate. This may result in insurance coverage that, in the event of a substantial loss, would not be sufficient to pay the full current market value or current replacement cost of Pollard Banknote's lost investment. This insurance may not remain available to it at commercially reasonable rates. Future increases in insurance costs, coupled with the increase in deductibles, may result in higher operating costs and increased risk. Insurance requirements on customer contracts may be difficult to meet, impacting our ability to bid for or compete for future contracts. Not all risks faced by Pollard Banknote are insured.

Impairment charges in goodwill or other intangible assets

As a result of Pollard Banknote's acquisitions and investments in developing various digital products and systems, a portion of its total assets is comprised of goodwill and intangible assets. Pollard is required to perform impairment tests of its goodwill and intangible assets annually, or at any time when events occur that could affect the value of its goodwill or intangible assets. Pollard Banknote expects to engage in additional acquisitions and product and systems development, which may result in recognition of additional goodwill and intangible assets. A determination that impairment has occurred would require Pollard Banknote to write-off the impaired portion of its goodwill or intangible assets, resulting in a charge to its earnings. Such a write-off could adversely impact Pollard Banknote's financial condition and results of operations.

Interest Rates

Pollard Banknote has certain floating rate loans and may be negatively impacted by increases in interest rates, the effects of which would be to reduce the amount of cash available for operations.

COVID-19 pandemic

While Pollard Banknote's businesses are all operating as they were prior to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, future operational and financial performance may be affected if impacts of COVID-19 or other related pandemics return. The extent and direction of any future pandemic impact on our business is uncertain and difficult to predict but the diversified Pollard businesses demonstrated tremendous resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic.

RISKS RELATED TO THE COMMON SHARES

Dividends Are Not Guaranteed and Will Fluctuate with Business Performance

Although Pollard Banknote intends to continue a policy of paying dividends, there can be no assurance regarding the amounts of income to be generated by Pollard Banknote's business. The ability of Pollard Banknote to make dividends, and the actual amount declared, will be entirely dependent on the operations and assets of Pollard Banknote, and will be subject to various factors including Pollard Banknote's financial performance, its obligations under applicable credit facilities, fluctuations in its working capital, the sustainability of its margins and its capital expenditure requirements. The market value of the common shares may deteriorate if Pollard Banknote is unable to meet its expected dividends in the future, and that deterioration may be significant.

Leverage and Restrictive Covenants

The ability of Pollard Banknote to pay dividends or make other payments or advances will be subject to applicable laws and contractual restrictions contained in the instruments governing any indebtedness of those entities (including the credit facility). The degree to which Pollard Banknote is leveraged could have important consequences to the Shareholders including, Pollard Banknote's ability to obtain additional financing for working capital, capital expenditures or acquisitions may be limited; a significant portion of Pollard Banknote's cash flow from operations may be dedicated to the payment of the principal of, and interest on, its indebtedness, thereby reducing funds available for future operations; certain of Pollard Banknote's borrowings will be at variable rates of interests, which exposes Pollard Banknote to the risk of increased interest rates; and Pollard Banknote may be more vulnerable to economic downturns and be limited in its ability to withstand competitor pressures. These factors may increase the sensitivity of cash available for dividends to interest rate variations.

The credit facility contains numerous restrictive covenants that limit the discretion of Pollard Banknote's management with respect to certain business matters. These covenants place significant restrictions on, among other things, the ability of Pollard Banknote to create liens or other encumbrances, make certain other payments, investments, loans and guarantees and to sell or otherwise dispose of assets and merge or consolidate with another entity. In addition, the credit facility contains a number of financial covenants that require Pollard Banknote to meet certain financial ratios and financial condition tests. A failure to comply with the obligations in the credit facility could result in a default which, if not cured or waived, could result in a termination of dividends by Pollard Banknote and permit acceleration of the relevant indebtedness. If the indebtedness under the credit facility were to be accelerated, there can be no assurance that the assets of Pollard Banknote would be sufficient to repay in full that indebtedness. There can be no assurance that future borrowings or equity financing will be available to Pollard Banknote, or available on acceptable terms, in an amount sufficient to fund Pollard Banknote's needs (See **CREDIT FACILITY** under **INDEBTEDNESS**).

Control and Contractual Restrictions by the Control Group

The Control Group owns approximately 64.2% of the outstanding common shares of Pollard Banknote. This significant level of voting control enables the Control Group to determine all matters involving Shareholder approval.

As a result of its voting interest in Pollard Banknote, the Control Group exercises significant influence over corporate transactions submitted to the Board of Directors for approval. The Control Group has sufficient voting power to prevent a change in control of Pollard Banknote.

The interests of the Control Group may conflict with those of the Shareholders.

Future Sales of Shares by the Control Group

The Control Group owns approximately 64.2% of the outstanding common shares of Pollard Banknote. The market price of the common shares could fall if the Control Group were to sell substantial amounts of common shares in the public market. The perception among the public that these sales will occur could also produce such effect.

Additional Issuance of Common Shares May Result in Dilution

Pollard Banknote's articles of incorporation allow it to issue an unlimited number of common shares for such consideration and on such terms and conditions as shall be established by the Board of Directors of Pollard Banknote, in many cases, without the approval of the Pollard Banknote's Shareholders. Pollard Banknote issued 2,070,000 common shares on February 21, 2018, 233,211 common shares on January 14, 2021, and 933,800 common shares on March 2, 2021. Pollard Banknote may issue additional common shares in subsequent offerings (including through the sale of securities convertible into or exchangeable for common shares) and on the exercise of stock options or other securities exercisable for common shares. Pollard Banknote may also issue common shares to finance future acquisitions. Pollard Banknote cannot predict the size of future issuances of common shares or the effect that future issuances and sales of common shares will have on the market price of the common shares. Issuances of a substantial number of additional common shares, or the perception that such issuances could occur, may adversely affect prevailing market prices for the common shares. With any additional issuance of common shares, investors will suffer dilution to their voting power and Pollard Banknote may experience dilution in its earnings per share.

DIVIDENDS

Prior to May 10, 2010, Pollard Banknote Income Fund ("the Fund") had paid monthly distributions to Unitholders of \$0.0792 per Unit from the completion of the Initial Public Offering until May 2009, \$0.0475 monthly per Unit from May 2009 until January 2010, and \$0.01 monthly per Unit from February 2010 to April 2010 (other than its initial distribution of \$0.0689 per Unit in respect of the period from August 5, 2005, to August 31, 2005). After the Conversion, Pollard Banknote declared a \$0.02 quarterly dividend (for May and June 2010) payable on July 15, 2010, and subsequent quarterly dividends of \$0.03 for the quarters ending September 30, 2010, to December 31, 2018. On March 13, 2019, the Board of Directors raised the quarterly dividend to \$0.04 per common share beginning with the dividend payable on April 15, 2019, for the quarter ending March 31, 2019, and this dividend level remained in place to December 31, 2023. All quarterly dividends are paid on the 15th of the month following the end of each quarter.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

In the normal course of business activities, the Company is subject to various legal actions. Management contests these actions and believes that their resolution will not have a material adverse impact on the Company's financial condition.

REGISTRAR AND TRANSFER AGENT

The transfer agent and registrar for the common shares is Computershare Investor Services Inc. at its principal office in Toronto, Ontario.

MARKET FOR SECURITIES

The Shares are listed and posted for trading on the TSX under the symbol "PBL".

Trading Price and Volume

Month	Low (\$)	High (\$)	Trading Volume
January, 2023	17.49	19.04	218,139
February, 2023	17.77	19.73	222,831
March, 2023	17.99	25.00	652,408
April, 2023	22.84	24.82	162,000
May, 2023	22.63	25.70	212,947
June, 2023	23.35	26.70	197,231
July, 2023	23.66	27.95	164,781
August, 2023	24.82	27.15	92,676
September, 2023	24.55	27.59	150,449
October, 2023	23.57	28.00	161,548
November, 2023	26.63	32.48	263,348
December, 2023	30.94	33.50	126,152
January, 2024	32.50	35.90	271,387
February, 2024	32.74	35.75	157,531

INTEREST OF EXPERTS

KPMG LLP are the auditors who prepared the auditors' report on Pollard Banknote Limited's consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2023. As of March 5, 2024, KPMG LLP and its partners did not hold any registered or beneficial ownerships interests, directly or indirectly, in the securities of Pollard Banknote.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information relating to Pollard Banknote may be found on SEDAR+ at www.sedarplus.ca.

Additional financial information is provided in the consolidated financial statements and the management's discussion and analysis for Pollard Banknote for the year ended December 31, 2023, which may be found on SEDAR+ at www.sedarplus.ca.

Additional information concerning directors' and officers' remuneration and indebtedness, principal holders of securities, options to purchase securities and securities authorized for issuance under equity compensation plans, where applicable, is contained in the Management Proxy Circular of the Company which may be found at www.sedarplus.ca.

Copies of the 2023 Annual Information Form and any document, or the pertinent pages of any document incorporated by reference in this 2023 Annual Information Form, may be obtained upon request from the Chief Financial Officer of Pollard Banknote, 140 Otter Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, R3T 0M8. If the securities of Pollard Banknote are in the course of a distribution pursuant to a short form prospectus or a preliminary short form prospectus, copies of the foregoing documents are available free of charge. At all other times, a reasonable fee may be charged if the request for copies is made by a person who is not a shareholder of Pollard Banknote.

SCHEDULE A

CHARTER OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

OF

POLLARD BANKNOTE LIMITED

LAST APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CONTENT ON MAY 11, 2023

POLLARD BANKNOTE LIMITED
CHARTER OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

General

The Board of Directors (the “Board”) of Pollard Banknote Limited (the “Corporation”) has established an Audit Committee (the “Committee”) to take steps on its behalf as are necessary to assist the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities regarding:

- a) the integrity of the Corporation’s financial statements;
- b) the internal control systems of the Corporation;
- c) the external audit process;
- d) risk management;
- e) the administration, financial reporting and investment activities of pension plan(s);
- f) the Corporation’s compliance with legal and regulatory requirements;
- g) any additional duties set out in this Charter or otherwise delegated to the Committee by the Board, and;
- h) internal audit.

Members

The Board will in each year appoint a minimum of three (3) directors as members of the Committee. All members of the Committee shall be independent directors.

All members of the Committee shall be financially literate. While the Board shall determine the definition of and criteria for financial literacy, this shall, at a minimum, include the ability to read and understand a set of financial statements that present a breadth and level of complexity of accounting issues that are generally comparable to the breadth and complexity of the issues that can reasonably be expected to be raised by the Corporation’s financial statements.

The Co-Chief Executive Officers (“Co-CEOs”) of the Corporation and, to the extent the Chair of the Board is not otherwise a member of the Committee, the Chair, and all other directors who are not members of the Committee may be invited to attend all meetings of the Committee in an ex-officio capacity but shall not vote. The Co-CEOs shall not attend in-camera sessions.

Duties

The Committee shall have the following duties:

(a) Financial Reporting and Disclosure

1. **Audited Annual Financial Statements**: Review the audited financial statements, all related management discussion and analysis (“MD&A”), and earnings press releases for submission to the Board for approval.
2. **Quarterly Review**: Review the quarterly financial statements, the related MD&A, and earnings press releases for submission to the Board for approval.
3. **Significant Accounting Principles and Disclosure Issues**: Review with management and the external auditor, significant accounting principles and disclosure issues, including complex or unusual transactions, highly judgmental areas such as reserves or estimates, significant changes to accounting principles, and alternative treatments under Canadian GAAP for material transactions. This shall be undertaken with a view to understanding their impact on the financial statements, and to gaining reasonable assurance that the statements are accurate, complete, do not contain any misrepresentations, and present fairly the Corporation’s financial position and the results of its operations in accordance with Canadian GAAP.
4. **Compliance**: Confirm through discussions with management that Canadian GAAP and all applicable laws or regulations related to financial reporting and disclosure have been complied with.
5. **Legal Events**: Review any actual or anticipated litigation or other events, including tax assessments, which could have a material current or future effect on the Corporation’s financial statements, and the manner in which these have been disclosed in the financial statements.
6. **Off-Balance-Sheet Transactions**: Discuss with management the effect of any off-balance-sheet transactions, arrangements, obligations and other relationships with unconsolidated entities or other persons that may have a material current or future effect on the Corporation’s financial condition, changes in financial condition, results of operations, liquidity, capital expenditures, capital resources, or significant components of revenues and expenses.
7. **Other Disclosures**: Satisfy itself that adequate procedures are in place for the review of the Corporation’s public disclosure of financial information, other than the public disclosure of the information referred to in sections 1 and 2 above, and periodically assess the adequacy of those procedures.

(b) Oversight of Internal Controls

8. Review and Assessment: Review and assess the adequacy and effectiveness of the Corporation's system of internal control and management information systems through discussions with management and the external auditor.
9. Oversight: Oversee system of internal control, by:
 - monitoring and reviewing policies and procedures for internal accounting, financial control and management information;
 - consulting with the external auditor regarding the adequacy of the Corporation's internal controls;
 - reviewing with management its philosophy with respect to internal controls and, on a regular basis, all significant control-related findings together with management's response; and
 - obtaining from management adequate assurances that all statutory payments and withholdings have been made.
10. Fraud: Oversee investigations of alleged fraud and illegality relating to the Corporation's finances.
11. Complaints: Review with management that appropriate procedures exist for the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the Corporation regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters, the confidential, anonymous submission by employees of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters, and for the protection from retaliation of those who report such complaints in good faith (the "Whistle Blowing Procedures").

(c) External Audit

12. Appointment or Replacement: Recommend the appointment or replacement of the external auditor to the Board, who will consider the recommendation prior to submitting the nomination to the shareholders for their approval.
13. Compensation: Review with management, and make recommendations to the Board, regarding the compensation of the external auditor. In making a recommendation with respect to compensation, the Committee shall consider the number and nature of reports issued by the external auditor, the quality of internal controls, the size, complexity and financial condition of the Corporation, and the extent of other support provided by the Corporation to the external auditor.
14. Reporting Relationships: The external auditor will report directly to the Committee.

15. Performance: Review with management, on a regular basis, the terms of the external auditor's engagement, accountability, experience, qualifications and performance. Evaluate the performance of the external auditor.
16. Transition: Review management's plans for an orderly transition to a new external auditor, if required.
17. Audit Plan: Review the audit plan and scope of the external audit with the external auditor and management, and consider whether the nature and scope of the planned audit procedures can be relied upon to detect weaknesses in internal controls, frauds or other illegal acts.
18. Audit Plan Changes: Discuss with the external auditor any significant changes required in the approach or scope of their audit plan, management's handling of any proposed adjustments identified by the external auditor, and any actions or inactions by management that limited or restricted the scope of their work.
19. Review of Results: Review, in the absence of management, the results of the annual external audit, the audit report thereon and the auditor's review of the related MD&A, and discuss with the external auditor the quality (not just the acceptability) of accounting principles used, any alternative treatments of financial information that have been discussed with management, the ramifications of their use and the auditor's preferred treatment, and any other material communications with management.
20. Disagreements with Management: Resolve any disagreements between management and the external auditor regarding financial reporting.
21. Material Written Communications: Review all other material written communications between the external auditor and management, including the post-audit management letter containing the recommendations of the external auditor, management's response and, subsequently, follow up identified weaknesses.
22. Other Audit Matters: Review any other matters related to the external audit that are to be communicated to the Committee under generally accepted auditing standards.
23. Meeting with External Auditor: Meet with the external auditor in the absence of management at least quarterly to discuss and review specific issues as appropriate as well as any significant matters that the auditor may wish to bring to the Committee for its consideration.

24. Correspondence: Review with management and the external auditor any correspondence with regulators or governmental agencies, employee complaints or published reports that raise material issues regarding the Corporation's financial statements or accounting policies.
25. Independence: At least annually, and before the external auditor issues its report on the annual financial statements, review and confirm the independence of the external auditor through discussions with the auditor on their relationship with the Corporation, including details of all non-audit services provided. Consider the safeguards implemented by the external auditor to minimize any threats to their independence, and take action to eliminate all factors that might impair, or be perceived to impair, the independence of the external auditor. Consider the number of years the lead audit partner has been assigned to the Corporation, and consider whether it is appropriate to recommend to the Board a policy of rotating the lead audit partners more frequently than every seven years, as is required under the rules of the Canadian Public Accountability Board.
26. Non-Audit/Audit Services: Pre-approve any material non-audit services to be provided to the Corporation by the external auditor, with reference to compatibility of the service with the external auditor's independence.
27. Hiring Policies: Review and approve the hiring policies regarding partners, employees and former partners and employees of the present and former external auditor.
28. Quality Control: Utilizing the Canadian Public Accountability Board (CPAB) Audit Quality Initiative tools, conduct formal assessments of the external audit firm and their external audit quality. On an annual basis conduct an assessment of the external audit and on a once every five-year cycle conduct a comprehensive review of the external audit firm.

(d) Risk Management

29. Adequacy of Policies and Procedures: Review and assess the adequacy of the Corporation's risk management policies and procedures with regard to identification of the Corporation's principal risks annually. Review and assess the adequacy of the implementation of appropriate systems to mitigate and manage the risks, and report regularly to the Board.

(e) Retirement/Pension Plan

30. Oversight: Review and assess management's reports on retirement/pension plan oversight including:

- (a) reviewing Management controls and processes with respect to the administration of investment activities, financial reporting and funding of the plan(s);
- (b) confirming the following appointments for the management of the plan(s), subject to exceptions where the appointment authority is assigned to another party as per plan documents:
 - Trustee
 - Investment Manager;
- (c) reviewing the actuarial assumptions used for the valuation, including the rate of return on investments and the discount rate used to arrive at the funding requirements;
- (d) reviewing and approving the plan(s) investment objectives and guidelines annually and amend if necessary; and
- (e) reviewing the investment performance of the funds and the investment managers, and their compliance with the investment objectives and applicable legislation.

(f) Compliance

- 31. Filings with Regulatory Authorities: Review with management the Corporation's relationship with regulators, and the timelines and accuracy of Corporation filings with regulatory authorities.
- 32. Code of Business Conduct and Ethics: Review the Corporation's Code of Business Conduct and Ethics and confirm that adequate and effective systems are in place to enforce compliance. Ensure the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics is disclosed in the Corporation's annual report or information circular at least every three years or following a material amendment. Alternatively, confirm with management that an up-to-date version of the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics is disclosed on the Corporation's website.

(g) Related Party Transactions

- 33. Related Party Transactions: Review with management all related party transactions and the development of policies and procedures related to those transactions.

(h) Board Relationship and Reporting

- 34. Adequacy of Charter: Review and assess the adequacy of the Committee Charter annually and submit such amendments as the Committee proposes to the Governance and Nominating Committee.

35. Disclosure: Oversee appropriate disclosure of the Committee's Charter, and other information required to be disclosed by applicable legislation, in the Corporation's Annual Information Form and all other applicable documents.
36. Reporting: Report regularly to the Board on Committee activities, issues, and related recommendations.

(i) Internal Audit

37. Audit Charter: Approve the internal audit charter.
38. Oversight: Approve decisions regarding the appointment and removal of the internal auditor. Ensure there are no unjustified restrictions or limitations, and review and concur in the appointment, replacement, or dismissal of the internal auditor.
39. Audit Plan: Approve the annual audit plan and all major changes to the plan. Review the internal audit activity's performance relative to its plan.
40. Performance: At least once per year, review the performance of the internal auditor.
41. Effectiveness: Review the effectiveness of the internal audit function, including conformance with The Institute of Internal Auditors' the Definition of Internal Auditing, Code of Ethics and the International Standards for Professional Practice of Internal Auditing.
42. Private Meeting: On a regular basis, meet separately with the internal auditor to discuss any matters that the committee or internal audit believes should be discussed privately.

Chair

The Board will in each year appoint the Chair of the Committee. The Chair shall have accounting or related financial expertise. In the Chair's absence, or if the position is vacant, the Committee may select another member as Chair. The Chair will have the right to exercise all powers of the Committee between meetings but will attempt to involve all other members as appropriate prior to the exercise of any powers and will, in any event, advise all other members of any decisions made or powers exercised.

Meetings

The Committee shall meet at the request of its Chair, but in any event, it will meet at least four times a year. Notices calling meetings shall be sent to all Committee members, to the Co-CEOs and CFO of the Corporation, to the Chair of the Board and to all other directors.

Quorum

A majority of members of the Committee, present in person, by teleconferencing, or by videoconferencing will constitute a quorum.

Removal and Vacancy

A member may resign from the Committee and may be removed and replaced at any time by the Board and will automatically cease to be a member as soon as the member ceases to be a director. The Board will fill vacancies in the Committee by appointment from among the directors of the Board in accordance with Section 2 of this Charter. Subject to quorum requirements, if a vacancy exists on the Committee, the remaining members will exercise all its powers.

Experts and Advisors

The Committee may retain or appoint, at the Corporation's expense, such experts, and advisors as it deems necessary to carry out its duties, and to set and pay their compensation. The Committee shall provide notice to the Governance Committee of its actions in this regard.

Secretary and Minutes

The Secretary of the Corporation, or such other person as may be appointed by the Chair of the Committee, will act as Secretary of the Committee. The Minutes of the Committee will be in writing and duly entered into the books of the Corporation. The minutes of the Committee will be circulated to all members of the Board, with a copy to the Co-CEOs.