

SunOpta Inc.  
Form DEF 14A  
April 17, 2014

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**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20549**

**SCHEDULE 14A**

(Rule 14a-101)

**INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT**

**SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION**

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of  
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No. )

Filed by the Registrant  [x]  
Filed by a party other than the Registrant  [ ]

Check the appropriate box:

- [ ] Preliminary Proxy Statement  
 [ ] **Confidential, for use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**  
 [x] Definitive Proxy Statement  
 [ ] Definitive Additional Materials  
 [ ] Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

**SunOpta Inc.**

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if Other Than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- [x] No fee required  
 [ ] Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11

- |     |   |
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| (1) | Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:   |
| (2) | Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:  |
| (3) | Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined): |
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Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

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  - (4) Date Filed:
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**SUNOPTA INC.**

2838 Bovaird Drive West  
Brampton, Ontario L7A 0H2  
905-455-1990

Dear Fellow Shareholder:

April 17, 2014

It is our pleasure to cordially invite you to attend in person or by telephone the Annual and Special Meeting of the Shareholders of SunOpta Inc., which will be held on Thursday, May 29, 2014 at our corporate offices located at 2838 Bovaird Drive West, Brampton, Ontario, Canada at 4:00 P.M. Eastern Time.

At our Annual and Special Meeting, shareholders will vote on: the election of our directors; the appointment of our independent public registered accounting firm and auditor and authorization to fix their remuneration; the compensation of our named executive officers, on an advisory basis; and the frequency at which the Company should ask for an advisory vote regarding the compensation of our named executive officers. In addition to these formal items of business, we will review the major developments of the past year and share with you some of our plans for the future.

You will have the opportunity to ask questions and express your views to the senior management of SunOpta Inc. and certain members of the Board of Directors who will be in attendance.

Your vote is important to us. Whether or not you intend on attending the meeting, please read the enclosed proxy statement and submit your vote by completing and returning the enclosed proxy card, or if you are a beneficial owner of shares held in street name, you may vote by telephone or via the Internet.

Sincerely,

Jeremy N. Kendall  
Chairman

Steven R. Bromley  
Chief Executive Officer

**SunOpta Inc.**

2838 Bovaird Drive West  
Brampton, Ontario, Canada L7A 0H2  
T:(905) 455-1990 F:(905) 455-2529

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL AND SPECIAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS  
TO BE HELD MAY 29, 2014**

To the holders of the common shares of SunOpta Inc.:

Notice is hereby given that an Annual and Special Meeting of Shareholders of SunOpta Inc. (the *Company*) will be held on Thursday, May 29, 2014 at 4:00 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, at the Company's corporate offices located at 2838 Bovaird Drive West, Brampton, Ontario, Canada L7A 0H2 for the following purposes:

1. to elect the directors of the Company;
2. to appoint the Company's independent registered public accounting firm and auditor and to authorize the Audit Committee to fix their remuneration;
3. to consider an advisory vote regarding the compensation of the Company's named executive officers;
4. to consider an advisory vote regarding how frequently the Company should ask for an advisory vote regarding the compensation of the Company's named executive officers; and
5. to consider and take action upon such other matters as may properly come before the Meeting or any adjournment or adjournments thereof.

You may also access the Meeting live by teleconference or over the Internet, by following the instructions provided in the accompanying Proxy Statement in the section *Questions and Answers About the Meeting and Voting - How can I vote?*

This Notice is accompanied by a Proxy Statement, a proxy card, the Annual Report of the Company on Form 10-K which includes the Audited Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended December 28, 2013 and related Management's Discussion and Analysis and an envelope to return the proxy card.

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on March 31, 2014 as the record date for the determination of the shareholders of the Company entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the Meeting. All such shareholders are cordially invited to attend the Meeting.

**Your vote is important. Whether or not you intend to attend the meeting, please read the enclosed Proxy Statement and submit your vote by completing and returning the enclosed proxy card or if you are a beneficial owner of shares held in street name, you may vote by telephone or via the Internet.**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS FOR THE  
ANNUAL AND SPECIAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS TO BE HELD ON MAY 29, 2014.**

This Proxy Statement, the accompanying proxy card and our Annual Report to Shareholders for the fiscal year ended December 28, 2013 are first being made available on or about April 17, 2014 to shareholders of the Company entitled to receive notice of and vote at the Meeting as of the record date, and such materials are also available on our website at [www.sunopta.com](http://www.sunopta.com), under the *Investor Relations* link.

**In order to be represented by proxy at the Annual and Special Meeting, you must complete and submit the enclosed Form of Proxy or another appropriate form of proxy.**



**SUNOPTA INC.**

**PROXY STATEMENT**

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## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE MEETING AND VOTING

### **What is the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials that I received instead of complete proxy materials?**

The Securities and Exchange Commission (the *SEC*) rules allow companies to furnish proxy materials, including this proxy statement and our Annual Report to Shareholders, by providing access to these documents on the Internet instead of mailing printed copies of our proxy materials to shareholders. Most shareholders who reside in the United States have received a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials (the *Notice*), which provides instructions for accessing proxy materials on a website or for requesting electronic or printed copies of the proxy materials.

If you want a paper copy of the proxy materials for the Annual and Special Meeting and for all future meetings, please follow the Notice instructions for requesting such materials. The chosen electronic delivery option lowers costs and reduces environmental impacts of printing and distributing the materials.

### **What is the date, time and place of the Annual and Special Meeting?**

The Annual and Special Meeting of Shareholders (the *Meeting*) of SunOpta Inc. (sometimes referred to as *we*, *us*, *our*, *the Company* or *SunOpta*) will be held on Thursday, May 29, 2014 at 4:00 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time at our corporate offices located at 2838 Bovaird Drive West, Brampton, Ontario, Canada L7A 0H2.

You may also access the Meeting live by teleconference or over the Internet. To access the Meeting by teleconference, dial toll free at 1-877-312-9198 or international at 1-631-291-4622. To access the Meeting over the Internet, go to the Company's website at [www.sunopta.com](http://www.sunopta.com). You should plan to access the Company's website at least 15 minutes prior to the Meeting time in order to register, download and install any necessary audio software.

### **Why am I receiving proxy materials?**

We sent you the Notice or this proxy statement relating to the Meeting (this *Proxy Statement*) and the accompanying proxy card because our Board of Directors (sometimes referred to as the *Board*) is soliciting your proxy to vote at the Meeting and at any adjournment or postponement thereof. You are invited to attend the Meeting and we request that you vote on the proposals described in this Proxy Statement. However, you do not need to attend the Meeting to vote your shares. Instead, you may simply complete, sign and return the enclosed proxy card, or vote by telephone or Internet as described below under *How can I vote?*

### **What are the items of business scheduled for the Meeting?**

There are four matters scheduled for a vote:

- the election of the director nominees specified in this Proxy Statement;
- the appointment of Deloitte LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm and auditor and authorization for the Audit Committee to fix their remuneration;
- an advisory vote regarding the compensation of the Company's named executive officers (*NEOs*); and
- an advisory vote regarding how frequently the Company should ask for an advisory vote regarding the compensation of the Company's named executive officers.

Shareholders will also consider and take action upon such other matters as may properly come before the Meeting or any adjournment thereof. The Board is not currently aware of any other matters to be presented at the Meeting.



**What is included in the proxy materials?**

The proxy materials include:

this Proxy Statement for the Meeting;  
the accompanying proxy card; and  
our Annual Report to Shareholders on Form 10-K for the year ended December 28, 2013, which includes the Audited Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended December 28, 2013 and the related Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations. The Annual Report is not incorporated by reference into this Proxy Statement and is not deemed to be a part hereof.

**What is a proxy?**

It is your legal designation of another person to vote the shares you own. The other person is called a proxy. If you designate someone as your proxy in a written document, that document is also called a proxy or a proxy card.

The enclosed proxy card contemplates that Robert McKeracher, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, and John Ruelle, Chief Administrative Officer and Senior Vice President of Corporate Development and Secretary, each be appointed to act as your proxy. However, you may choose another person to act as your proxy. If you wish to appoint as your proxy a person other than the individuals named on the proxy card to attend the Meeting and vote for you, you may do so by striking out the names on the proxy card and inserting the name of your proxy in the blank space provided in the proxy card, or you may complete another proper proxy card. Your appointed proxy need not be a shareholder of the Company.

**Who is soliciting my proxy?**

The proxy accompanying this Proxy Statement is solicited by Management and the Board of Directors of the Company. Proxies may be solicited by officers, directors and regular employees of the Company. The Company does not expect to pay any additional compensation for the solicitation of proxies. These solicitations may be made personally or by mail, facsimile, telephone, messenger, or e-mail. The Company will bear all proxy solicitation costs.

**Who can vote at the Meeting?**

Only shareholders of record at the close of business on March 31, 2014, or the record date, will be entitled to vote at the Meeting. On the record date, there were 66,666,420 common shares issued and outstanding.

In the event a shareholder of record transfers his, her or its common shares after the close of business on the record date, the transferee of those shares will be entitled to vote the transferred shares at the Meeting provided that he, she or it produces properly endorsed share certificates representing the transferred shares to the Company's Secretary or transfer agent or otherwise establishes his, her or its ownership of the transferred shares at least 10 days prior to the Meeting.

**What is the difference between a shareholder of record and a shareholder who holds shares in street name?**

Most shareholders hold their shares through a broker, bank or other nominee rather than directly in their own name. As summarized below, there are important distinctions between shares held of record and those owned in street name.

*Shareholder of Record    Shares Registered in Your Name*

If on March 31, 2014 your shares were registered directly in your name with our transfer agent, you are considered, with respect to those shares, the shareholder of record. As the shareholder of record, you have the right to grant your voting proxy directly to the individuals named on the proxy card, or to vote in person at the Meeting. Whether or not

you plan to attend the Meeting, we urge you to fill out and return the enclosed proxy card to ensure your vote is counted.

*Beneficial Owner Shares Registered in the Name of Broker, Bank or Nominee*

If your shares are held in a stock brokerage account or by a bank or other nominee, you are considered the beneficial owner of shares held in street name, and the proxy materials are being forwarded to you by your broker or nominee, which is considered, with respect to those shares, the shareholder of record. As the beneficial owner, you have the right to direct your broker how to vote and are also invited to attend the Meeting. However, since you are not the shareholder of record, you may not vote these shares in person at the Meeting unless you obtain a signed proxy from the shareholder of record giving you the right to vote the shares. Your broker or nominee has provided voting instructions for you to use in directing the broker or nominee how to vote your shares. If you fail to provide sufficient instructions to your broker or nominee, that shareholder of record may be prohibited from voting your shares. See *What if I do not specify how my shares are to be voted?* and *What are broker non-votes?* below.

**How can I vote?**

You may vote your shares by one of the following methods:

**Vote in Person.** If you are the shareholder of record with respect to your shares, you may vote the shares in person at the Meeting. If you choose to vote in person at the Meeting, please bring your proxy card or personal identification. Shares held in street name may be voted in person by you only if you obtain a legal proxy from the shareholder of record giving you the right to vote your beneficially owned shares.

**Vote by Telephone.** To vote by telephone, call toll free 1-800-690-6903 or 1-800-454-8683. You will be prompted to provide your 12 digit number located on the Notice or your proxy card. *Please note that telephone voting should not be used if you plan to attend the Meeting and vote in person or designate a proxy to vote on your behalf at the Meeting.*

**Vote by Facsimile (Canadian shareholders only).** You may also submit your proxy card via facsimile by sending it to 1-866-623-5305.

**Vote by Internet.** To vote via the Internet, go to [www.proxyvote.com](http://www.proxyvote.com) and follow the simple instructions. You will be required to provide your 12 digit control number located on the Notice or your form of proxy.

**Vote by Mail.** If you received a printed set of proxy materials, you may complete, sign, date and mail the separate proxy card or other proper form of proxy in the envelope provided with this Proxy Statement. *If you vote by telephone, Internet or facsimile, please do not mail your proxy card.*

If you vote by telephone, facsimile or Internet, your vote must be cast no later than 4:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on Tuesday, May 27, 2014 (or 4:00 P.M. on the day before, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, any adjournment or postponement of the Meeting). If you vote by proxy, your completed proxy card must be received by Broadridge at 51 Mercedes Way, Edgewood, New York USA 11717, prior to 4:00 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time on Tuesday, May 27, 2014 (or 4:00 P.M. on the day before, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, any adjournment or postponement of the Meeting at which the proxy is to be used).

If your shares are held in street name by a broker, bank or other nominee, please refer to the instructions provided by that broker, bank or nominee regarding how to vote or how to revoke your voting instructions.

If you return a signed proxy card or use the telephone or Internet to vote before the Meeting, the person named as proxies in the proxy card will vote your common shares as you direct.

*Even if you currently plan to attend the Meeting, we recommend that you also submit your proxy as described above so that your vote will be counted if you later decide not to attend the Meeting. Submitting your proxy via Internet,*

*telephone or mail does not affect your right to vote in person at the Meeting.*

### **How many votes are needed to approve each proposal?**

The number of votes required to approve each of the proposals scheduled to be presented at the Meeting is as follows:

*Proposal 1: Election of Directors.* Directors are elected by a plurality of the votes cast, meaning the nominees who receive the largest number of votes will be elected as directors, up to the maximum number of directors to be elected. However, in accordance with our by-laws, any director who receives more withhold than for votes will be deemed to have tendered his or her resignation as a director.

*Proposal 2: Appointment of Deloitte LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm and auditors and authorization of the Audit Committee to fix their remuneration.* This proposal will be approved if the votes cast in favor of the proposal constitute a majority of the total votes cast on the proposal.

*Proposal 3: Advisory vote regarding the compensation of the Company's NEOs.* This proposal will be approved if the votes cast in favor of the proposal constitute a majority of the total votes cast on the proposal. Although the outcome of this vote is not binding on us, we will consider the outcome of this vote when developing our compensation policies and practices, and when making compensation decisions in the future.

*Proposal 4: Advisory vote regarding how frequently the Company should ask for an advisory vote regarding the compensation of the Company's NEOs.* The frequency of the advisory vote on executive compensation receiving the highest number of votes cast by the shareholders every one year, two years or three years will be the frequency that has been selected by shareholders. Although the outcome of this vote is not binding on us, we intend to choose a frequency for the advisory vote on executive compensation that is consistent with the frequency selected by the shareholders.

### **What if I do not specify how my shares are to be voted?**

*Shareholders of Record.* If you are a shareholder of record and you submit a proxy card, but you do not provide voting instructions, your shares will be voted as follows:

**FOR** each of the ten nominees named in this Proxy Statement for election to the Company's Board of Directors;

**FOR** the appointment of Deloitte LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm and auditor and authorization of the Audit Committee to fix their remuneration; and

**FOR** the approval of an advisory resolution regarding the compensation of the Company's NEOs.

In the event you do not provide voting instructions for Proposal Four related to the advisory vote on the frequency of the advisory vote regarding the compensation of the Company's NEOs, you will be deemed to have abstained from voting on this proposal.

The Board does not expect that any additional matters will be brought before the Meeting. The persons appointed as proxies will vote in their discretion on any other matters that may properly come before the Meeting or any postponement or adjournment thereof, including any vote to postpone or adjourn the Meeting. Moreover, if for any reason any of our nominees is not available as a candidate for director, the persons named as proxies will vote for such other candidate or candidates as may be nominated by the Board.

*Beneficial Owners.* If you are a beneficial owner and you do not provide the broker, bank or other nominee that holds your shares with voting instructions, the broker or other nominee will determine if it has the discretionary authority to vote on the particular matter. Therefore, if you do not provide voting instructions to your broker, your broker may only vote your shares on Proposal Two. See "What are broker non-votes?" below.



### **What are broker non-votes ?**

A broker non-vote occurs when a broker, bank or other nominee holding shares for a beneficial owner does not vote on a particular proposal because the nominee does not have authority to vote on that particular proposal without receiving voting instructions from the beneficial owner. *Under NASDAQ rules, brokers that do not receive voting instructions from the beneficial owner have the discretion to vote on certain routine matters, but do not have the discretion to vote on the election of directors to the Board, executive compensation matters or any other significant matter as determined by the SEC.* We believe that Proposal Two relating to the appointment of Deloitte LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm is considered a matter on which brokers may vote in their discretion on behalf of clients who have not furnished voting instructions. However, under current NASDAQ rules, we believe that brokers who have not received voting instructions from their clients will not be authorized to vote in their discretion on Proposals One, Three or Four. Accordingly, for beneficial owners of shares, if you do not give your broker specific instructions, your shares may not be voted on such proposals.

### **How are abstentions and broker non-votes counted?**

Abstentions and broker non-votes are counted for purposes of determining whether a quorum exists at the Meeting. The shares represented by proxies marked `abstain` will not be treated as affirmative or opposing votes. Broker non-votes will not affect the outcome of the vote on any of the proposals to be voted upon at the Meeting because the outcome of each vote depends on the number of *votes cast* rather than the number of shares *entitled to vote*.

### **How many votes do I have?**

On each matter to be voted upon, you have one vote for each common share you owned as of March 31, 2014.

### **Who counts the votes?**

The Company has nominated Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. to count and tabulate the votes. This is done independently of the Company to preserve the confidentiality of individual shareholder votes. Proxies are referred to the Company only in cases where a shareholder clearly intends to communicate with management, the validity of the proxy is in question or where it is necessary to do so to meet the requirements of applicable law.

### **Is my vote confidential?**

The Company's transfer agent preserves the confidentiality of individual shareholder votes, except where a shareholder clearly intends to communicate his or her individual position to the management of the Company or as necessary in order to comply with legal requirements.

### **If I need to contact the Company's transfer agents, how do I reach them?**

You can contact the transfer agent in Canada by mail at: Equity Financial Trust Company, 200 University Avenue, Suite 400, Toronto, Ontario Canada M5H 4H1, or via telephone at (416) 361-0930. You can contact the transfer agent in the USA by mail at: American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC, 6201 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Brooklyn, NY USA 11219, or via telephone at (718) 921-8293.

### **What does it mean if I receive more than one copy of the Notice or proxy card?**

If you receive more than one copy of the Notice or more than one proxy card, your shares are registered in more than one name or are registered in different accounts. Please complete, sign and return each proxy card or follow the instructions on each copy of the Notice to ensure that all of your shares are voted.





**How do I revoke or change my vote?**

If you are a shareholder of record, you may revoke your proxy at any time before it is voted by one of the following methods:

Voting again by telephone or by Internet prior to *4:00 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time on May 27, 2014*, as set forth above under *How can I vote?* ;

Requesting, completing and mailing or delivering by facsimile a proper proxy card, as set forth above under *How can I vote?* ;

Sending written notice of revocation, signed by you (or your duly authorized attorney), to the Company at the corporate office of the Company at 2838 Bovaird Drive West, Brampton, Ontario, Canada L7A 0H2, at any time prior to the last business day preceding the date of the Meeting; or

Attending the Meeting (or any adjournment thereof) and delivering written notice of revocation prior to any vote to the Chairman of the Meeting.

If you hold your shares in street name, you may revoke your proxy by following the instructions provided by your broker, bank or other nominee.

**What is the quorum requirement?**

Under NASDAQ listing rules and the Company's by-laws, the presence at the Meeting, in person or represented by proxy, of at least two shareholders holding not less than one-third (33 1/3%) of the outstanding common shares shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of transacting business at the Meeting. As of the record date, there were 66,666,420 common shares outstanding. Therefore, holders of at least 22,222,140 common shares must be present, in person or represented by proxy, at the Meeting in order to establish a quorum. The Company encourages all of its shareholders of record as of March 31, 2014 to participate in the Meeting.

**How can I find out the results of the voting at the Meeting?**

Preliminary voting results will be announced at the Meeting. We will publish final results in a Current Report on Form 8-K that we expect to file with the SEC and with applicable Canadian securities regulatory authorities within four business days of the Meeting. After the Form 8-K is filed, you may obtain a copy by visiting our website, by viewing our public filings in the U.S. at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov) or in Canada at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com), by contacting our Investor Relations Officer by calling (905) 455-2528, ext. 103, by writing to Investor Relations, SunOpta Inc., 2838 Bovaird Drive West, Brampton, Ontario L7A 0H2 or by sending an email to [susan.wiekenkamp@sunopta.com](mailto:susan.wiekenkamp@sunopta.com).

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**SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT**

The following presents information regarding beneficial ownership of our common shares as of March 31, 2014 by:

- each person who we know owns beneficially more than 5% of our common shares;
- each of our directors and nominees;
- each of our NEOs; and
- all of our directors and executive officers as a group.

Under the regulations of the SEC, shares are generally deemed to be beneficially owned by a person if the person directly or indirectly has or shares voting power or investment power (including the power to dispose) over the shares, whether or not the person has any pecuniary interest in the shares, or if the person has the right to acquire voting power or investment power of the shares within 60 days, including through the exercise of any option, warrant or right. In accordance with the regulations of the SEC, in computing the number of common shares beneficially owned by a person and the percentage ownership of such person, we deemed to be outstanding all common shares subject to options or other rights held by the person that are currently exercisable or exercisable within 60 days of March 31, 2014. We did not deem such shares outstanding, however, for the purpose of computing the percentage ownership of any other person.

Based solely on our review of statements filed with the SEC pursuant to Section 13(d) and 13(g) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the *Exchange Act*) the Company is not aware of any other person or group that beneficially owns more than 5% of the Company's common shares, except as noted below.

<b>Name and Address of Beneficial Owner</b>	<b>Title of Class</b>	<b>Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership</b>	<b>Percent of Class (1)</b>
West Face Capital Inc. 2 Bloor Street East, Suite 3000 Toronto, ON M4W 1A8	Common	6,000,000 (2)	9.00%
FMR, LLC 245 Summer Street Boston, MA 02210	Common	5,134,361 (3)	7.70%
Connor, Clark & Lunn Investment Management Ltd. 2200-1111 West Georgia Street Vancouver, BC V6E 4M3	Common	4,920,345 (4)	7.38%

- (1) Percentage of class is calculated based on total common shares outstanding at March 31, 2014 of 66,666,420. This total does not include warrants or options of the Company.
- (2) According to a Schedule 13D/A filed jointly by West Face Capital Inc. ( *West Face* ) and Gregory A. Boland on August 15, 2013, West Face and Mr. Boland had shared voting power and shared dispositive power over 6,600,000 shares of common stock of the Company. West Face serves as investment manager to West Face Long Term Opportunities Global Master L.P. ( *WFGM* ). Mr. Boland is President and Chief Executive Officer of West Face. In such capacities, West Face and Mr. Boland may be deemed to have voting and dispositive power over the shares held for the account of WFGM. West Face advised the Company that it sold 600,000 shares of common stock during March 2014, which reduced its holdings to 6,000,000 shares.

- (3) According to a Schedule 13G/A filed by FMR LLC on February 14, 2014, Fidelity Management & Research Company ( *Fidelity* ), a wholly-owned subsidiary of FMR LLC and an investment adviser registered under Section 203 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, is the beneficial owner of 2,066,900 shares of common stock outstanding of the Company as a result of acting as investment adviser to various investment companies registered under Section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940. Edward C. Johnson 3d and FMR LLC, through its control of Fidelity, and the funds each has sole power to dispose of the 2,066,900 shares owned by the Funds. Members of the family of Edward C. Johnson 3d, Chairman of FMR LLC, are the predominant owners, directly or through trusts, of Series B voting common shares of FMR LLC, representing 49% of the voting power of FMR LLC. The Johnson family group and all other Series B shareholders have entered into a shareholders' voting agreement under which all Series B voting common shares will be voted in accordance with the majority vote of Series B voting common shares. Accordingly, through their ownership of voting common shares and the execution of the shareholders' voting agreement, members of the Johnson family may be deemed, under the Investment Company Act of 1940, to form a controlling group with respect to FMR LLC. Neither FMR LLC nor Edward C. Johnson 3d, Chairman of FMR LLC, has the sole power to vote or direct the voting of the shares owned directly by the Fidelity Funds, which power resides with the Funds' Boards of Trustees. Fidelity carries out the voting of the shares under written guidelines established by the Funds' Boards of Trustees. Pyramis Global Advisors, LLC ( *PGALLC* ), an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of FMR LLC and an investment adviser registered under Section 203 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, is the beneficial owner of 772,100 shares of the outstanding common stock of the Company as a result of its serving as investment adviser to institutional accounts, non-U.S. mutual funds, or investment companies registered under Section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 owning such shares. Edward C. Johnson 3d and FMR LLC, through its control of PGALLC, each has sole dispositive power over 772,100 shares and sole power to vote or to direct the voting of 772,100 shares of common stock owned by the institutional accounts or funds advised by PGALLC as reported above. Pyramis Global Advisors Trust Company ( *PGATC* ), an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of FMR LLC and a bank as defined in Section 3(a)(6) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, is the beneficial owner of 2,295,361 shares of the outstanding common stock of the Company as a result of its serving as investment manager of institutional accounts owning such shares. Edward C. Johnson 3d and FMR LLC, through its control of PGATC, each has sole dispositive power over 2,295,361 shares and sole power to vote or to direct the voting of 2,295,361 shares of common stock owned by the institutional accounts managed by PGATC as reported above.
- (4) According to a Schedule 13G filed by Connor, Clark & Lunn Investment Management Ltd. on February 14, 2014, it has the sole power to vote 4,551,156 shares of the outstanding common stock of the Company and sole power to dispose of 4,920,345 shares of the outstanding common stock of the Company.

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Name and Address of Beneficial Owner (1)(6)	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership (2)		Total Number of Shares (assuming exercise of Vested option)	Percent of Class (4)
	Common Shares	Vested Options (3)		
Jay Amato Director	-	58,000	58,000	*
Steven Bromley Director and Chief Executive Officer	206,504	338,000	544,504	*
Michael Detlefsen Director	11,000	-	11,000	*
Peter Fraser Director	-	8,000	8,000	*
Douglas Greene Director	123,000	58,000	181,000	*
Victor Hepburn Director	20,000	58,000	78,000	*
Katrina Houde Director	29,000	58,000	87,000	*
Jeremy Kendall Chairman of the Board	466,629	69,200	535,829	*
Alan Murray Director and Vice Chair	-	30,000	30,000	*
Allan Routh Director , Consultant and former Senior Vice President, Business Development(5)	334,329	115,000	449,329	*
Robert McKeracher Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	31,449	74,600	106,049	*
Hendrik Jacobs President and Chief Operating Officer	18,211	18,000	36,211	*
John Ruelle Chief Administrative Officer and Senior Vice President Corporate Development and Secretary	14,759	75,000	89,759	*
<b>All directors and executive officers as a group (13)</b>	1,254,881	959,800	2,214,681	3.32%

- (1) The address of each director and executive officer is 2838 Bovaird Drive West, Brampton, Ontario, Canada L7A 0H2.
- (2) Unless otherwise indicated, the persons in this table have sole voting and dispositive power with respect to the common shares shown as beneficially owned by them. The information as to shares beneficially owned or over which control or direction is exercised, directly or indirectly, not being within the knowledge of the Company, has been furnished by the respective directors and executive officers individually.
- (3) The number of vested options includes options that will become exercisable within 60 days of March 31, 2014. The exercise price of vested options range from \$1.64 to \$7.36 per share.

- (4) Percentage of class is calculated based on 66,666,420 common shares outstanding at March 31, 2014 (\*indicates less than 1% of the outstanding common shares).
- (5) Mr. Routh retired from employment with the Company on January 31, 2014. He continues to serve as a director and consultant to the Company.
- (6) The Company does not currently have a formal policy to prohibit officers and directors from hedging against declines in the market value of their equity based compensation or equity securities through the use of financial instruments. However, this practice is discouraged and the Company is not aware of any NEOs or directors engaging in any hedging transactions.

**Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance**

Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act requires our directors and executive officers, among others, to file with the SEC an initial report of ownership of our common shares on Form 3 and reports of changes in ownership on Form 4 or Form 5. Persons subject to Section 16 are required by SEC regulations to furnish us with copies of all Section 16 forms that they file related to SunOpta stock transactions. Under SEC rules, certain forms of indirect ownership and ownership of our common shares by certain family members are covered by these reporting requirements. As a matter of practice, our administrative staff assists our directors and executive officers in preparing initial ownership reports and reporting ownership changes and typically files these reports on their behalf.

Based solely on a review of the copies of Forms 4 and 5 furnished to us, or written representations from reporting persons that all reportable transactions were reported, we believe that during the fiscal year ended December 28, 2013 all of our executive officers, directors and greater than 10% holders, if any, filed the reports required to be filed under Section 16(a) on a timely basis under Section 16(a).

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## PROPOSAL ONE - ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

### Nominees

The term of office of each director expires at the close of the next Annual Meeting of Shareholders unless he or she resigns or his or her office becomes vacant as a result of death, removal or other cause.

It is proposed that the following ten directors be elected at the Meeting. Each of the nominees named below has consented to be named herein and to serve as a director if elected. Management has no reason to believe that any of the nominees will not be a candidate or, if elected, will be unable to serve as a director. There are no family relationships among the Company's directors, executive officers or persons nominated or chosen to become directors.

Board of Director Nominees in Alphabetical Order:

Jay Amato  
Steven Bromley  
Michael Detlefsen  
Peter Fraser  
Douglas Greene  
Victor Hepburn  
Katrina Houde  
Jeremy Kendall  
Alan Murray  
Allan Routh

### Recommendation of the Board of Directors; Vote Required

**The Board of Directors recommends that shareholders vote FOR the election of each of the ten director nominees named above.** The ten nominees who receive the greatest number of votes cast at the Meeting will be elected as directors. In accordance with our by-laws, any director who receives more withhold than for votes will be deemed to have tendered his or her resignation as a director. Abstentions and broker non-votes are counted only for purposes of determining whether a quorum exists at the Meeting, but will have no effect on the results of the vote. Brokers and other nominees will not have discretionary authority to vote your shares if you hold your shares in street name and do not provide instructions as to how your shares should be voted on this proposal. If any of the nominees for director at the Meeting becomes unavailable for election for any reason, the proxies on this proposal will have discretionary authority to vote pursuant to the proxy for a substitute or substitutes.

### Information About the Board Nominees

The biographies that follow provide certain information as of March 31, 2014 with respect to the Company's current directors, each of whom has been nominated and is standing for election this year. The information presented below for each director includes the specific experience, qualifications, attributes and skills that led us to the conclusion that such director should be nominated to serve on the Board in light of our business.

In addition to the factual information provided for each of the nominees, the Board and the Corporate Governance Committee (as Nominating Committee) also believe that each of the nominees has attributes that are important to an effective board, including: sound judgment and analytical skills; integrity and demonstrated high ethical standards; the ability to engage management and one another in a constructive and collaborative manner; diversity of background and experience; and the continued commitment to devote his or her time, energy and skills to ensure the growth and prosperity of the Company.

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<p><b>Jay Amato</b></p> <p>Age: 54</p> <p>Location: New York, USA</p> <p>Director Since: Nov 2008</p> <p><b>Independent Director</b></p>	<p>Jay Amato was appointed a Director of the Company and Chair of the Corporate Governance Committee in November 2008.</p> <p>Mr. Amato was the founder and Chief Executive Officer of PersonalScreen Media LLC in New York, a company which developed new methods of monetizing video content on the web. Prior to that he served as President and Chief Executive Officer of NASDAQ-traded Viewpoint Corporation, a premier interactive media company. He was also President and Chief Operating Officer of Vanstar Corporation, a \$2.8 billion public company with 7,000 employees that provided global computer outsourcing services. Adding to a considerable list of accolades and accomplishments, Mr. Amato was nominated for an Academy of Television Arts &amp; Sciences Emmy Award in 2008. Mr. Amato has also served on several non-profit Boards.</p> <p><i>Director Qualifications.</i> Mr. Amato brings extensive experience in building, managing and operating leading edge technology and media based companies in both the private sector and public markets to the SunOpta Board of Directors. He understands the role of new and emerging technologies and business practices and how to apply these for strategic benefit. When combined with his keen understanding of emerging governance practices, Mr. Amato brings a unique perspective to the Board of Directors.</p>		
<b>Other Public Company Directorships in the Past Five Years</b>			
<b>SEC Reporting Companies</b>		<b>Canadian Listed Reporting Companies</b>	
None		None	
<b>Board / Committee Membership</b>		<b>Meeting Attendance</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Member of Board		7 of 7	100%
Chair of Corporate Governance Committee		4 of 4	100%
Combined Total		11 of 11	100%
<b>Equity Ownership</b>			
<b>Common Shares</b>	<b>Vested Options (1)</b>	<b>Total Common Shares and Vested Options</b>	<b>Total Market Value of Common Shares and Vested Options (2)</b>
-	58,000	58,000	\$684,980
<b>Value of Total Compensation Received in Fiscal Year 2013</b>			
<b>Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (3)</b>	<b>Options Awarded (#)</b>	<b>Option Awards (4)</b>	<b>Total</b>
\$67,699	20,000	\$87,800	\$155,499

- (1) The number of vested options includes options that will become exercisable within 60 days of March 31, 2014.
- (2) The market value has been determined based on \$11.81 being the closing price of the Company's common shares on NASDAQ as at March 31, 2014.
- (3) For breakdown of Director Compensation, see chart on page 31.
- (4) Consists of the aggregate grant date fair value of stock options granted under our 2013 Stock Incentive Plan and our Amended and Restated 2002 Stock Option Plan (collectively, the "Stock Incentive Plans"), calculated in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718. Please see Note 12, "Capital Stock" to SunOpta Inc.'s consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for a detailed description of the assumptions used to calculate the fair value of options.

<p><b><u>Steven Bromley</u></b></p> <p>Age: 54</p> <p>Location: Ontario, Canada</p> <p>Director Since: Jan 2007</p> <p><b>Non-Independent</b></p>	<p>Steve Bromley serves as Chief Executive Officer and a Director of SunOpta. Mr. Bromley joined SunOpta in June 2001, was appointed President in January 2005 and subsequently President and Chief Executive Officer in February 2007. Mr. Bromley was appointed to the Board of Directors of SunOpta on January 26, 2007.</p> <p>From June 2001 through September 2003 Mr. Bromley served as the Company's Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. Mr. Bromley was subsequently appointed as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer and held this role until his appointment as President and Chief Operating Officer. In August, 2012, Mr. Bromley relinquished the Presidency to Hendrik Jacobs, who joined SunOpta as President and Chief Operating Officer.</p> <p>Prior to joining the Company, Mr. Bromley spent over 13 years in the Canadian dairy industry in a wide range of financial and operational roles with both Natrel Inc. and Ault Foods Limited. From 1997 to 1999 he served on the Board of Directors of Natrel Inc. Mr. Bromley is a Director of most of the Company's subsidiaries, and since July 2004 has served on the Board of Directors of Opta Minerals Inc. (TSX: OPM) which is approximately 66.0% owned by SunOpta.</p> <p><i>Director Qualifications.</i> Mr. Bromley has served in a variety of executive positions within SunOpta since 2001 and has a deep understanding of the Company's operations, products, markets, strategies, operating culture and growth opportunities. Mr. Bromley brings this deep knowledge of the Company and the industry in hand with extensive financial and food industry experience to the Board of Directors.</p>
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#### Other Public Company Directorships in the Past Five Years

SEC Reporting Companies	Canadian Listed Reporting Companies	
None	Opta Minerals Inc. (1)	
Board / Committee Membership	Meeting Attendance	Percentage
Member of Board	7 of 7	100%

#### Equity Ownership

Common Shares	Vested Options (2)	Total Common Shares and Vested Options	Total Market Value of Common Shares and Vested Options (3)
206,504	338,000	544,504	\$6,430,592

#### Value of Total Compensation Received in Fiscal Year 2013

For details concerning such compensation, see "Executive Compensation-Compensation of Named Executive Officers-Summary Compensation Table."

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- (1) Mr. Bromley sits on the Board of Directors of Opta Minerals Inc., a subsidiary of the Company, and was paid director fees by Opta Minerals Inc. of \$30,089 (CDN \$31,000). These amounts are included within the Summary Compensation Table .
- (2) The number of vested options includes options that will become exercisable within 60 days of March 31, 2014.
- (3) The market value has been determined based on \$11.81 being the closing price of the Company's common shares on NASDAQ as at March 31, 2014.

<p><b><u>Michael Detlefsen</u></b></p> <p>Age: 51</p> <p>Location: Ontario, Canada</p> <p>Director Since: Director Nominee (1)</p> <p><b>Independent Director</b></p>	<p>Michael Detlefsen was elected as a Director of the Company in May 2013 and since that time has also served as a member of the Audit Committee.</p> <p>Mr. Detlefsen is Co-Managing Director of Muir Detlefsen &amp; Associates Limited, a former President of Ceres Global Ag Corp. From 1999 to 2007, Mr. Detlefsen was with Maple Leaf Foods Inc. He held the position of Vice President, Corporate Development from 1999 to 2000, Executive Vice President Vertical Coordination from 2000 to 2005 and President of Maple Leaf Global Foods, the global sales, marketing and trading subsidiary of Maple Leaf Foods Inc. from 2005 to 2007. Prior to joining Maple Leaf Foods, Mr. Detlefsen was Vice President of BCE Inc. in Montreal where he was Vice President, Corporate Development at Bell Canada International, from 1997 to 1999, responsible for telecom investments in Korea, India, Mexico and the United Kingdom, and Vice President Strategy/Business Analysis/Merger and Acquisitions at Bell Canada from 1996 to 1997.</p> <p>Mr. Detlefsen's work experience also includes roles as: a strategy consultant for M&amp;A Company, a Boston-based strategy consulting firm, from 1993 to 1996; Director, Corporate Strategy at Air Canada in Montreal, New York and Houston from 1989 to 1993; a consultant for Price Waterhouse's Transportation Consulting Practice in Washington, D.C. from 1988 to 1989; and, a policy analyst for the Canadian Deputy Minister of Grain and Oilseeds in Ottawa, Canada from 1987 to 1988.</p> <p>Mr. Detlefsen is currently a Governor of the Royal Ontario Museum, a member of the Investment Committee of the Ontario College of Art &amp; Design Foundation Board, a former Director of the State Street Bank and Trust (Canada), a member of Harvard University's Private and Public, Scientific, Academic and Consumer Food Policy Committee, a former member of the Finance Committee and 150th Anniversary Campaign Cabinet of Toronto's St. George's College School. He also serves on the boards of private companies Multi-Marques, Inc. and Telegnomics plc.</p> <p><i>Director Qualifications.</i> Mr. Detlefsen brings extensive strategy, operating and transactional experience in the food and other industries to the SunOpta Board of Directors. Mr. Detlefsen has a unique combination of domestic and international expertise and a deep understanding of global supply chain risks and opportunities.</p>
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**Other Public Company Directorships in the Past Five Years**

SEC Reporting Companies		Canadian Listed Reporting Companies	
None		None	
Board / Committee Membership		Meeting Attendance	Percentage
Member of Board		5 of 5	100%
Member of Audit Committee		1 of 1	100%
Combined Total		6 of 6	100%
Equity Ownership			
Common Shares	Vested Options (1)	Total Common Shares and Vested Options	Total Market Value of Common Shares and Vested Options (2)

11,000	-	11,000	\$129,910
<b>Value of Total Compensation Received in Fiscal Year 2013</b>			
<b>Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (3)(4)</b>	<b>Options Awarded (#)</b>	<b>Option Awards (5)</b>	<b>Total</b>
\$29,846	15,000	\$73,350	\$103,196

- (1) The number of vested options includes options that will become exercisable within 60 days of March 31, 2014.
- (2) The market value has been determined based on \$11.81 being the closing price of the Company's common shares on NASDAQ as at March 31, 2014.
- (3) Mr. Detlefsen is paid in Canadian dollars. His Board of Director and committee fees have been converted to U.S. dollars using the average exchange rate over the year of \$1.00 Canadian = \$0.9706 U.S.

- (4) For breakdown of Director Compensation, see chart on page 31.
- (5) Consists of the aggregate grant date fair value of stock options granted under the Stock Incentive Plans, calculated in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718. Please see Note 12, Capital Stock to SunOpta Inc.'s consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for a detailed description of the assumptions used to calculate the fair value of options.

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<p><b><u>Peter Fraser</u></b></p> <p>Age: 56</p> <p>Location: Ontario, Canada</p> <p>Director Since: May 2012</p> <p><b>Independent Director</b></p>	<p>Peter Fraser was elected to the Board of Directors in May 2012. He has served on the Committee since May 2012 and on the Corporate Governance Committee since A 2013.</p> <p>Mr. Fraser is a Partner and Co-Chief Investment Officer of West Face Capital Inc. P joining West Face, Mr. Fraser acted as a consultant to Enterprise Capital from Nov 2002 to 2006. Mr. Fraser has over twenty-five years of investment experience in Canada, United States and England. Mr. Fraser has an M.B.A. from Stanford University (1984), B.Comm. from the University of Toronto (1980). Mr. Fraser was elected to the Board of Directors in May 2012 and appointed to the Audit Committee in August 2012.</p> <p>Mr. Fraser is a member of the board of Plasco Energy Group, a waste-to-energy company based in Ottawa, Ontario.</p> <p><i>Director Qualifications.</i> Mr. Fraser brings over twenty-five years of investing and capital markets experience, a strong financial background and a wealth of restructuring experience to the SunOpta Board of Directors.</p>
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#### Other Public Company Directorships in the Past Five Years

SEC Reporting Companies	Canadian Listed Reporting Companies	
None	None	
Board / Committee Membership	Meeting Attendance (1)	Percentage
Member of Board	7 of 7	100%
Member of Audit Committee	4 of 4	100%
Member of Governance Committee	1 of 1	100%
Combined Total	12 of 12	100%

#### Equity Ownership

Common Shares	Vested Options (1)	Total Common Shares and Vested Options	Total Market Value of Common Shares and Vested Options (2)
-	8,000	8,000	\$94,480

#### Value of Total Compensation Received in Fiscal Year 2013

Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (3)(4)	Options Awarded (#)	Option Awards (5)	Total
\$56,052	20,000	\$87,800	\$143,852

(1) The number of vested options includes options that will become exercisable within 60 days of March 31, 2014.



- (2) The market value has been determined based on \$11.81 being the closing price of the Company's common shares on NASDAQ as at March 31, 2014.
- (3) Mr. Fraser is paid in Canadian dollars. His Board of Director and committee fees have been converted to U.S. dollars using the average exchange rate over the year of \$1.00 Canadian = \$0.9706 U.S.
- (4) For breakdown of Director Compensation, see chart on page 31.
- (5) Consists of the aggregate grant date fair value of stock options granted under the Stock Incentive Plans, calculated in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718. Please see Note 12, "Capital Stock" to SunOpta Inc.'s consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for a detailed description of the assumptions used to calculate the fair value of options.

<p><b><u>Douglas Greene</u></b></p> <p>Age: 64</p> <p>Location: California, USA</p> <p>Director Since: Sep 2008</p> <p><b>Independent Director</b></p>	<p>Doug Greene was appointed to the Board of Directors in September 2008 and currently is a member of the Corporate Governance Committee.</p> <p>Mr. Greene is a pioneer in the natural and organic foods industry. Mr. Greene founded New Hope Natural Media, the largest Business to Business media group in the natural products industry and ran this company for twenty years, selling it to Penton Media in 1999. He was a board member of Penton Media which was listed on the NYSE and subsequently NASDAQ (OTCBB:PTON) from 1999 to 2005 and served on their Executive, Compensation and Audit Committees. From 1994 to 2005 Mr. Greene was Chairman of Vitrina Group of Moscow, publishers and event producers for the grocery, restaurant and wine industries.</p> <p>Mr. Greene is a Board member of NextFoods and Z2 Entertainment and has served on several nonprofit Boards.</p> <p><i>Director Qualifications.</i> Mr. Greene brings extensive knowledge and experience in the natural and organic foods industry to the SunOpta Board of Directors. He has diverse international business experience in both private and public organizations and is able to leverage this experience with his in-depth industry knowledge. The combination of extensive industry knowledge and diverse business experience uniquely qualifies Mr. Greene as a Director of the Company.</p>
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#### Other Public Company Directorships in the Past Five Years

SEC Reporting Companies	Canadian Listed Reporting Companies	
None	None	
Board / Committee Membership	Meeting Attendance	Percentage
Member of Board	7 of 7	100%
Member of Corporate Governance Committee	4 of 4	100%
Combined Total	11 of 11	100%

#### Equity Ownership

Common Shares	Vested Options (1)	Total Common Shares and Vested Options	Total Market Value of Common Shares and Vested Options (2)
123,000	58,000	181,000	\$2,137,610

#### Value of Total Compensation Received in Fiscal Year 2013

Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (3)	Options Awarded (#)	Option Awards (4)	Total
\$55,324	20,000	\$87,800	\$143,124

- (1) The number of vested options includes vested options that will become exercisable within 60 days of March 31, 2014.
- (2) The market value has been determined based on \$11.81 being the closing price of the Company's common shares on NASDAQ as at March 31, 2014.
- (3) For breakdown of Director Compensation, see chart on page 31.
- (4) Consists of the aggregate grant date fair value of stock options granted under the Stock Incentive Plans, calculated in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718. Please see Note 12, "Capital Stock" to SunOpta Inc.'s consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for a detailed description of the assumptions used to calculate the fair value of options.

<p><b><u>Victor Hepburn</u></b></p> <p>Age: 70</p> <p>Location: Ontario, Canada</p> <p>Director Since: Sep 2008</p> <p><b>Independent Director</b></p>	<p>Vic Hepburn was appointed a Director of the Company in September 2008. Mr. Hepburn has served as Chair of the Audit Committee since September 2008, has served on the Company's Compensation Committee since November 2010, and formerly served on the Company's Corporate Governance Committee until November 2010. Mr. Hepburn is currently a Director of Opta Minerals Inc. (TSX:OPM), which is approximately 66.0% owned by the Company, and Chairman of its Audit Committee. Mr. Hepburn has been self-employed since 2000 as a consultant and is a director of Walker Industries Holdings Inc., an aggregate and waste management company.</p> <p>Mr. Hepburn was the President and Chief Executive Officer of Hanson Brick America in 1999 and 2000, an international building materials company that is one of the largest ready mix concrete and brick manufacturers in North America. Prior to its acquisition by Hanson Brick America, from 1977 to 1999 Mr. Hepburn was employed in various capacities with Jannock Limited, a company listed on the TSX, including serving as President and Chief Executive Officer, Brick Operations from 1985 to 1999. Mr. Hepburn also served as a Director of the Brick Association of America from 1985 until 2000 and as Vice-Chairman from 1998 until 2000. Mr. Hepburn is a Chartered Public Accountant, Chartered Accountant and attended the University of Glasgow.</p> <p><i>Director Qualifications.</i> Mr. Hepburn is a Chartered Public Accountant, Chartered Accountant and brings extensive business and financial experience in the private and public sectors to the SunOpta Board of Directors. As a result of his training and extensive experience, the Board of Directors considers Mr. Hepburn to be an expert in financial and accounting matters and thus has been appointed Chairman of the Audit Committee. His business and financial expertise, when combined with a deep understanding of governance practices, positions Mr. Hepburn to effectively contribute to the SunOpta Board of Directors.</p>		
<b>Other Public Company Directorships in the Past Five Years</b>			
<b>SEC Reporting Companies</b>		<b>Canadian Listed Reporting Companies</b>	
None		Opta Minerals Inc.	
<b>Board / Committee Membership</b>		<b>Meeting Attendance</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Member of Board		6 of 7	86%
Member of Compensation Committee		5 of 5	100%
Chair of Audit Committee		4 of 4	100%
Combined Total		15 of 16	94%
<b>Equity Ownership</b>			
<b>Common Shares</b>	<b>Vested Options (1)</b>	<b>Total Common Shares and Vested Options</b>	<b>Total Market Value of Common Shares and Vested Options (2)</b>
20,000	58,000	78,000	\$921,180

<b>Value of Total Compensation Received in Fiscal Year 2013</b>				
<b>Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (3)(4)</b>	<b>Options Awarded (#)</b>	<b>Option Awards (5)</b>	<b>All Other Compensation (6)</b>	<b>Total</b>
\$77,648	20,000	\$87,800	\$33,486	\$198,934

- (1) The number of vested options includes options that will become exercisable within 60 days of March 31, 2014.
- (2) The market value has been determined based on \$11.81 being the closing price of the Company's common shares on NASDAQ as at March 31, 2014.
- (3) Mr. Hepburn is paid in Canadian dollars. His Board of Director and committee fees have been converted to U.S. dollars using the average exchange rate over the year of \$1.00 Canadian = \$0.9706 U.S.
- (4) For breakdown of Director Compensation, see chart on page 31.
- (5) Consists of the aggregate grant date fair value of stock options granted under the Stock Incentive Plans, calculated in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718. Please see Note 12, "Capital Stock" to SunOpta Inc.'s consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for a detailed description of the assumptions used to calculate the fair value of options.
- (6) Mr. Hepburn sits on the Board of Directors and Audit Committee of Opta Minerals Inc., a subsidiary of the Company, and was paid director fees of USD \$33,486 (CDN \$34,500) by Opta Minerals Inc.

<p><b><u>Katrina Houde</u></b></p> <p>Age: 55</p> <p>Location: Ontario, Canada</p> <p>Director Since: Dec 2000</p> <p><b>Independent Director</b></p>	<p>Katrina Houde was appointed to the Board of Directors in December 2000 and also serves as a member of the Audit and Compensation Committees. Ms. Houde has been an independent consultant since March 2000.</p>
	<p>From January 1999 to March 2000, Ms. Houde was President of Cuddy Food Products, a division of Cuddy International Corp. and was Chief Operating Officer of Cuddy International Corp. from January 1996 to January 1999. She is a Director of a number of private and charitable organizations.</p>
	<p><i>Director Qualifications.</i> Ms. Houde has held a variety of senior level positions in the food industry. When combined with her extensive knowledge of the Company's history, strategies and governance practices, she brings valuable insight and experience to the Board of Directors.</p>

#### Other Public Company Directorships in the Past Five Years

SEC Reporting Companies	Canadian Listed Reporting Companies
None	None

Board / Committee Membership	Meeting Attendance	Percentage
Member of Board	7 of 7	100%
Member of Compensation Committee	4 of 5	80%
Member of Audit Committee	3 of 4	75%
Combined Total	14 of 16	88%

#### Equity Ownership

Common Shares	Vested Options (1)	Total Common Shares and Vested Options	Total Market Value of Common Shares and Vested Options (2)
29,000	58,000	87,000	\$1,027,470

#### Value of Total Compensation Received in Fiscal Year 2013

Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (3)(4)	Options Awarded (#)	Option Awards (5)	Total
\$55,324	20,000	\$87,800	\$143,124

(1) The number of vested options includes options that will become exercisable within 60 days of March 31, 2014.

(2)

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The market value has been determined based on \$11.81 being the closing price of the Company's common shares on NASDAQ as at March 31, 2014.

- (3) Ms. Houde is paid in Canadian dollars. Her Board of Director and committee fees have been converted to U.S. dollars using the average exchange rate over the year of \$1.00 Canadian = \$0.9706 U.S.
- (4) For breakdown of Director Compensation, see chart on page 31.
- (5) Consists of the aggregate grant date fair value of stock options granted under the Stock Incentive Plans, calculated in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718. Please see Note 12, Capital Stock, to SunOpta Inc.'s consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for a detailed description of the assumptions used to calculate the fair value of options.

<p><b><u>Jeremy Kendall</u></b></p> <p>Age: 74</p> <p>Location: Ontario, Canada</p> <p>Director Since: Sep 1978</p> <p><b>Independent Director</b></p>	<p>Jeremy Kendall has served as a Director of the Company since September 1978. He became Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of the Company in June 1983 and retired as Chief Executive Officer in January 2007. He remains Chairman of the Board of the Company. Mr. Kendall is also currently the Chairman of Opta Minerals Inc. (TSX:OPM), which is approximately 66.0% owned by the Company, and serves on the Board of Directors of Mascoma Corporation, a private renewable fuels company in which SunOpta has a 18.65% ownership position. Mr. Kendall also serves on the Board of Asia Bio-Chem Group Corp. (TSX:ABC), a major starch manufacturer in China, and is Chairman of Jemtec Inc. (6/91 to present), a distributor of electronic home incarceration equipment listed on the TSXV, and is a Director of Urban Barns Foods (2/14), who have developed a unique Cubic Farming machine which specializes in growing green leafy vegetables, fine herbs and micro greens and is listed on the OTC. The company is in the process of establishing its first commercial facility in Mirabel, Quebec.</p> <p>He is also a Director of a number of private and charitable organizations.</p>			
<p><i>Director Qualifications.</i> Mr. Kendall provides extensive knowledge of the Company's history, strategies, products and operating philosophies. Having led the Company's entry into natural, organic and specialty foods and having been a Director of the Company since 1978 and served as Chief Executive Officer from 1983 through 2007, Mr. Kendall is uniquely qualified to provide leadership as a Director of the Company from both a strategic and operational perspective.</p>				
<b>Other Public Company Directorships in the Past Five Years</b>				
<b>SEC Reporting Companies</b>		<b>Canadian Listed Reporting Companies</b>		
None		Opta Minerals Inc. Jemtec Inc. Asia Bio-Chem Group Corp.		
<b>Board / Committee Membership</b>		<b>Meeting Attendance</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	
Chairman of the Board		7 of 7	100%	
<b>Equity Ownership</b>				
<b>Common Shares</b>	<b>Vested Options (1)</b>	<b>Total Common Shares and Vested Options</b>	<b>Total Market Value of Common Shares and Vested Options (2)</b>	
466,629	69,200	535,829	\$6,328,140	
<b>Value of Total Compensation Received in Fiscal Year 2013</b>				
		<b>Option Awards (5)</b>	<b>Total</b>	



<b>Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (3)(4)</b>	<b>Options Awarded (#)</b>		<b>All Other Compensation (6)</b>	
\$98,759	25,000	\$109,750	\$93,663	\$302,172

- (1) The number of vested options includes options that will become exercisable within 60 days of March 31, 2014.
- (2) The market value has been determined based on \$11.81 being the closing price of the Company's common shares on NASDAQ as at March 31, 2014.
- (3) Mr. Kendall is paid in Canadian dollars. His compensation has been converted to U.S. dollars using the average exchange rate over the year of \$1.00 Canadian = \$0.9706 U.S.
- (4) For breakdown of Director Compensation, see chart on page 31.
- (5) Consists of the aggregate grant date fair value of stock options granted under the Stock Incentive Plans, calculated in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718. Please see Note 12, Capital Stock, to SunOpta Inc.'s consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for a detailed description of the assumptions used to calculate the fair value of options
- (6) Mr. Kendall is the Chairman of the Board of Opta Minerals Inc., a subsidiary of the Company, and was paid director fees of USD \$45,133 (CDN \$46,500) by Opta Minerals Inc. This column also reflects USD \$48,530 (CDN \$50,000) that Mr. Kendall received under a Retiring Allowance Agreement with the Company.

<p><b><u>Alan Murray</u></b></p> <p>Age: 54</p> <p>Location: Colorado, USA</p> <p>Director Since: Jul 2010</p> <p><b>Independent Director</b></p>	<p>Alan Murray was appointed a Director of the Company in July 2010, was appointment Vice Chair in March 2011, and also serves as Chairman of the Compensation Committee. He is a member of the Governance Committee and in the past has served on the Audit Committee.</p> <p>Mr. Murray has over 30 years of experience as a supplier to the food industry in three continents. Mr. Murray spent 10 years with Unilever, primarily in marketing roles both in the Netherlands and South Africa. From 1990 to 2010 he worked for Tetra Pak, the world leader in processing and packaging systems serving the food industry. During this period he led their operations in South Africa, Central Europe (Czech Republic and Slovakia) and North America. Mr. Murray has been a Board member of the National Food Processors Association, now merged with Grocery Manufacturers Association, and the International Dairy Foods Association. He was also Co-founder and Chairman of the industry group Carton Council, a body founded to stimulate the recycling of beverage cartons.</p> <p>Mr. Murray has not served on any other reporting issuers Board of Directors and serves as a Director on a number of private organizations. He is currently the Chief Executive Officer of NextFoods, creators of GoodBelly probiotic fruit drink, based in Boulder, Colorado.</p> <p><i>Director Qualifications.</i> Mr. Murray brings strong business experience to the SunOpta Board of Directors having a background in manufacturing, business turnaround, business integration and profitable revenue growth. Mr. Murray has lived and worked abroad with experience in Western and Eastern Europe and Africa. Mr. Murray's deep understanding of the food business and extensive exposure to international business is an asset to the Board as the Company continues to expand its food operations globally.</p>
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#### Other Public Company Directorships in the Past Five Years

SEC Reporting Companies	Canadian Listed Reporting Companies	
None	None	
Board / Committee Membership	Meeting Attendance	Percentage
Member of Board and Vice Chair	7 of 7	100%
Member of the Audit Committee	3 of 3	100%
Chair of Compensation Committee	5 of 5	100%
Member of Governance Committee	1 of 1	100%
Combined Total	16 of 16	100%

#### Equity Ownership

Common Shares	Vested Options (1)	Total Common Shares and Vested Options	Total Market Value of Common Shares and Vested Options (2)
-	30,000	30,000	\$354,300

#### Value of Total Compensation Received in Fiscal Year 2013

	Option Awards (4)	Total

<b>Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (3)</b>	<b>Options Awarded (#)</b>		
\$92,935	20,000	\$87,800	\$180,735

- (1) The number of vested options includes options that will become exercisable within 60 days of March 31, 2014.
- (2) The market value has been determined based on \$11.81 being the closing price of the Company's common shares on NASDAQ as at March 31, 2014.
- (3) For breakdown of Director Compensation, see chart on page 31.
- (4) Consists of the aggregate grant date fair value of stock options granted under the Stock Incentive Plans, calculated in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718. Please see Note 12, Capital Stock to SunOpta Inc.'s consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for a detailed description of the assumptions used to calculate the fair value of options.

<p><b>Allan Routh</b></p> <p>Age: 63</p> <p>Location: Minnesota, USA</p> <p>Director Since: Sep 1999</p> <p><b>Non-Independent Director</b></p>	<p>Allan Routh has served as a Director of the Company since 1999 when the Company entered the natural and organic foods business.</p> <p>Mr. Routh served as Senior Vice President, Business Development until January 31, 2014, and is now a consultant to the Company. Prior to that he served as President of the Company's Grains and Foods Group, and prior to March 2003, he was President and Chief Executive Officer of the SunRich Food Group, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company.</p> <p>Mr. Routh has been involved in the natural and organic foods industry and soy industry organizations since 1984. He is also a Director of other private companies. In the past five years, Mr. Routh has not served on any other reporting issuer's Board of Directors.</p> <p><i>Director Qualifications.</i> Mr. Routh brings extensive industry and company knowledge to the SunOpta Board of Directors. Mr. Routh has a deep understanding of the history, strategies, markets and evolution of the Company, Mr. Routh is a pioneer in the soy and organic foods industries, providing the Company and the Board of Directors with valuable insights into these and related foods markets.</p>
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#### Other Public Company Directorships in the Past Five Years

SEC Reporting Companies		Canadian Listed Reporting Companies	
None		None	
Board / Committee Membership		Meeting Attendance	Percentage
Member of Board		7 of 7	100%
Equity Ownership			
Common Shares	Vested Options (1)	Total Common Shares and Vested Options	Total Market Value of Common Shares and Vested Options (2)
334,329	115,000	449,329	\$5,306,575

#### Value of Total Compensation Received in Fiscal Year 2013

For details concerning such compensation, see "Executive Compensation Compensation of Named Executive Officers Summary Compensation Table."

- (1) The number of vested options includes options that will become exercisable within 60 days of March 31, 2014.
- (2) The market value has been determined based on \$11.81 being the closing price of the Company's common shares on NASDAQ as at March 31, 2014.



## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

### Board Composition, Leadership and Size

The articles of the Company provide that its Board of Directors shall consist of a minimum of five and a maximum of 15 directors. Presently, the Board of Directors consists of ten directors. The Corporate Governance Committee regularly reviews the organization, size, operation, practice, and tenure policies of the Board and recommends changes to the full Board as appropriate.

Each of the directors and executive officers of the Company is required to certify on an annual basis that he or she has reviewed and is knowledgeable as to the contents of the Company's Business Ethics and Code of Conduct (the *Code*) and is not aware of any violations of the Code. All new employees of the Company are required to certify at the time of hiring that they have reviewed and are knowledgeable as to the contents of the Code. The Company monitors compliance with the Code through management oversight and regular communications with employees. In addition the Company has established and maintains, through an independent third party service provider, a confidential toll-free ethics reporting hotline which all directors, officers and employees are advised of and encouraged to use to report matters which may constitute violations of the Code.

The effectiveness and contribution of the Board, each committee of the Board and each of the individual directors are assessed annually with the assistance of a third party consulting firm specializing in board effectiveness (the *Board Effectiveness Consultant*). Each of the directors is required to complete a detailed questionnaire which is prepared and reviewed by the Board Effectiveness Consultant and also complete a personal interview with the Board Effectiveness Consultant. The results of this review are reported to, and discussed in detail at, a meeting of the full Board of Directors.

Steve Bromley, our Chief Executive Officer, and Allan Routh, our former Senior Vice President, Business Development, serve on the Board of Directors. Jeremy Kendall serves as the Chairman of the Board. Mr. Kendall previously served as the Company's Chief Executive Officer, until his retirement on February 1, 2007. The Board does not have a formal policy concerning the separation of the roles of Chief Executive Officer and Chairman, as the Board believes that it is in the best interest of the Company to make that determination based on the position and direction of the Company and the membership of the Board. Currently these roles are separate. In March 2011, Alan Murray was appointed Vice Chair of the Board to assist the Chairman.

The Chairman of the Board sets the agenda for meetings of the Board with input and feedback from the directors. The Vice Chair, as the Chairman's deputy, performs the duties that are delegated to him by the Chairman, which duties may include: assisting in preparing Board and Committee agendas and establishing priorities of the Board; acting as chairman for meetings of the independent directors; serving as a liaison between the Chief Executive Officer, on one hand, and the independent directors, on the other; assisting the Chairman and the Chief Executive Officer with ongoing matters between meetings of the Board; and serving as acting Chairman of the Board in the absence of the Chairman, or when a motion involving the Chairman is being discussed. All committees of the Board are chaired by independent directors. The Board and the Corporate Governance Committee believe that the current Board leadership structure is an appropriate structure for the Company and will continue to periodically evaluate whether the structure is in the best interests of the Company and its shareholders.

### Director Independence

Under NASDAQ listing rules, a majority of the members of the Board must be independent directors. An independent director under NASDAQ listing rules is a person other than an executive officer or employee or any other individual having a relationship which, in the opinion of the Board, would interfere with the exercise of independent judgment in carrying out the responsibilities of a director.

National Policy 58-201 *Corporate Governance Guidelines* of the Canadian Securities Administrators (the CSA ) recommends that boards of directors of reporting issuers be composed of a majority of independent directors. A director is considered independent only where the board determines that the director has no material relationship with the Company. Director independence of each of the current directors is determined by the Board of Directors with reference to the requirements as set forth by the CSA in National Instrument 52-110 - *Audit Committees*, as well as the rules and regulations of the TSX, NASDAQ and SEC.

The Board has determined that eight directors to be elected, Jay Amato, Michael Detlefsen, Peter Fraser, Douglas Green, Victor Hepburn, Katrina Houde, Jeremy Kendall and Alan Murray, who currently constitute a majority of the Board, are independent. As a result, if all of the director nominees are elected, eight of the ten directors will be independent. These independent directors currently comprise in full the membership of each standing Board committee described in this Proxy Statement. Mr. Steven Bromley, Chief Executive Officer, is a current officer of the Company, and is therefore not considered independent. Mr. Allan Routh served as Senior Vice President, Business Development until January 31, 2014 and, therefore, he is also considered not independent because he was employed by the Company during the past three years and now serves as a consultant.

### **Executive Sessions**

The independent directors meet without management and non-independent directors at regularly scheduled in-person Board meetings, generally following meetings of the full Board. The Vice Chair of the Board presides over these meetings.

### **Meeting Attendance**

The Board held five regularly scheduled meetings during fiscal year 2013. Each incumbent board member attended at least 75% of the aggregate number of meetings held by the Board and all committees on which he or she served.

### **Director Orientation**

The Company has a formal director orientation policy to ensure that all new directors receive proper orientation to facilitate the level of familiarity with the Company's practices, policies and operations required to meet Board responsibilities.

The current process to orient new directors is as follows:

- 1) The new director meets with the Chairman of the Board and the Company's Chief Executive Officer to discuss various information about the Company, including history, vision, mission and values, organization structure, share holdings, strategic plan, fiscal business plan and budget, historical and current year to date fiscal results.
- 2) The new director meets with the Chairman to discuss the aspects of the Board such as organizational documents and Board and committee minutes for the past year, Board administration matters, expense reimbursement practices, and Company policies.
- 3) The new director meets with other directors of the Company and certain members of Management which allow new directors an opportunity to ask questions about the role of the Board, its committees and directors and the nature and operation of the Company. Following nomination, new directors are encouraged to meet other members of management and to visit the Company's premises and view its operations.
- 4) New directors are provided access to the Company's continuous disclosure documents as filed with the SEC and on SEDAR, investor presentation material, director mandate and the Company's Business Ethics & Code of Conduct policies. New directors are required to affirm that they have read and understand the Company's Business Ethics and Code of Conduct.

### **Board Role in Risk Oversight**

The Board has risk oversight responsibility and sets the tone for risk tolerance within the Company. The Board strives to effectively oversee the Company's enterprise-wide risk management in a way that balances managing risks while enhancing the long-term value of the Company for the benefit of the shareholders. The Board understands that its focus on effective risk oversight is critical to setting the Company's culture towards effective risk management. To administer its oversight function, the Board seeks to understand the Company's risk philosophy by having discussions with management to establish a mutual understanding of the Company's overall appetite for risk. The Board maintains an active dialogue with management about existing risk management processes and how management identifies,



assesses and manages the Company's most significant risk exposures. The Board receives regular updates from management about the Company's most significant risks to enable it to evaluate whether management is responding appropriately. During each regularly scheduled Board meeting, the Board also reviews components of the Company's long-term strategic plans and the principal issues, including foreseeable risks that the Company expects to face in the future.

The Board oversees risk management directly, as well as through its committees. For example, the Audit Committee reviews the Company's policies and practices with respect to risk assessment and risk management, including discussing with senior management major financial risks and the steps taken to monitor and control exposure to such risk. The Corporate Governance Committee considers risks related to succession planning and internal trading governance and the Compensation Committee considers risks related to the attraction and retention of talent and risks relating to the design of executive compensation programs and arrangements. See below for additional information about the Board's committees. Each of these committees is required to make regular reports of its actions and any recommendations to the Board, including recommendations to assist the Board with its overall risk oversight function.

### Board Committees

The Board of Directors presently has three committees, with the principal functions and membership described below. Each committee has a charter, which is available at our website at [www.sunopta.com](http://www.sunopta.com), under the Investors link. The following table summarizes the current membership of each of our three Board committees. Each of the three committees is composed entirely of independent directors.

Director	Audit Committee	Corporate Governance Committee	Compensation Committee
Jay Amato		ü (Chair)	
Michael Detlefsen	ü		
Peter Fraser	ü	ü	
Douglas Greene		ü	
Victor Hepburn	ü (Chair)		ü
Katrina Houde	ü		ü
Alan Murray		ü	ü (Chair)

### Audit Committee

The Audit Committee's duties and responsibilities are documented in a formal Audit Committee Charter, which is regularly updated. These duties and responsibilities include (a) providing oversight of the financial reporting process and management's responsibility for the integrity, accuracy and objectivity of financial reports and related financial reporting practices; (b) recommending to the Board the appointment and authorizing remuneration of the Company's auditors; (c) providing oversight of the adequacy of the Company's system of internal and related disclosure controls; and (d) providing oversight of management practices relating to ethical considerations and business conduct, including compliance with laws and regulations. The Audit Committee meets a minimum of four times a year, once to review the Annual Report on Form 10-K and annual Audited Consolidated Financial Statements, and once before each quarter's earnings are filed to review interim financial statements and the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q which is filed with the SEC in the U.S. and with applicable securities regulators in Canada. Other meetings may be held at the discretion of the Chair of the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee has free and unfettered access to Deloitte LLP, the Company's independent registered accounting firm and auditors, the Company's risk management and internal audit team and the Company's internal and external legal advisors.

The Audit Committee maintains a company-wide whistle-blower policy related to reporting of concerns in accounting or internal controls. This policy gives all employees of the Company the option of using a hot line administered by a third party for communication of concerns dealing with a wide range of matters including accounting practices, internal controls or other matters affecting the Company's or the employees well-being.



Our Audit Committee is currently comprised of Vic Hepburn (Chair), Michael Detlefsen, Peter Fraser, and Katrina Houde. The Board has determined that each member of the Audit Committee (1) is independent as defined by applicable SEC and CSA rules and NASDAQ and TSX listing rules, (2) has not participated in the preparation of the financial statements of the Company or any current subsidiary of the Company at any time during the past three years and (3) is able to read and understand fundamental financial statements, including a company's balance sheet, income statement, and cash flow statement. In addition, the Board has determined that Victor Hepburn meets the definition of audit committee financial expert, as defined in SEC and CSA rules, and has appointed Mr. Hepburn as Chairman of the Audit Committee.

The report of the Audit Committee appears under the heading "Report of the Audit Committee" below.

The Audit Committee met formally four times during fiscal 2013.

#### **Corporate Governance Committee (Nominating Committee)**

The Corporate Governance Committee's duties and responsibilities are documented in a formal Corporate Governance Committee Charter, which is updated regularly. These duties and responsibilities include: (a) identifying individuals qualified to become members of the Board of Directors, and selecting or recommending director nominees; (b) developing and recommending to the Board of Directors corporate governance principles applicable to the Company; (c) leading the Board of Directors in its annual review of the performance of the Board of Directors; (d) recommending to the Board of Directors director nominees for each committee; (e) discharging the responsibilities of the Board of Directors relating to compensation of the Company's directors; (f) leading the Board of Directors in its annual review of the performance of the Chief Executive Officer; and (g) regularly assessing the effectiveness of the Company's governance policies and practices.

The Corporate Governance Committee, in its capacity as the Nominating Committee, concerns itself with the composition of the Board with respect to depth of experience, balance of professional interests, required expertise and other factors. The Nominating Committee evaluates prospective nominees identified on its own initiative or referred to it by other Board members, management, shareholders or external sources and all self-nominated candidates. The Nominating Committee uses the same criteria for evaluating candidates nominated by shareholders and self-nominated candidates as it does for those proposed by other Board members, management and search companies. To be considered for membership on the Board, the Nominating Committee will consider certain necessary criteria that a candidate should meet, which would include the following: (a) be of proven integrity with a record of substantial achievement; (b) have demonstrated ability and sound judgment that usually will be based on broad experience but, particularly, industry experience; (c) be able and willing to devote the required amount of time to the Company's affairs, including attendance at Board and Committee meetings; (d) possess a judicious and critical temperament that will enable objective appraisal of management's plans and programs; and (e) be committed to building sound, long-term Company growth. The Committee also takes into consideration the range of skills and expertise that should be represented on the Board, geographic experience with businesses and organizations, and potential conflicts of interest that could arise with director candidates. Evaluation of candidates occurs on the basis of materials submitted by or on behalf of the candidate. If a candidate continues to be of interest, additional information about her/him is obtained through inquiries to various sources and, if warranted, interviews. Although the Company does not have a separate diversity policy relating to the identification and evaluation of nominees for director, the Corporate Governance Committee seeks to include members with diverse backgrounds, skills and experience, including appropriate financial and other expertise relevant to the business of the Company.

A shareholder may recommend a person as a nominee for election as a director at the Company's next annual meeting of shareholders by writing to the Secretary of the Company. Each notice of nomination should contain the following information: (a) the name and address of the shareholder who intends to make the nomination and of the person or persons to be nominated; (b) a representation that the shareholder is a holder of record of common shares of the Company entitled to vote at such meeting and intends to appear in person or by proxy at the meeting to nominate the

person or persons specified in the notice; (c) a description of all arrangements or understandings between the shareholder and each nominee and any other person or persons (naming such person or persons) pursuant to which the nomination or nominations are to be made by the shareholder; (d) such other information regarding each nominee proposed by such shareholder as would have been required to be included in a proxy statement filed pursuant to the proxy rules of the SEC had each nominee been nominated, or intended to be nominated, by the Board of Directors and to ensure that each such nominee is qualified to serve as a director pursuant to the requirements of the Canada Business Corporations Act; and (e) the consent of each nominee to serve as a director of the Company if so elected. Formal nominations for director candidates to be considered for election at the 2015 Annual Meeting of Shareholders must be received before the date specified under Shareholder Proposals for 2015 Annual Meeting of Shareholders; Shareholder Communications.

Our Corporate Governance Committee is currently comprised of Jay Amato (Chair), Peter Fraser, Doug Greene and Alan Murray, each of whom has been determined by the Board to be independent. Jay Amato is Chairman of the Corporate Governance Committee.

The Corporate Governance Committee met formally four times during fiscal 2013.

### **Compensation Committee**

The Compensation Committee's duties and responsibilities are documented in a formal Compensation Committee Charter, which is updated regularly. These duties and responsibilities include to (a) reward executives for long-term strategic management and enhancement of shareholder value; (b) support a performance-oriented environment that rewards achievement of internal Company goals and recognizes the Company's performance compared to the performance of similarly situated companies; (c) attract and retain executives whose abilities are considered essential to the long-term success and competitiveness of the Company through the Company's salary administration program; (d) align the financial interests of the Company's executives with those of the shareholders; and (e) ensure fair and equitable treatment for all employees.

The function of the Compensation Committee is to determine the compensation of the Chief Executive Officer as well as to review and approve the compensation recommended by the Chief Executive Officer for certain officers of the Company and to review overall general compensation policies and practices for all employees of the Company. In addition, this Committee oversees the administration of the Stock Incentive Plans, Employee Stock Purchase Plan and any other incentive plans that may be established for the benefit of employees of the Company.

Our Compensation Committee is currently comprised of Alan Murray (Chair), Vic Hepburn and Katrina Houde each of whom has been determined by the Board to be independent. Alan Murray serves as Chairman of the Compensation Committee.

Our Compensation Committee has deep experience with compensation matters. Specifically:

Mr. Murray, the Chair of the Compensation Committee, as the former Chief Executive Officer of Tetra Pak North America was responsible for senior management annual performance and salary reviews, is familiar and worked with major firms who produce salary surveys, has designed and implemented variable compensation systems for senior management, and has set guidelines for and approved total company compensation programs for over 400 salaried employees annually.

Ms. Houde is a certified human resource professional and was a Director or Vice President of Human Resources with three organizations. While at Cuddy Foods she had oversight responsibilities for compensation and pay practices with similar experiences to Mr. Murray above.

Mr. Hepburn has over the course of his career dealt extensively with compensation matters, including pay practices, variable compensation and benefit plans for all levels of managers and employees, drawing on the expertise of human resource personnel and outside consultants.

The report of the Compensation Committee appears under the heading "Executive Compensation-Compensation Committee Report" below.

The Compensation Committee met formally five times during fiscal 2013.

## **Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation**

No member of our Compensation Committee has served as one of our officers or employees at any time over the past year. None of our executive officers serve as a member of the Compensation Committee of any other entity that has an executive officer serving as a member of our Board or Compensation Committee. None of our executive officers serve as a member of the board of directors of any other company that has an executive officer serving as a member of our Compensation Committee.

## **Code of Ethics**

The Company has a Code of Ethics policy titled Business Ethics and Code of Conduct. The policy is applicable to all employees, including the Company's executive officers and employees performing similar functions, as well as all persons serving as directors and consultants to the Company. A copy of the Business Ethics and Code of Conduct is available, without charge, at [www.sunopta.com](http://www.sunopta.com) or upon written request to the Company at SunOpta Inc., 2838 Bovaird Drive West, Brampton, Ontario, Canada, L7A 0H2. Attention: Information Officer. Any amendments to, or waivers of, the Business Ethics and Code of Conduct which specifically relate to any financial professional will be disclosed promptly following the date of such amendment or waiver at [www.sunopta.com](http://www.sunopta.com).

## **Insider Ownership Guidelines for Directors, Officers and Executives**

The Board of Directors approved new insider ownership guidelines for all non-employee directors and members of the senior management in May 2012. These guidelines are intended to align the interests of directors and management with those of our shareholders.

The insider ownership guidelines encompass the following parameters:

1. Insider ownership guidelines are mandatory for all non-employee members of the Board of Directors and members of the Senior Leadership Team. All persons covered by these guidelines will have the option to request an exemption from these requirements based on consideration of their personal circumstances by the Compensation Committee.
2. Stock ownership targets established as follows:
  - a. Chief Executive Officer three times base salary
  - b. Directors three times annual retainers
  - c. NEOs (named executive officers - includes Chief Financial Officer and three most highly compensated officers) two times base salary
  - d. All other Senior Leadership Team Members one times base salary

## **Compensation of Directors**

Annual compensation for non-employee directors is comprised of cash and option-based equity compensation. Such cash compensation consists of an annual retainer and supplemental retainers for the chairs and members of Board committees. Option-based equity compensation has consisted of options granted under the Stock Incentive Plans and will include restricted stock units commencing in 2014. In addition, Vic Hepburn, Jeremy Kendall and Steve Bromley receive certain fees and stock options from Opta Minerals Inc. as compensation for serving on the board of directors and certain committees of the board of Opta Minerals Inc., one of our subsidiaries, and Jeremy Kendall receives additional compensation in the form of a retirement allowance under a contract with the Company, all of which is set forth in more detail in the table below. Steve Bromley, our Chief Executive Officer, and Allan Routh, our former Senior Vice President, Business Development, are not included in this table since they were employees of the Company during 2013 and received no additional compensation for their services as directors of SunOpta; thus, their compensation is shown in the Summary Compensation Table. Mr. Routh retired as an employee of the Company on

January 31, 2014. Mr. Routh continues to serve as a director and will receive compensation as a non-employee director upon re-election to the Board. Beginning on January 31, 2014, Mr. Routh also receives compensation under a consulting agreement at a rate of \$2,000 per day, and provides consulting services according to the following schedule: (i) 150 consulting days in year one, for total yearly compensation of \$300,000; (ii) 75 consulting days in year two, for total yearly compensation of \$150,000; and (iii) 25 consulting days in year three, for total yearly compensation of \$50,000. The Company will also pay certain health insurance benefits on behalf of Mr. Routh for the first 18 months of the consulting period, and Mr. Routh's unvested stock options will continue to vest during the three-year consulting period.



During fiscal 2013, each non-employee director received the following compensation (as applicable):

Annual cash retainer in Canadian dollars of:

- \$36,000 for serving as a director;
- \$50,000 for serving as the Chairman of the Board;
- \$20,000 for serving as Vice Chair of the Board;
- \$20,000 for serving as the chair of the Audit Committee; and
- \$7,500 for serving as the chair of the Compensation Committee or Corporate Governance Committee

Meeting attendance fees in Canadian dollars of:

- \$1,500 for each in-person meeting of the Board of Directors;
- \$1,500 for each meeting of the Audit Committee;
- \$750 for each meeting of the Compensation Committee and Corporate Governance Committee;
- \$750 for each telephonic meeting of the Board of Directors, Compensation Committee or Corporate Governance Committee; and
- \$1,500 for other fees such as travel days.

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The total 2013 compensation for our non-employee directors is shown in the following table:

<b>2013 Director Compensation</b>						
<b>Name</b>	<b>Annual Retainer (\$)(1)</b>	<b>Meeting Fees Earned (\$)</b>	<b>Option Awards (\$)(2)</b>	<b>Other Compensation (\$)(3)</b>	<b>Opta Minerals Inc. Board of Directors Fees (\$)(5)</b>	<b>Total (\$)</b>
Jay Amato	42,221	16,743	87,800	8,735	-	155,499
Michael Detlefsen	17,471	12,375	73,350	-	-	103,196
Peter Fraser	34,942	19,655	87,800	1,455	-	143,852
Doug Greene	34,942	16,015	87,800	4,367	-	143,124
Vic Hepburn (4)	54,354	21,839	87,800	1,455	33,486	198,934
Katrina Houde (4)	34,942	18,927	87,800	1,455	-	143,124
Jeremy Kendall (3)(4)	83,472	13,831	109,750	49,986	45,133	302,172
Alan Murray	61,633	22,567	87,800	8,735	-	180,735

- (1) Annual Retainer includes Chair fees where applicable.
- (2) Consists of the aggregate grant date fair value of stock options granted to directors under the Stock Incentive Plans, calculated in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718. Please see Note 12, Capital Stock, to SunOpta Inc. s consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for a detailed description of the assumptions used to calculate the fair value of options.
- (3) For Mr. Kendall, the Other Compensation column reflects travel fees and a retiring allowance from the Company in the amount of USD \$48,530 (CDN \$50,000) under a contract with the Company. For other directors Other Compensation represents primarily travel fees.
- (4) These Board members are paid in Canadian dollars. The Board of Director and committee fees have been converted to U.S. dollars using the average exchange rate for the year of CDN \$1.00 = USD \$0.9706 .
- (5) For serving on the Board of Directors of Opta Minerals Inc., Mr. Hepburn was paid director fees of \$33,486 (CDN \$34,500) and Mr. Kendall was paid director fees of \$43,133 (CDN \$46,500). Fees paid to Mr. Hepburn comprised an annual retainer of \$25,236 (CDN \$26,000) and meeting fees of \$8,250 (CDN \$8,500). Fees paid to Mr. Kendall comprised an annual retainer of \$38,824 (CDN \$40,000) and meeting fees of \$6,309 (CDN \$6,500).

The Board believes that compensation for non-employee directors should be competitive and should fairly compensate directors for the time and skills devoted to serving our Company but, for independent directors, should not be so great as to compromise independence.

All of our directors are reimbursed for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred for attending meetings of our Board or its committees and for other reasonable expenses related to the performance of their duties as directors. The Board believes that our total director compensation package is competitive with the compensation offered by other companies and is fair and appropriate in light of the responsibilities and obligations of our directors.

#### **Penalties and Sanctions and Personal Bankruptcies**

The information related to cease trade orders and bankruptcies, not being within the knowledge of the Company, has been furnished by the directors. Other than set out below, none of the proposed nominees for election to the Board of Directors:

1) is, as at the date of this Proxy Statement, or was within 10 years before the date of the Proxy Statement, a director or chief executive officer or chief financial officer of any company (including the Company) that:

- (i) was the subject of an order (as defined in Form 51-102F5 made under National Instrument 51-102 of the CSA) that was issued while the director or executive officer was acting in the capacity as director, chief executive officer or chief financial officer; or

- (ii) was subject to an order that was issued after the director or executive officer ceased to be a director, chief executive officer, or chief financial officer, and which resulted from an event that occurred while that person was acting in the capacity as a director, chief executive officer, or chief financial officer; or
- 2) is at the date hereof, or has been within 10 years before the date of this Proxy Statement, a director or executive officer of any company (including the Company) that while that person was acting in that capacity, or within a year of that person ceasing to act in that capacity, became bankrupt, made a proposal under any legislation relating to bankruptcy or insolvency or was subject to or instituted any proceedings, arrangement or compromise with creditors or had a receiver, receiver manager or trustee appointed to hold its assets; or
- 3) has, within the 10 years before the date of this Proxy Statement, become bankrupt, made a proposal under any legislation relating to bankruptcy or insolvency, or become subject to or instituted any proceedings, arrangement or compromise with creditors, or had a receiver, receiver manager or trustee appointed to hold the assets of the director, executive officer or shareholder.

In 2008 the Company received letters from the SEC requesting additional information in connection with the restatement of the Company's filings for each of the quarterly periods ended March 31, 2007, June 30, 2007, and September 30, 2007. The SEC concluded its investigation in the quarter ended October 2, 2010 and came to a settlement with the Company, Mr. Bromley, President and Chief Executive Officer at the time, and John Dietrich, the former Chief Financial Officer of the Company. Under the settlement, the Company agreed to an administrative order ( *Order* ) directing that the Company cease and desist from committing or causing any violations and any future violations of Sections 13(a), 13(b)(2)(A) and 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act, and Rules 12b-20, 13a-11 and 13a-13 thereunder. The Order did not require the Company to make any payment. Mr. Bromley and Mr. Dietrich also agreed to the Order, which directed that they cease and desist from committing and causing any violations and any future violations of Sections 13(a), 13(b)(2)(A) and 13(b)(2)(B) of the Exchange Act and Rules 12b-20, 13a-11, 13a-13 and 13a-14 thereunder. In addition, Mr. Bromley agreed to pay disgorgement of \$40,905 and prejudgment interest of \$5,295, and Mr. Dietrich agreed to pay disgorgement of \$5,780 and prejudgment interest of \$1,012. Those amounts represented a portion of the proceeds that each of them received in connection with properly approved option exercises and sales of the Company's common stock that occurred before the Company's quarterly financial statements for 2007 were restated. The Company, Mr. Bromley and Mr. Dietrich each consented to the issuance of the Order without admitting or denying the Commission's findings. The settlement concluded the SEC's inquiry.

Colorado Mills LLC ( *Colorado Mills* ) and SunOpta Grains and Foods Inc. (formerly Sunrich LLC, herein *Grains and Foods* ), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company, organized a joint venture in 2008 to construct and operate a vegetable oil refinery adjacent to Colorado Mills' sunflower seed crush plant located in Lamar, Colorado. The joint venture involved the creation of a jointly-owned entity, Colorado Sun Oil Processors, LLC ( *CSOP* ). Allan Routh, one of our directors, served as President of CSOP, and John Ruelle, our Chief Administrative Officer, Senior Vice President of Corporate Development and Secretary, served as Secretary of CSOP. During the relationship, disputes arose between the parties concerning management of CSOP, record keeping practices, certain unauthorized expenses incurred on behalf of CSOP by Colorado Mills, procurement of crude oil by Sunrich from Colorado Mills for processing at the CSOP refinery, and the contract price of crude oil offered for sale under an output term of the joint venture agreement. The parties initiated a dispute resolution process as set forth in the joint venture agreement, which Colorado Mills aborted through the initiation of suit in Prowers County District Court on March 16, 2010. Subsequent to the filing of that suit, Colorado Mills acted with an outside creditor of CSOP to involuntarily place CSOP into bankruptcy. As part of the bankruptcy proceeding filed on June 10, 2010 in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, District of Colorado, Colorado Mills purchased substantially all of the assets of CSOP. Please see Note 19 Commitments and Contingencies to SunOpta Inc.'s consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for a detailed description of the CSOP dispute.



**PROPOSAL TWO APPOINTMENT AND REMUNERATION OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM AND AUDITOR**

**Appointment of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm and Auditor**

The Audit Committee of the Board has recommended that Deloitte LLP ( *Deloitte* ) be reappointed as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm and auditor until the close of the next annual meeting of shareholders. Shareholders will be asked to vote at the Meeting to appoint Deloitte as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm and auditor until the close of the next annual meeting of shareholders and to authorize the Audit Committee to fix their remuneration. Deloitte has served as our auditors since 2008. One or more representatives of Deloitte will attend the Meeting and will have the opportunity to make a statement if he or she desires to do so and will be available to respond to appropriate questions from shareholders in attendance.

**Recommendation of the Board of Directors; Vote Required**

**The Board of Directors recommends that the shareholders vote FOR the appointment of Deloitte as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm and auditor until the close of the next annual meeting of shareholders and FOR authorizing the Audit Committee to fix their remuneration.** In the event that shareholders do not appoint Deloitte as the Company's auditors at the Meeting and another accounting firm is not appointed, the Audit Committee will reconsider its recommendation and the Board will select another accounting firm to serve as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm and auditor.

This proposal will be approved if a quorum is present at the Meeting and the votes cast in favor of the proposal constitute a majority of the total votes cast on the proposal. Abstentions and broker non-votes are counted for purposes of determining whether a quorum exists at the Meeting, but will have no effect on the results of the vote. Brokers and other nominees will have discretionary authority to vote your shares if you hold your shares in street name and do not provide instructions as to how your shares should be voted on this proposal.

**Fees Billed by Deloitte**

The following table sets forth the aggregate fees billed by Deloitte for each of the last two fiscal years relating to the audit of the Company's 2013 and 2012 consolidated financial statements and the other services indicated:

<b>Fee Category</b>	<b>Fiscal 2013 (\$)</b>	<b>Fiscal 2012 (\$)</b>
Audit Fees	1,802,119	1,860,287
Audit-Related Fees	17,136	73,339
Tax Fees	-	-
Other Fees	-	12,856
<b>Total Fees</b>	<b>1,819,255</b>	<b>1,946,482</b>

Following is a description of the nature of services comprising the fees disclosed under each category.

*Audit Fees.* These amounts relate to the annual audit of the Company's consolidated financial statements included in the Company's Annual Reports on Form 10-K, annual audits of the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting, reviews of interim financial statements included in the Company's Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and services normally provided by the independent registered public accounting firm in connection with statutory or regulatory filings or its engagement for the indicated fiscal year, statutory audits of certain Company's subsidiaries, and services relating to filings under the Exchange Act. The amounts noted above include out-of-pocket expenses.



*Audit-Related Fees:* These amounts relate to assistance on acquisitions or divestitures and other audit-related projects as well as review of regulatory filings.

*Tax Fees:* Amounts paid related to professional services for tax compliance, tax advice and tax planning.

*Other Fees:* Amounts paid related to miscellaneous matters other than reported above.

#### **Pre-Approval of Audit and Non-Audit Services**

The Audit Committee has a policy for the pre-approval of audit and non-audit services that may be provided by the Company's independent registered public accounting firm. The Committee's policy is to require pre-approval for all audit and permissible non-audit services provided by Deloitte prior to the engagement with the exception that management is authorized to engage Deloitte in respect of services to the extent that (a) each individual engagement is not more than \$50,000, and (b) the aggregate for all engagements does not exceed \$100,000. These services are subsequently approved at the next scheduled Audit Committee meeting. Any pre-approval is detailed as to the particular service or category of services and is generally subject to a specific budget. The Audit Committee has delegated to its Chair authority to pre-approve proposed audit and non-audit services that arise between Audit Committee meetings, provided that the decision to approve the service is presented at the next scheduled Audit Committee meeting. All audit and non-audit services performed by Deloitte during the fiscal year ended December 28, 2013 were approved in accordance with this policy. These services have included audit services, audit-related services, tax services and all other fees as described above.

#### **Financial Information Systems Design and Implementation Fees**

No fees were billed by Deloitte to the Company during any of the last two fiscal years for professional services described in Paragraph (c)(4)(ii) of Rule 2-01 of Regulation S-X (financial information systems design and implementation services).

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**REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

The Audit Committee of the Board of SunOpta assists the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities with respect to the external reporting process and the adequacy of SunOpta's internal controls. Specific responsibilities of the Audit Committee are set forth in the Audit Committee Charter, a copy of which can be found on SunOpta's website at [www.sunopta.com](http://www.sunopta.com). The members of the Audit Committee are Vic Hepburn (Chair), Michael Detlefsen, Peter Fraser and Katrina Houde, each of whom meets the independence requirements of Rule 10A-3 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and applicable independence requirements of the NASDAQ listing rules and National Instrument 52-110 *Audit Committees* of the CSA.

The Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed SunOpta's audited financial statements for the year ended December 28, 2013 with SunOpta's management. The Audit Committee has discussed with Deloitte, SunOpta's independent registered public accounting firm and auditor, the matters required to be discussed by the statement on Auditing Standards No. 61, as amended, as adopted by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board in Rule 3200T. The Audit Committee has received the written disclosures and the letter from Deloitte required by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding Deloitte communications with the Audit Committee concerning independence, and has discussed with Deloitte its independence.

In reliance on the review and the discussions referred to above, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board that the audited financial statements be included in the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 28, 2013, for filing with the SEC and applicable Canadian securities regulators.

This report has been submitted by Vic Hepburn (Chair), Michael Detlefsen, Peter Fraser and Katrina Houde, all members of the Audit Committee.

*The information contained in this report shall not be deemed to be soliciting material or to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, nor shall such information be incorporated by reference into any future filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, except to the extent that SunOpta specifically incorporates it by reference in such filing.*

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## **PROPOSAL THREE ADVISORY VOTE REGARDING THE COMPENSATION OF NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

### **Background**

In order to ensure an appropriate level of director accountability to the Company's shareholders and to ensure that shareholders have an opportunity to engage with the Board of Directors about executive compensation matters, the Company has had a policy since early 2010 to seek an advisory vote on an annual basis from shareholders on the Company's executive compensation practices. Shareholders have previously voted on an advisory basis for the Company to hold an advisory vote regarding the compensation of Named Executive Officers on an annual basis. The Board understands that our shareholders have a meaningful interest in our executive compensation policies, and believes that shareholders should have the opportunity to fully understand the objectives, philosophy and principles the Board has used to make executive compensation decisions. The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010, or the Dodd-Frank Act, now mandates that the Company enable shareholders to vote to approve, on an advisory, non-binding basis, the compensation of the executive officers named in the Summary Compensation Table set forth in this Proxy Statement (referred to in this Proxy Statement as the NEOs).

### **Discussion and Resolution**

As described in detail under the heading "Executive Compensation-Compensation Discussion and Analysis," the Company's executive compensation objectives are to (a) attract and retain key executive officers who contribute to the Company's long-term success, (b) align the executive officers' interests with the interests of shareholders, (c) promote an ownership mentality among key leadership and the Board, (d) enhance the overall performance of the Company and (e) recognize and reward individual performance and responsibility. Please read the "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" under "Executive Compensation" for additional details about the Company's executive compensation programs, including information about the compensation of the NEOs for the fiscal year ended December 28, 2013.

In accordance with Company policy and Section 14A of the Exchange Act, we are asking shareholders to indicate their support for the compensation of the NEOs. This proposal, commonly known as a "say-on-pay" proposal, gives shareholders the opportunity to express their views on the NEOs' compensation. Accordingly, we will ask shareholders to vote **FOR** the following resolution at the Meeting:

**RESOLVED**, that the Company's shareholders approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation of the NEOs, as disclosed in the Company's Proxy Statement for the 2014 Annual and Special Meeting of Shareholders pursuant to the compensation disclosure rules of the SEC, including the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, the Summary Compensation Table and other related tables and narrative discussion under the Executive Compensation caption.

The "say-on-pay" vote is advisory, and therefore not binding on the Company, the Compensation Committee or our Board of Directors. The Board of Directors and the Compensation Committee value the opinions of our shareholders and to the extent there is any significant vote against the NEO compensation as disclosed in this Proxy Statement, we will consider our shareholders' concerns and the Compensation Committee will evaluate whether any actions are necessary to address those concerns.

### **Recommendation of the Board of Directors; Vote Required**

**The Board of Directors recommends that the shareholders vote FOR the advisory resolution regarding the compensation of the Company's NEOs.**

This proposal will be approved if a quorum is present at the Meeting and the votes cast in favor of this proposal constitute a majority of the total votes cast on this proposal. While this vote is required by law, it will neither be binding on the Company or the Board of Directors, nor will it create or imply any change in the fiduciary duties of, or impose any additional fiduciary duty on, the Company or the Board of Directors. Abstentions and broker non-votes are counted for purposes of determining whether a quorum exists at the Meeting, but will have no effect on the results of the vote. Brokers and other nominees will not have discretionary authority to vote your shares if you hold your shares in street name and do not provide instructions as to how your shares should be voted on this proposal.

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## EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

### Compensation Committee Report

The Compensation Committee has reviewed and discussed with management the following Compensation Discussion and Analysis. Based on that review and discussion, the Compensation Committee has recommended to the Board of Directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this Proxy Statement.

The Compensation Committee:

Alan Murray - Chair

Vic Hepburn

Katrina Houde

### Compensation Discussion and Analysis

This Compensation Discussion and Analysis describes, among other things, the key principles and approaches used to determine material elements of compensation awarded to, earned by and/or paid to our Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, and the three most highly compensated executive officers other than the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer who were serving as executive officers on December 28, 2013 (referred to in this Proxy Statement as the NEOs). This discussion addresses our compensation policies for the fiscal year ended December 28, 2013 as they affected the NEOs, and should be read in conjunction with the tables set forth in this Executive Compensation section.

### The Composition and Role of Our Compensation Committee

The Compensation Committee consists entirely of non-employee directors, within the meaning of Rule 16b-3 under the Exchange Act, outside directors within the meaning of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code and independent directors within the meaning of NASDAQ listing rules and National Policy 58-201 *Corporate Governance Guidelines* of the CSA. As per the SunOpta Inc. Compensation Committee Charter, the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors is responsible for determining salaries and incentive compensation for officers, including the NEOs, and administering the Stock Incentive Plans and the Employee Stock Purchase Plan. The Compensation Committee is also responsible for reviewing the Company's leadership programs, human resources policies and procedures and diversity programs and metrics. The Compensation Committee delegates authority for expense authorization, administrative matters and various follow-up and miscellaneous items to senior management of the Company.

The Compensation Committee assesses and determines the level of compensation for the Chief Executive Officer. Our Chief Executive Officer assesses and recommends to the Compensation Committee compensation levels for the other executive officers based on the performance of the business and/or certain business units, third party compensation data, external and internal equity, changes in responsibility and the individual's overall contribution to the Company's success. These recommendations are submitted to the Compensation Committee for decision and final approval. The Chief Executive Officer plays an administrative role in setting director compensation. He assists the Board in selecting and working with advisors who provide guidance and comparable market data with regards to director's compensation levels and practices. The Board has ultimate responsibility and authority for approving and setting director compensation levels and practices.

### Compensation Overview Philosophy and Objectives

Our executive compensation philosophy and the policies that support it are intended to reward our executives for long-term strategic management and their efforts to enhance shareholder value, and support a performance-oriented environment that rewards achievement of internal Company goals and recognizes the Company's performance

compared to the performance of similarly situated companies.

The objectives of our executive compensation program are to:

- attract and retain key executive officers critical to our long-term success;
- align the executive officers' interests with the interests of shareholders, through long-term and annual incentives and opportunities for long-term value creation;
- promote an ownership mentality among key leadership and the Board of Directors;
- enhance the overall performance of the Company; and
- recognize and reward individual performance and responsibility.

We also understand that our shareholders have a meaningful interest in our executive compensation practices and believe that our shareholders should have the opportunity to fully understand the objectives, philosophy and principles the Board has used to make executive compensation decisions. As a result, in early 2010, the Compensation Committee adopted a say on pay policy intended to seek the advice of shareholders by offering them an opportunity to cast an advisory vote on the compensation of the Company's NEOs.

The Compensation Committee believes that the Company's executive compensation program has been appropriately designed to provide a level of incentives that do not encourage our executive officers to take unnecessary risks in managing their respective business units or functions. As discussed below, a meaningful portion of our executive officers' compensation is performance-based. Our annual incentive compensation program is designed to reward annual financial and/or strategic performance that represents interim outcomes towards the long-term success of our Company. We specifically evaluate our annual performance goals to ensure avoidance of risk-taking that focuses excessively on short-term profits at the sacrifice of the long-term health of our Company. Likewise, we use long-term equity incentive awards that we believe provide the appropriate link to long-term shareholder interests through their link to our strategic targets, our stock price and multi-year vesting requirements. The primary equity vehicle historically used has been stock options in order to align executives with stock price appreciation. As a result of our positive proxy vote last year, we now have the flexibility to use performance shares and restricted stock units/restricted stock, and are moving towards using a blend of stock options, performance shares, and restricted stock units for 2014. In combination, the Compensation Committee believes that the various elements of our executive compensation program sufficiently tie our executives' compensation opportunities to our focus on sustained long-term growth and performance.

The two charts below illustrate our general total compensation philosophy, and its application to our NEOs, with primary emphasis on long-term pay for performance:

Illustration of fixed versus variable compensation, assuming targeted annual incentive payouts (2013 Target Compensation).

Illustration of fixed versus variable compensation, based on actual incentive payouts for 2013 performance paid in 2014 (2013 Actual Compensation).

The 2013 Target Compensation chart below indicates our preference for total compensation to reflect approximately 60% of pay linked to performance versus 40% for fixed compensation. The Company generally provides long-term incentive opportunities at twice that of annual incentives, in order to reward primarily for the creation of long-term shareholder value. Combined with our current stock ownership guidelines, we believe that our compensation program places the appropriate emphasis on recruitment/retention considerations; incentive pay tied to annual operating performance; and long-term incentives with both downside risk and upside potential aligned with the interests of our shareholders.

	2013 Target Compensation			
	Fixed Compensation as a % of Total Compensation		Variable Compensation as a % of Total Compensation	
Named Executive Officer	Base Salary	Benefits and Other Compensation	Annual Incentives	LTI Stock Options
Chief Executive Officer	40%	3%	24%	33%
Other NEOs (average)	43%	4%	20%	33%

	2013 Actual Compensation			
	Fixed Compensation as a % of Total Compensation		Variable Compensation as a % of Total Compensation	
Named Executive Officer	Base Salary	Benefits and Other Compensation	Annual Incentives	LTI - Stock Options
Chief Executive Officer	52%	4%	0%	44%
Other NEOs (average)	53%	5%	0%	42%

The table below shows target total compensation for SunOpta's NEOs relative to the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile of actual total compensation for comparable executives in the peer group of companies, as discussed later in this section. SunOpta's 2013 Target Total Direct Compensation represents the sum of 2013 base salary, target annual incentive awards and stock option grants, and 2013 Target Total Compensation includes these amounts plus all other compensation.

Title	2013 Base Salary	% of Peer 50 <sup>th</sup> %ile	2013 Target Total Cash Compensation	% of Peer 50 <sup>th</sup> %ile	2013 Target Total Direct Compensation	% of Peer 50 <sup>th</sup> %ile	2013 Target Total Compensation	% of Peer 50 <sup>th</sup> %ile
Chief Executive Officer	\$519,493	66%	\$831,189	54%	\$1,270,189	49%	\$1,311,046	51%
Other NEOs (average)	\$382,930	94%	\$565,121	84%	\$861,446	83%	\$900,705	87%

Total compensation lags the market 50<sup>th</sup> percentile by 49% for the Chief Executive Officer, and by 13%, on average, for other NEOs.

### Overview of Executive Total Compensation Program

Our executive compensation program generally consists of base salary, annual short-term cash incentive compensation (annual bonuses), long-term incentive compensation in the form of stock options and discretionary bonuses in limited circumstances. Our executive officers also participate in benefit programs that are generally available to all our employees, including medical benefits, the Stock Incentive Plans, the Employee Stock Purchase Plan and a registered retirement savings plan (RRSP) or 401(k) plan. The following chart outlines the primary elements of our executive compensation program. Our executive total compensation program is targeted at 50<sup>th</sup> percentile peer group levels, and is administered in a manner intended to provide above 50<sup>th</sup> percentile pay for outstanding performance, and below 50<sup>th</sup> percentile performance for less than expected performance. The table below summarizes our current approach to total compensation, and the individual components.





Component	Definition	Comments
Base Salary	Annualized base salary	Based on external benchmarks for the specific position and performance in the position; is generally targeted to make up 30% to 60% of total direct compensation to NEOs. The base salary of executive officers including NEOs is reviewed on an annual basis and approved by the Compensation Committee.
Short Term Incentive (Annual Bonus)	An annual cash reward (annual bonus) paid to executives based on specific financial metrics. Fiscal 2013 metrics included consolidated net income, return on equity and group return on net assets.	Rewards the achievement of the Company's annual fiscal targets chosen to have the greatest impact on shareholder value; is generally targeted to make up 20% to 30% of total direct compensation to NEOs. The specific metrics are reviewed on an annual basis and approved by the Compensation Committee.
Discretionary Bonus	A cash bonus awarded at the discretion of the Compensation Committee for the successful completion of a strategic objective or project.	These bonuses are customarily related to special initiatives or extraordinary events that are not always based on formula or quantitative metrics but are significant to the strategic direction of the Company or in the best interest of long-term shareholder value. Discretionary bonuses could be awarded in connection with acquisitions or divestitures, restructuring plans, cost reduction plans or major projects. The Compensation Committee exercises cautious discretion in determining the amount of these bonuses, which are generally in the range of 5% to 35% of the recipient's base salary. The Compensation Committee does not view discretionary bonuses as a core and recurring component of its total compensation approach, but rather an occasional tool to reward performance in exceptional instances.
Long Term Incentive (LTI)	Long-term incentives are granted to provide value over a multi-year period while aligning the interests of executives with the shareholders. The implementation of the 2013 Stock Incentive Plan is intended to augment our historic practice of using only stock options as the vehicle for long term incentives to executive management, key employees and the Board of Directors, moving to other forms of incentive that provide better linkage to the interests of shareholders and improving alignment with current market practices.	Aligns the executive officers' interests with the shareholders' interests and rewards the executives over a longer period of time in line with shareholder value; is generally targeted to make up 30% to 50% of total direct compensation to NEOs. A performance-based, long-term incentive plan has been established in 2014 for senior leadership. The new plan includes the option to issue a number of forms of equity including restricted stock, restricted stock units, performance shares, performance share units, stock options and other equity vehicles as well. The plan also allows for using equity as a form of payment versus cash for employees and directors.
		A commonly used measure of comparative value.

Total Direct Compensation	The sum of base salary, annual bonus, discretionary bonus and LTI.	
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Component	Definition	Comments
Other Compensation	Any other compensation paid to the executive other than those listed above and includes our 401(k) or registered retirement savings plan matches, taxable automobile benefits, health care benefits and other benefits.	These are necessary to be competitive in the marketplace and are generally provided as part of a broad-based set of employee benefit plans.
Stock Ownership Guidelines	Three times salary for Chief Executive Officer and two times salary for other NEOs. If guidelines are not met by May, 2017, 50% of the annual bonus is paid in stock until target ownership levels are achieved.	Further aligns with shareholders, by requiring mandatory stock holdings by executives, and providing both upside opportunities and downside risk.

#### **Executive Compensation Peer Group and Use of Compensation Consultants**

All compensation decisions are determined following a review of many factors that we believe are relevant, including third-party compensation data, our achievements over the past year, the individual's contributions to our success, any significant changes in role or responsibility and the internal equity of compensation relationships.

In general, we intend that the overall total compensation opportunities provided to the executive officers should reflect competitive compensation for executive officers with corresponding responsibilities in comparable industries providing similar products and services. In setting total compensation, we target a mix of base salary, short-term incentives and long-term incentives and retain the flexibility to adjust this mix and compensation levels based on actual performance as well as changes in the market. To the extent determined to be appropriate, we also consider general economic conditions, our financial performance, including corporate net income, return on equity and return on net assets, and individual merit in setting compensation policies for our executive officers.

The Compensation Committee retains the services of Grant Thornton LLP ( *Grant Thornton* ) as its independent executive compensation consultant. We retain Grant Thornton in order to gain perspective on emerging trends, issues, pay levels, and design at peer group organizations. Grant Thornton was also requested to assess the current compensation philosophy, and no changes were made. The Compensation Committee has reviewed the independence of Grant Thornton and has determined that Grant Thornton is independent. Grant Thornton provides services at the direction of the Compensation Committee, the Compensation Committee has specific authority in managing all work by Grant Thornton, and any interaction between Grant Thornton and management is at the direction of the Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee periodically meets with Grant Thornton without management being present. For 2013, the total fees charged by Grant Thornton amounted to \$39,100. In 2013, Grant Thornton was in attendance at one telephonic Compensation Committee meeting.

The Compensation Committee takes steps to monitor and manage the independence of its compensation consultant and annually reviews the role of the compensation consultant. As a result of the policies and procedures in place with respect to the compensation consultant, the Compensation Committee believes that the compensation consultant is able to provide candid, direct and objective advice to the Compensation Committee that is not influenced by management or any other services provided to us by Grant Thornton. As a result, the Compensation Committee believes that Grant Thornton is fully independent for purposes of serving as the Compensation Committee's compensation consultant. The Compensation Committee considered the following six factors with respect to Grant Thornton: (i) the provision of other services to the Company by Grant Thornton; (ii) the amount of fees received from

the Company by Grant Thornton, as a percentage of the total revenue of Grant Thornton; (iii) the policies and procedures of Grant Thornton that are designed to prevent conflicts of interest; (iv) any business or personal relationship of Grant Thornton with a member of the Committee; (v) any stock of the Company owned by Grant Thornton; and (vi) any business or personal relationship of Grant Thornton with an executive officer of the Company. After considering the foregoing factors, the Compensation Committee determined that the work of Grant Thornton with the Compensation Committee for fiscal 2013 did not raise any conflict of interest.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, Grant Thornton is a full service public accounting and consulting firm, and management has from time to time engaged a unit of Grant Thornton, which is separate and distinct from the unit thereof providing compensation consulting services to the Compensation Committee, to provide certain services to the Company, namely, tax services. Management of the Company believes that the unit of Grant Thornton is exceptionally qualified to provide such tax services. Neither the primary compensation advisor nor any member of the compensation consulting advisory team participates in any of these other services provided to us. Instead, with full knowledge of the Compensation Committee, in and for 2013, the tax management function for the Company engaged a distinct unit of Grant Thornton to provide these tax consulting services to us. Fees for these services totalled \$440,000 for 2013. Grant Thornton provides the Compensation Committee with an annual update on its services and related fees, and the Compensation Committee determines whether the compensation consulting services can be performed objectively and free from the influence of management. The Compensation Committee has determined that the provision of these separate services did not result in a conflict of interest, or otherwise impair the independence, of Grant Thornton to provide compensation consulting services to the Compensation Committee.

The Compensation Committee has worked with Grant Thornton to provide perspective specifically regarding potential improvements to its executive compensation program that will enhance and optimize the relationship between pay and performance.

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Grant Thornton and the Compensation Committee used the following peer group companies for comparability purposes (in millions of U.S. dollars):

Peer Organization	Industry	Total Revenues	Total Assets	Market Capitalization
B&G Foods Inc	Packaged Foods & Meats	\$634	\$1,192	\$1,798
Boston Beer Inc	Brewers	\$580	\$359	\$3,098
Calavo Growers Inc	Packaged Foods & Meats	\$551	\$208	\$452
Cal-Maine Foods Inc	Packaged Foods & Meats	\$1,288	\$746	\$1,272
Coca-Cola Bottling	Soft Drinks	\$1,614	\$1,283	\$589
Cott Corp	Soft Drinks	\$2,251	\$1,566	\$768
Darling International Inc	Agricultural Products	\$1,701	\$1,552	\$2,797
Diamond Foods Inc	Packaged Foods & Meats	\$864	\$1,172	\$534
Farmer Brothers Co	Packaged Foods & Meats	\$510	\$244	\$281
Hain Celestial Group Inc	Packaged Foods & Meats	\$1,735	\$2,258	\$4,036
J & J Snack Foods Corp	Packaged Foods & Meats	\$831	\$603	\$1,608
Lancaster Colony Corp	Packaged Foods & Meats	\$1,166	\$620	\$2,319
Monster Beverage Corp	Soft Drinks	\$2,061	\$1,043	\$9,732
Sanderson Farms Inc	Packaged Foods & Meats	\$2,386	\$896	\$1,453
Sanfilippo Bohn B & Son Inc	Packaged Foods & Meats	\$734	\$375	\$267
Seneca Foods Corp	Packaged Foods & Meats	\$1,276	\$803	\$324
Snyders-Lance Inc	Packaged Foods & Meats	\$1,619	\$1,747	\$2,053
Tootsie Roll Industries Inc	Packaged Foods & Meats	\$550	\$847	\$1,923
Treehouse Foods Inc	Packaged Foods & Meats	\$2,182	\$2,526	\$2,681

<b>25th Percentile</b>	\$684	\$612	\$562
<b>Average</b>	\$1,291	\$1,055	\$1,999
<b>Median</b>	<b>\$1,276</b>	<b>\$896</b>	<b>\$1,608</b>
<b>75th Percentile</b>	\$1,718	\$1,418	\$2,500
<b>90th Percentile</b>	\$2,196	\$1,849	\$3,286

	Industry	Total Revenues	Total Assets	Market Capitalization
SunOpta Inc.	Packaged Foods & Meats	<b>\$1,091</b>	<b>\$707</b>	<b>\$640</b>

Grant Thornton advised the Compensation Committee that the above food and beverage peer group represents a best practice peer group for executive compensation purposes, given comparability of peers to SunOpta based on the following factors: industry, revenue, market capitalization, and assets.

**Base Salary**

The base salary is designed to be a secure base of compensation sufficient to attract and retain a high caliber talented individual for a specific role. The base salary is targeted at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile of the peer group, with any positioning below or above the target based on experience, performance, and/or special recruitment/retention considerations.

The Compensation Committee determines the base salary for the Chief Executive Officer, and any adjustment is effective as of the first pay period of the second quarter of each fiscal year. The Chief Executive Officer recommends the base salary for executive officers to the Compensation Committee based on the above stated factors, with the Compensation Committee having ultimate approval authority.

For fiscal 2013, compensation for executive officers was assessed based on a review of executive officers with comparable qualifications, experience and responsibilities at the peer group of companies, as well as current economic factors impacting the market. Base compensation was also assessed in light of a particular individual's contribution as a whole, including the ability to motivate others, develop the necessary skills to grow, recognize and pursue new business opportunities and initiate programs to enhance the Company's growth and improve shareholder value.

Mr. Bromley's base salary increased in 2013 to \$533,830 (CDN \$550,000), an increase of 13.2%. Mr. McKeracher's base salary increased in 2013 to \$337,284 (CDN \$347,500), an increase of 13.0%. Mr. Jacobs' base salary increased in 2013 to \$499,859 (CDN \$515,000), an increase of 3.0%. Mr. Ruelle's base salary increased in 2013 to \$345,000, an increase of 13.1%. Mr. Routh's base salary increased in 2013 to \$373,400, an increase of 3.0%. These increases were based on a combination of organizational performance improvement, individual performance in their respective positions, and to position their salaries closer to the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile of the peer group. These increases were effective March 23, 2013 for Mr. Bromley, Mr. McKeracher and Mr. Jacobs, and March 24, 2014 for Mr. Ruelle and Mr. Routh.

## Short-Term Incentives

*General.* Short-term incentives for executives and management are provided through annual bonus plans based on the performance of the business. The annual short-term incentive target is established by the Compensation Committee for each executive officer based on comparative data for the peer group and is reviewed annually to ensure structure and metrics are optimally tied to the strategic objectives of SunOpta. Objectives for the Chief Executive Officer are established by the Compensation Committee. Objectives and targets established for executive officers other than the Chief Executive Officer are also established by the Compensation Committee, taking into account the recommendations of the Chief Executive Officer. The objective of our short-term incentive is to align the behavior of executives and management with the overall strategy of the business and shareholder interests.

For fiscal 2013, eligible executives received an annual bonus based on a combination of the following performance components:

- consolidated net income;
- consolidated return on equity ( *ROE* ); and
- consolidated return on net assets and/or operating group return on net assets ( *Consolidated RONA* ), as applicable.

The three metrics chosen align well to what we believe is important to shareholders both in the current year as well as future years. 50% of the bonus plan for executive officers was based on consolidated net income and ROE and 50% was based on Consolidated RONA targets. For Group Presidents and other executives within operating groups, 80% of their bonus was weighted to Consolidated RONA for the group they control and 20% was linked to consolidated net income of SunOpta.

ROE is calculated by dividing consolidated net income by closing 2012 shareholders' equity.

RONA is calculated by taking the sum of operating income plus items of other income and expense incurred in the normal course of business, and dividing it by the average net assets within the defined group. Average Net Assets is defined as total assets, excluding cash and intercompany receivables, less total liabilities, excluding intercompany and external debt, calculated as an average of fiscal 2013 monthly closing balances.

The target bonuses, as a percentage of salary, for our NEOs remained the same for 2013, compared with 2012, and were positioned intentionally at levels below the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile in the peer group, given our emphasis on long-term incentive compensation:

Title	SunOpta Target Annual Bonus	Peer 50th Percentile Target Annual Bonus
Chief Executive Officer (Bromley)	60%	94%
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (McKeracher)	50%	65%
President and Chief Operating Officer (Jacobs)	50%	64%
Chief Administrative Officer and Senior Vice President of Corporate Development and Secretary (Ruelle)	50%	63%
Senior Vice President, Business Development (Routh)	40%	70%



Awards for Messrs. Bromley, McKeracher, Jacobs and Ruelle were based 25% on achieving consolidated net income targets, 25% on achieving ROE targets and 50% on achieving Consolidated RONA targets. Mr. Routh's target bonus was based 20% on achieving consolidated net income targets and 80% on achieving the Grains and Foods Group RONA targets.

The following table summarizes the performance components upon which each NEO's short-term incentive opportunity is based and the corresponding weightings for such components. Although all metrics are strategically important, the weights reflect perspective on the relative importance for the organization and specific executive performance. All performance components have a minimum threshold of above 90% of the related performance target. If performance is 90% of the performance target or below, no incentive will be paid for that specific performance component. Incentive payouts begin to accrue at the first dollar of achievement over 90% of the applicable performance target, are paid 100% at performance target levels and can achieve up to 200% based on 150% of performance target levels.

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Named Executive Officer	Target Incentive Award (\$)	Maximum Incentive Award (\$)	Performance Components	Weightings
Steven Bromley (1)	320,298	640,596	Consolidated net income Consolidated ROE Consolidated RONA	25% 25% 50%
Robert McKeracher (1)	168,642	337,284	Consolidated net income Consolidated ROE Consolidated RONA	25% 25% 50%
Hendrik Jacobs (1)	249,930	499,859	Consolidated net income Consolidated ROE Consolidated RONA	25% 25% 50%
John Ruelle	172,500	345,000	Consolidated net income Consolidated ROE Consolidated RONA	25% 25% 50%
Allan Routh	149,350	298,700	Consolidated net income Grains and Foods Group RONA	20% 80%

(1) Paid in Canadian dollars. Awards have been converted to U.S. dollars using the average exchange rate for the year of \$1.00 Canadian = \$0.9706 U.S.

*Performance Targets.* The performance targets for the 2013 fiscal year for each of the three performance components (i.e. consolidated net income, consolidated ROE and Consolidated RONA), and a description of the level of achievement of such performance targets, are set forth below. As a matter of practice, the Compensation Committee sets an initial performance target for each performance component and these targets are adjusted by the Compensation Committee for acquisitions/divestitures that occur throughout the year. The targets are also evaluated by the Compensation Committee at the end of the year to determine whether the targets need to be adjusted due to any other extraordinary transactions during the year.

*Consolidated Net Income, Consolidated Return on Equity and Consolidated RONA.* The following table sets forth the consolidated net income, ROE and RONA weighting, targets, achievement and preliminary payout percentage for the corporate bonus plan.

	Weighting	Target	Actual	Achievement	Payout
Net Income <i>(in thousands of U.S. dollars)</i>	25.0%	\$30,801	(\$8,524)	0.0%	0.0%
Consolidated ROE	25.0%	9.44%	(2.62%)	0.0%	0.0%
Consolidated RONA	50.0%	12.8%	7.5%	0.0%	0.0%

*Corporate Payout Summary.* All of the NEOs, with the exception of Mr. Routh, receive their short-term incentive compensation based on the corporate bonus plan.

The corporate bonus payout approved by the Compensation Committee was 0.0% for the 2013 fiscal year, as summarized below:

Parameter	Percentage of Bonus	Achievement	Payout
Consolidated net income	25.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Consolidated ROE	25.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Consolidated RONA	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total corporate bonus payout approved by the Compensation Committee			0.0%

*Group Payout Overview.* Mr. Routh's short term incentive compensation was based 80% on the RONA of the Grains and Foods Group, and 20% on consolidated net income of SunOpta. Accordingly, as the Grains and Foods Group did not achieve target RONA levels, Mr. Routh's bonus payout was 0.0% for the 2013 fiscal year.

*Clawback.* In the event of material non-compliance with any financial reporting requirements that leads to an accounting restatement, the Company has established authority as part of the short-term incentive plan to recover from current and former executives any incentive-based compensation, for the three years preceding the restatement, which would not have been awarded under the restated financial statements.

### Discretionary Bonuses

Discretionary bonuses constitute an important, albeit seldom used, component of the SunOpta compensation philosophy by rewarding successful completion of strategic objectives, significant projects or extraordinary efforts. Discretionary bonuses may be awarded in connection with acquisitions or divestitures of businesses, a significant reorganization, a significant cost reduction or cost savings plan or the completion of a significant strategic project. Given the nature of these initiatives, the Compensation Committee may not always utilize specific quantitative metrics in determining the bonus payment, if any, to an executive. These bonuses are paid on rare and exceptional occasions for significant strategic objectives and generally have been in the range of 5% to 35% of annual base salary. The amounts of discretionary bonuses are intended to be commensurate with the efforts of the executive and the overall benefit to the Company.

No discretionary bonuses were awarded or paid for fiscal 2013.

### Long-Term Incentives

Long-term incentives for executive officers and key employees in 2013 were provided through the Stock Incentive Plans. The objectives of these plans are to align executive and shareholder long-term interests by creating a strong and direct link between executive compensation and shareholder return, to enable executives to develop and maintain a long-term ownership position in our common shares, to attract, retain and motivate qualified employees, directors, officers and consultants in order to achieve the Company's long-term growth and profitability objectives, to provide competitive levels of remuneration and to recognize individual initiatives and achievements. Long-term incentives are usually granted annually to our executive officers and certain key employees. In selecting executives eligible to receive long-term incentives and determining the amount and frequency of such grants, the Compensation Committee evaluates a variety of factors, including the following:

the job level of the employee;  
the grant date fair value of equity grants and other equity awards provided by peer group companies to employees at comparable job levels;  
past, current and prospective service rendered, or to be rendered, by the applicable employee;  
historical grants to the applicable employee;  
recruitment and retention considerations; and  
significant promotions, especially to a Vice President or executive officer position.

Long-term incentives are awarded annually by the Compensation Committee at the Board of Directors meeting following the annual salary review and as part of the annual compensation analysis, or at other times throughout the year if deemed appropriate by the Compensation Committee. The long-term incentive awards to executive officers other than the Chief Executive Officer are based on recommendations by the Chief Executive Officer. The long-term incentives in 2013 were in the form of stock options. Options granted in fiscal 2013 vest over a five-year period with 20% of the total grant vesting annually on the anniversary date of the original grant and expiring on the tenth anniversary of the grant date.

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The following table provides the grant date fair value for stock options issued in 2012 and 2013 as well as peer group long-term incentive values for each NEO:

<b>Title</b>	<b>2013 Fair Value for Stock Options</b>	<b>2012 Fair Value for Stock Options</b>	<b>Peer Group 50th Percentile LTI Grants (3-Yr Avg.)</b>
Chief Executive Officer (Bromley)	\$439,000	\$532,380	\$1,050,000
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (McKeracher)	\$263,400	\$248,444	\$361,000
President and Chief Operating Officer (Jacobs)	\$395,100	\$764,025	\$394,000
Chief Administrative Officer and Senior Vice President of Corporate Development and Secretary (Ruelle)	\$263,400	\$248,444	\$257,000
Senior Vice President, Business Development (Routh)	\$263,400	\$283,936	\$413,000

Note that we rely on peer group three-year average grant levels, in addition to reported peer group LTI target level grants (if any), as our primary market comparisons for long-term incentive opportunities in the peer group. We believe a three-year market perspective ensures that our grant practices are not impacted by year over year volatility in peer group grant practices.

In 2013, the stock option grant for Mr. Bromley was intended to provide a grant that was market competitive, but lower than in 2012 based on the performance of the Company.

2013 grant values for Mr. McKeracher, Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Ruelle, and Mr. Routh, were based on performance, and to make progress towards providing 50<sup>th</sup> percentile long-term incentive opportunities (and 50<sup>th</sup> percentile total compensation in general).

In addition, the stock option grants for Mr. Jacobs in 2012 were part of the overall total compensation package that allowed SunOpta to recruit Mr. Jacobs.

### **Other Compensation**

Our executive officers are eligible to receive the same level of benefits that we make available to other employees, including:

Group health benefits, which includes medical, dental, vision and prescription drug coverage, group life insurance and short-term and long-term disability plans; and

Retirement benefits in the form of a 401(k) plan for U.S. employees and a Registered Retirement Savings Plan match for Canadian employees and a defined benefit pension plan for certain European employees.

In addition, from time to time executive officers receive additional perquisites that are not generally available to other employees, including automobile benefits and club memberships. For additional information regarding other compensation during the most recently completed fiscal year, see the **All Other Compensation** column in the Summary Compensation Table below. We take a conservative approach to other compensation, given our preference for pay for performance.

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## Summary of 2014 Executive Compensation Planning

For 2014, the Company does not anticipate significant changes from its executive compensation philosophy and approach discussed above. However, we will continue to consider potential refinements for 2014 including:

**Salary:** Executive salaries have been evaluated for 2014. Our approach is consistent with 2013. Executives will generally receive modest salary adjustments to the extent positioned comparable to the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile and supported by performance. Certain executives who lag the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile significantly will receive market adjustments, in addition to merit adjustments, to make progress towards the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile. We expect that none of these executives will receive adjustments that move them entirely to the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile.

**Short-Term Incentives:** Short-term target and maximum incentive opportunities will remain similar to 2013. Additionally, the general weighting and performance measure categories will remain the same. However, certain executives will be eligible to earn up to 200% of target for their performance if performance is achieved at 120% of budget targets. When establishing performance outcomes, we conduct sensitivity analysis to ensure all performance goals are set at stretch levels of performance. Specifically, we test goals to ensure that the challenge of a target goal represents a level of performance that has 60% probability of achievement, a maximum goal representing 10% probability of achievement, and a minimum goal at 90% of achievement. Generally, 50% of the short-term incentive plan for corporate executives will be based on consolidated net income and ROE and 50% will be based on the achievement of consolidated RONA.

**Long-Term Incentive Plan:** LTI aligns the executive officers' interests with the shareholders' interests and rewards the executives over a longer period of time in line with shareholder value, and is generally targeted to make up 30% to 50% of total direct compensation to NEOs. A performance-based, long-term incentive plan has been established in 2014 for senior leadership. Awards will be made under the 2013 Stock Incentive Plan, which authorizes a variety of forms of equity including restricted stock, restricted stock units, performance shares, performance share units and stock options. The plan also allows for using equity as a form of payment versus cash for employees and directors.

**All Other Compensation (excluding LTI):** Our practice in this area will remain conservative, and at levels consistent with 2013.

## Results of 2013 Say-on-Pay Vote

SunOpta provides its shareholders with the opportunity to cast an annual advisory vote on executive compensation. At our 2013 annual meeting 96.7% of the votes cast were voted for approval of the compensation of our NEOs. The Compensation Committee believes that the results of this vote affirmed shareholders' support of SunOpta's approach to executive compensation, and therefore we did not substantially change our approach to executive compensation in fiscal 2013. The Compensation Committee will continue to consider the outcome of the Company's say-on-pay votes when making future compensation decisions for its executive team.

2013 Say on Pay Vote	
For	33,998,194
Against	514,007
Abstain	634,898
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,147,099</b>

**Limitations on Deductions**

Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code limits the deductibility of executive compensation paid to our chief executive officer and the three other most highly compensated executive officers (other than the Chief Financial Officer) to \$1,000,000 per year, but contains an exception for certain performance-based compensation. For the fiscal year ended December 28, 2013, grants of stock options under the Stock Incentive Plans satisfy the requirements for deductible compensation for employees residing in the United States. While our general policy is to preserve the deductibility of most compensation paid to executive officers, we may authorize payments that may not be deductible if we believe they are in the best interests of the Company and its shareholders.

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## Compensation of Named Executive Officers

Summary Compensation Table						
Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary (\$)	Option Awards (\$) (1)	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (\$) (2)	All Other Compensation (\$) (3)	Total (\$)
Steven Bromley (4) Director and Chief Executive Officer	2013	519,493	439,000	-	70,946	1,029,439
	2012	476,538	532,380	74,358	76,557	1,159,833
	2011	445,751	958,240	33,966	157,547	1,595,504
Robert McKeracher (4)(5) Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	2013	328,324	263,400	-	36,011	627,735
	2012	302,885	248,444	39,206	33,140	623,675
	2011	208,985	185,188	13,271	24,025	431,469
Hendrik Jacobs (4)(6) President and Chief Operating Officer	2013	496,499	395,100	-	93,965	985,564
	2012	207,692	764,025	26,481	70,601	1,068,799
John Ruelle (5) Chief Administrative Officer and Senior Vice President of Corporate Development and Secretary	2013	335,909	263,400	-	15,959	615,268
	2012	300,612	248,444	38,977	37,809	625,753
	2011	212,538	185,188	-	13,330	411,056
Allan Routh (7) Director and former Senior Vice President, Business Development	2013	370,989	263,400	-	11,103	645,492
	2012	359,730	283,936	140,070	9,603	793,339
	2011	324,375	147,365	-	13,366	485,106

- (1) Consists of the aggregate grant date fair value of stock options granted to our NEOs under the Stock Incentive Plans, calculated in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718. Please see Note 12, Capital Stock, to SunOpta Inc.'s consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for a detailed description of the assumptions used to calculate the fair value of options. For additional information on our long-term equity incentive awards, see Compensation Discussion and Analysis-Long Term Incentives.
- (2) Consists of payments awarded to our NEOs under our short-term incentive annual bonus plan. These amounts were earned in the years indicated and paid in the following April. For additional information on our short-term incentive annual bonus plans, see Compensation Discussion and Analysis-Short Term Incentives.
- (3) Represents taxable benefits, life insurance and critical illness benefits, retirement savings contributions, taxable automobile benefits, club membership benefits. Amounts also include for Mr. Bromley, director fees and options received as compensation for serving as a director of Opta Minerals Inc., a subsidiary of the Company. See table below.
- (4) These officers are paid in Canadian dollars. The compensation has been converted to U.S. dollars using the

average annual exchange rate applicable for each year. For 2013, 2012, and 2011 these rates were 0.9706, 1.000 and 0.989 Canadian dollar for each U.S. dollar, respectively.

- (5) Mr. McKeracher was appointed Chief Financial Officer of the Company on October 1, 2011, and Mr. Ruelle was appointed Chief Administrative Officer of the Company on October 12, 2011.
- (6) Mr. Jacobs commenced employment as President and Chief Operating Officer effective August 1, 2012.
- (7) Mr. Routh retired from employment with the Company on January 31, 2014. He continues to serve as a director of the Company and has entered into a three-year consulting agreement with the Company. See Compensation of Directors .

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The following table details the various components included in the All Other Compensation column for 2013.

<b>All Other Compensation</b>							
<b>Name</b>	<b>Retirement Plan / 401 (k) Contributions (\$)</b>	<b>Auto (\$)</b>	<b>Life and Critical Illness Insurance (\$)</b>	<b>Member-ships (\$)</b>	<b>Miscellaneous (\$) (1)</b>	<b>Directors Fees for Opta Minerals Inc. (\$) (2)</b>	<b>Total (\$)</b>
Steven Bromley (3)	11,560	19,666	9,631	-	-	30,089	70,946
Robert McKeracher (3)	11,560	22,007	2,444	-	-	-	36,011
Hendrik Jacobs (3)	11,560	17,222	2,444	2,426	60,313	-	93,965
John Ruelle	10,200	5,759	-	-	-	-	15,959
Allan Routh	10,200	903	-	-	-	-	11,103

- (1) For Mr. Jacobs, represents an international living allowance in the amount of \$17,471 (CDN \$18,000) and a relocation allowance in the amount of \$42,842(CDN \$44,139).
- (2) For serving on the Board of Directors of Opta Minerals Inc., Mr. Bromley was paid director fees of \$30,089 (CDN \$31,000), which comprised an annual retainer of \$24,265 (CDN \$25,000) and meeting fees of \$5,824 (CDN \$6,000).
- (3) Amounts paid in Canadian dollars.

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The following table summarizes grants of stock options to our NEOs in fiscal 2013 and the estimated possible payouts under our short-term incentive annual bonus plan for 2013.

Grants of Plan Based Awards During 2013							
Name	Estimated Possible Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards (1)			Grant Date (2)	All Other Option Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Options (#)(3)	Exercise or Base Price of Option Awards (\$/Share)	Grant Date Fair Value of Stock and Option Awards \$(4)
	Threshold Minimum (\$)	Target (\$)	Maximum (\$)				
Steven Bromley	-	320,298	640,596	05/07/2013	100,000	7.36	439,000
Robert McKeracher	-	168,642	337,284	05/07/2013	60,000	7.36	263,400
Hendrik Jacobs	-	249,930	499,859	05/07/2013	90,000	7.36	395,100
John Ruelle	-	172,500	345,000	05/07/2013	60,000	7.36	263,400
Allan Routh	-	149,350	298,700	05/07/2013	60,000	7.36	263,400

- (1) Reflects each NEO's possible payouts under our short-term incentive annual bonus plan for fiscal 2013. Amounts shown indicate each NEO's potential bonus assuming successful completion of the NEO's performance objectives. All performance components of short term incentive have a minimum requirement of 90% achievement before the incentive plan begins to payout. For a discussion of the performance criteria and weightings for each NEO, see Compensation Discussion and Analysis-Short Term Incentives. No amounts were paid to the NEOs for fiscal 2013 under this plan.
- (2) Options vest at a rate of 20% annually beginning on the first anniversary of the grant date and expire on the tenth anniversary of the grant date.
- (3) Consists of options to purchase common shares awarded under the Stock Incentive Plans.
- (4) Consists of the aggregate grant date fair value of stock options granted to our NEOs under the Stock Incentive Plans, calculated in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718. Please see Note 12, Capital Stock, to SunOpta Inc.'s consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for a detailed description of the assumptions used to calculate the fair value of options.

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The following table summarizes the outstanding equity award holdings of our NEOs as of December 28, 2013.

<b>Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year End</b>					
	<b>Option Awards</b>				
<b>Name</b>	<b>Option Grant Date</b>	<b>Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Exercisable</b>	<b>Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Unexercisable</b>	<b>Option Exercise Price (\$)</b>	<b>Option Expiration Date</b>
Steven Bromley	05/14/2009	72,000	18,000	1.64	05/14/2015
	05/12/2010	36,000	24,000	4.45	05/12/2016
	01/03/2011	80,000	120,000	7.72	01/03/2017
	05/08/2012	30,000	120,000	5.73	05/08/2022
	05/07/2013	-	100,000	7.36	05/07/2023
Robert McKeracher	10/06/2008	6,000	-	5.74	10/06/2014
	05/07/2009	800	200	1.92	05/07/2015
	05/14/2009	8,000	2,000	1.64	05/14/2015
	05/12/2010	4,800	3,200	4.45	05/12/2016
	05/11/2011	4,000	6,000	7.35	05/11/2017
	11/08/2011	20,000	30,000	5.05	11/08/2017
	05/08/2012	14,000	56,000	5.73	05/08/2022
	05/07/2013	-	60,000	7.36	05/07/2023
Hendrik Jacobs	08/09/2012	-	200,000	5.14	08/09/2022
	05/07/2013	-	90,000	7.36	05/07/2023
John Ruelle	10/06/2008	7,800	-	5.74	10/06/2014
	05/07/2009	2,000	1,000	1.92	05/07/2015
	05/14/2009	4,000	2,000	1.64	05/14/2015
	05/12/2010	4,000	4,000	4.45	05/12/2016
	05/11/2011	4,000	6,000	7.35	05/11/2017
	11/08/2011	20,000	30,000	5.05	11/08/2017
	05/08/2012	14,000	56,000	5.73	05/08/2022
	05/07/2013	-	60,000	7.36	05/07/2023
Allan Routh	10/06/2008	22,500	-	5.74	10/06/2014
	05/14/2009	-	7,000	1.64	05/14/2015
	05/12/2010	16,500	11,000	4.45	05/12/2016
	05/11/2011	13,000	19,500	7.35	05/11/2017
	05/08/2012	16,000	64,000	5.73	05/08/2022
	05/07/2013	-	60,000	7.36	05/07/2023

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The following table provides information with respect to the vesting of each NEO's stock options that were unexercisable at December 28, 2013.

Name	Grant Date	Year in Which Options Vest					Total
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
Steven Bromley	05/14/2009	18,000	-	-	-	-	18,000
	05/12/2010	12,000	12,000	-	-	-	24,000
	01/03/2011	40,000	40,000	40,000	-	-	120,000
	05/08/2012	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	-	120,000
	05/07/2013	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	100,000
Robert McKeracher	05/07/2009	200	-	-	-	-	200
	05/14/2009	2,000	-	-	-	-	2,000
	05/12/2010	1,600	1,600	-	-	-	3,200
	05/11/2011	2,000	2,000	2,000	-	-	6,000
	11/08/2011	10,000	10,000	10,000	-	-	30,000
	05/08/2012	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	-	56,000
	05/07/2013	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	60,000
Hendrik Jacobs	08/09/2012	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	-	200,000
	05/07/2013	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	90,000
John Ruelle	05/07/2009	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,000
	05/14/2009	2,000	-	-	-	-	2,000
	05/12/2010	2,000	2,000	-	-	-	4,000
	05/11/2011	2,000	2,000	2,000	-	-	6,000
	11/08/2011	10,000	10,000	10,000	-	-	30,000
	05/08/2012	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	-	56,000
	05/07/2013	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	60,000
Allan Routh	05/14/2009	7,000	-	-	-	-	7,000
	05/12/2010	5,500	5,500	-	-	-	11,000
	05/11/2011	6,500	6,500	6,500	-	-	19,500
	05/08/2012	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000	-	64,000
	05/07/2013	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	60,000

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**Option Exercises During Fiscal 2013**

The following table details certain information concerning stock options exercised by the NEOs during the fiscal year ended December 28, 2013.

<b>Option Exercises</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise (#)</b>	<b>Value Realized on Exercise (\$ (1))</b>
Steven Bromley	-	-
Robert McKeracher	-	-
Hendrik Jacobs	50,000	195,784
John Ruelle	-	-
Allan Routh	28,000	167,440

- (1) Value Realized on Exercise is calculated as the difference between the total fair market value of the shares on the date of exercise, less the total exercise price paid for the shares.

**Payments on Termination or Change of Control**

Option agreements under the Company's Stock Incentive Plans provide for immediate vesting of all unvested options in the event of a change of control. A change of control is defined as: (i) the acquisition by a person or group of beneficial ownership of 50% or more of the outstanding voting securities of the Company; (ii) a merger or similar transaction between the Company and another entity whereby voting security holders of the Company immediately prior to such event receive less than 50% of the outstanding voting securities of the entity surviving the event; (iii) the liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the Company; or (iv) the sale or other disposition of all or substantially all of the Company's assets.

We have entered into employment or other agreements with each of our NEOs, most of which provide for certain benefits upon a change of control of the Company or upon a termination of employment by the Company without cause. In our agreements, change of control is generally defined as the acquisition of at least 50% of the common shares of the Company by a person or group. In Mr. Bromley's employment agreement, the definition of change of control also includes certain mergers and similar transactions.

In Mr. Bromley's agreement, cause is defined as cause for termination of employment as recognized at common law by the courts in the Province of Ontario. The agreements with Messrs. McKeracher, Jacobs, Ruelle and Routh do not provide a definition of the term cause.

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The benefits to be received by the NEOs in connection with a change of control or upon termination of employment under certain circumstances are summarized as follows:

***Steven Bromley***

*Change of Control:* Upon a change of control, all of Mr. Bromley's unvested options will immediately vest. Mr. Bromley will have the option of terminating his employment and receiving in a lump sum payment severance benefits equal to 24 months of base salary and the average of the bonuses paid to him for the last two years of employment, plus continuation of allowable medical and insurance benefits for 24 months.

*Termination by the Company without Cause:* Upon termination of Mr. Bromley's employment by the Company without cause, all of Mr. Bromley's unvested options will immediately vest. In addition, the Company will (a) pay Mr. Bromley in a lump sum his prorated bonus based on results through the date Mr. Bromley's employment ceases; (b) pay Mr. Bromley in a lump sum an amount equal to 24 months base salary plus the amount equal to the average of the bonuses paid to him for last two years of employment; and (c) continue allowable medical and insurance benefits for 24 months following termination of employment. These severance benefits are conditioned upon Mr. Bromley's delivery of a release in favor of the Company.

*Termination upon Death:* In the event Mr. Bromley dies while employed by the Company, the Company has agreed to (a) pay prorated bonus through the date of his death; and (b) provide health benefits to his family for two years following his death.

*Non-Competition and Non-Solicitation Obligations:* Mr. Bromley's employment agreement contains non-competition and non-solicitation covenants that extend for two years following the termination of Mr. Bromley's employment with the Company.

***Robert McKeracher***

*Change of Control:* Upon a Change of Control, all of Mr. McKeracher's unvested options will immediately vest. If material changes are proposed to Mr. McKeracher's position, he will have the option of terminating his employment and receiving a lump sum severance payment equal to 12 months (plus an additional one month per year of service from October 2011 up to a maximum of 18 months) of his base salary and a bonus payment as described below and continuation of his auto allowance and certain medical, dental and insurance benefits for between 12 and 18 months, depending on his length of service. For purposes of calculating the lump sum severance payment, the bonus payment will be based on the higher of (a) the average of his bonus for the year in which termination occurs, on a prorated basis based on year to date results (assuming a minimum of six months have elapsed during the year in which employment termination occurs) and his bonus for the preceding year or (b) the average of his bonus payouts for the previous two years of employment.

*Termination by the Company without Cause:* Upon a termination of Mr. McKeracher's employment without cause, he would receive similar benefits as described above relating to a Change of Control, except that the vesting of unvested options would not be accelerated.

***Hendrik Jacobs***

*Change of Control:* Upon a Change of Control, all of Mr. Jacobs' unvested options will immediately vest. In addition, if material changes are proposed to Mr. Jacobs' position, he will have the option of terminating his employment and receiving a lump sum severance payment equal to 18 months of his annual base salary and a bonus payment, plus the continuation of the auto allowance and certain medical, dental and insurance benefits, for a period of 18 months following the date of employment termination. For purposes of calculating the lump sum severance payment, the bonus payment will be based on the higher of (a) the average of his bonus for the year in which termination occurs, on

a pro-rated basis based on year to date results (assuming a minimum of six months have elapsed during the year in which employment termination occurs) and his bonus for the preceding year or (b) the average of his bonus payouts for the previous two years of employment.

*Termination by the Company without Cause:* Upon a termination of Mr. Jacobs' employment without cause, he would receive similar severance benefits as described above under a Change of Control, except that the vesting of unvested options would not be accelerated.

*Termination by the NEO in Certain Situations:* If Mr. Jacobs decides to terminate his employment as a result of his perceived material inability to execute the responsibilities of his position, he will receive benefits of 12 months base salary and a bonus payment, plus continuation of auto allowance and allowable medical and insurance benefits during the termination period. This right will apply to circumstances whereby, due to decisions taken by Mr. Bromley or the Board of Directors of the Company, Mr. Jacobs is unable to execute key responsibilities of his position such as decisions on hiring or firing, thereby limiting his ability to be effective in his role. Prior to obtaining this benefit, the Chairpersons of both the Compensation Committee and the Corporate Governance Committee must grant final approval, and if such persons do not agree on the matter, the final decision will rest with the Chairman of the Board. For purposes of calculating the payment amount, the determination of the bonus payment will be based on the higher of (a) the average of his bonus for the year in which termination occurs, on a pro-rated basis based on year to date results (assuming a minimum of six months have elapsed during the year in which employment termination occurs) and his bonus for the preceding year or (b) the average of his bonus payouts for the previous two years of employment. In the event Mr. Jacobs has not been employed for two years, the bonus payment will be based on the average bonus earned over the period of employment, on a prorated basis for 12 months.

### ***John Ruelle***

*Change of Control:* Upon a Change of Control, all of Mr. Ruelle's unvested options will immediately vest. In addition, if material changes are proposed to Mr. Ruelle's position, he will have the option of terminating his employment and receiving a lump sum severance payment equal to 12 months (plus an additional one month per year of service from October 2011 up to a maximum of 18 months) of his base salary and a bonus payment as described below and continuation of his auto allowance and certain medical, dental and insurance benefits for between 12 and 18 months, depending on his length of service. For purposes of calculating the lump sum severance payment, the bonus payment will be based on the higher of (a) the average of his bonus for the year in which termination occurs, on a prorated basis based on year to date results (assuming a minimum of six months have elapsed during the year in which employment termination occurs) and his bonus for the preceding year or (b) the average of his bonus payouts for the previous two years of employment.

*Termination by the Company without Cause:* Upon a termination of Mr. Ruelle's employment without cause, he would receive similar severance benefits as described above under a Change of Control, except that the vesting of unvested options would not be accelerated.

### ***Allan Routh***

Mr. Routh retired from his positions as an officer and employee of the Company on January 31, 2014. He continues to serve as a director of the Company. In connection with Mr. Routh's retirement, his employment agreement was terminated and he and the Company entered into a Retirement and Consulting Agreement dated January 10, 2014 (the Consulting Agreement). Under the terms of the Consulting Agreement, among other things, Mr. Routh's unvested stock options will continue to vest during the three-year consulting period.

*Non-Competition Obligation:* The Consulting Agreement contains a covenant not to compete that extends through the three-year term of the Consulting Agreement.

*Change of Control:* The Consulting Agreement does not contain a provision whereby Mr. Routh would receive compensation or any other benefit upon a change of control.

*Termination:* The Consulting Agreement does not contain a provision regarding termination of Mr. Routh's consulting engagement during the three-year term.

The following table sets forth the estimated benefits that would have been payable to the NEOs if a change in control had occurred and each officer's employment was terminated on December 28, 2013:

Termination Due to Change in Control								
	Annual Amount for Severance Calculation							
Name	Term of Lump Sum Payment (Years)	Lump Sum Severance Payment (\$)	Accelerated Vesting of Stock Options (\$)(2)	Total (\$)	Total Base Salary (\$)	Average Bonus Last 2 Years (\$)	Continuation of Benefits (\$)(1)	Sub Total (\$)
Steven Bromley (3)	533,830	37,179	40,857	611,866	2.00	1,223,732	1,188,520	2,412,252
Robert McKeracher (3)	337,284	19,603	36,011	392,898	1.17	458,382	538,204	996,586
Hendrik Jacobs (3)	499,859	13,240	51,124	564,223	1.50	846,334	1,099,400	1,945,734
John Ruelle	345,000	19,444	15,959	380,403	1.17	443,804	548,500	992,304
Allan Routh	373,375	70,035	11,103	454,513	1.00	454,513	541,555	996,068

- (1) Represents group life insurance, RRSP/401(k), auto allowances and critical life/extra life insurance through the severance period.
- (2) These amounts represent the difference between the exercise price of the stock options and the closing price of the Company's common shares on the last trading day of the year on the NASDAQ Global Select Market. On December 28, 2013, the closing price was \$9.62.
- (3) Calculated based on the average annual exchange rate for 2013 of \$1.00 Canadian = \$0.9706 U.S. dollar.

The following table sets forth the estimated benefits that would have been payable to the NEOs if each officer's employment was terminated by the Company without cause (or by Mr. Jacobs or Mr. Routh as described in their agreements) on December 28, 2013 in the absence of a change in control:

Termination without Cause								
	Annual Amount for Severance Calculation							
Name	Term of Lump Sum Payment (Years)	Lump Sum Severance Payment (\$)	Accelerated Vesting of Stock Options (\$)(2)	Total (\$)	Total Base Salary (\$)	Average Bonus Last 2 Years (\$)	Continuation of Benefits (\$)(1)	Sub Total (\$)
Steven Bromley (3)	533,830	37,179	40,857	611,866	2.00	1,223,732	1,188,520	2,412,252
Robert McKeracher (3)	337,284	19,603	36,011	392,898	1.17	458,382	-	458,382
Hendrik Jacobs (3)	499,859	13,240	51,124	564,223	1.50	846,334	-	846,334
John Ruelle	345,000	19,444	15,959	380,403	1.17	443,804	-	443,804
Allan Routh	373,375	70,035	11,103	454,513	1.00	454,513	-	454,513

- (1) Represents group life insurance, RRSP/401(k), auto allowances and critical life/extra life insurance through the severance period.
- (2)

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These amounts represent the difference between the exercise price of the stock options and the closing price of the Company's common shares on the last trading day of the year on the NASDAQ Global Select Market. On December 28, 2013, the closing price was \$9.62.

- (3) Calculated based on the average annual exchange rate for 2013 of \$1.00 Canadian = \$0.9706 U.S. dollar.

## **CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND TRANSACTIONS WITH INSIDERS AND RELATED PERSONS**

The Audit Committee reviews any material transactions in which we are or will be a participant and in which any of our 5% shareholders, directors or executive officers, or any of their immediate family members, has a direct or an indirect material interest. After its review the Audit Committee will only approve or ratify those transactions that the Audit Committee determines are in, or are not inconsistent with, our best interests and the Audit Committee, in its sole discretion, may impose such conditions as it deems appropriate on us or the related person in connection with approval of the transaction.

No informed person (as such term is defined in National Instrument 51-102 of the CSA), any proposed director of the Company or any associate or affiliate of the foregoing or any related person (as such term is defined in Item 404(a) of Regulation S-K) has or will have any material interest, direct or indirect, in any transaction since the commencement of the Company's most recently completed fiscal year or in any currently proposed transaction in which the Company was or is to be a participant and the amount involved exceeds \$120,000 or which otherwise has materially affected or would materially affect the Company or any of its subsidiaries, except as noted below:

During the fiscal year ended December 28, 2013, Mr. Routh purchased agronomy products for his family farm for \$140,000 (reflecting market rates) from the Company. During the same period, Mr. Routh also sold from his family farm organic corn and soybeans for \$1,999,000 (reflecting market rates) to the Company.

On February 1, 2007, Mr. Kendall stepped down as the Chief Executive Officer of the Company but has remained Chairman of the Board at a reduced level of compensation subject to a contract which was initially due to expire on February 26, 2020. The contract provided for consulting fees of CDN \$75,000 per year plus a bonus, which amount was amended to CDN \$200,000 per year to December 31, 2010. The contract was subsequently terminated and superseded by a Retiring Allowance Agreement dated March 8, 2011 pursuant to which Mr. Kendall is entitled to receive CDN \$50,000 per annum until February 25, 2015 and CDN \$25,000 per annum thereafter until February 25, 2020. Subsequent to 2012, Mr. Kendall is no longer required to provide services to the Company although payments will continue under the contract. In the event that Mr. Kendall passes away before February 26, 2020, any remaining amount payable under the contract will be paid to his estate until February 26, 2020. Payments after 2012 have previously been expensed as there is no future service requirement for these payments.

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**EQUITY COMPENSATION PLAN INFORMATION**

The following table provides information as of December 28, 2013 with respect to our common shares that may be issued under existing equity compensation plans.

<b>Plan Category</b>	<b>Number of Securities to be Issued Upon Exercise of Outstanding Options, Warrants, and Rights (a)</b>	<b>Weighted-Average Exercise Price of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights (b)</b>	<b>Number of Securities Remaining Available for Future Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plan (Excluding Securities Reflected in Column (a)) (c)</b>
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders:			
Stock Incentive Plans <sup>(1)</sup>	4,024,460	\$5.85	2,172,811
Employee Stock Purchase Plan	N/A	N/A	1,363,771
Warrants	850,000	4.56	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,874,460</b>	<b>\$5.63</b>	<b>3,536,582</b>

- (1) On May 28, 2013, the Company's shareholders approved the 2013 Stock Incentive Plan. On October 17, 2013, the Company registered 2,117,031 shares of its common stock for issuance under the 2013 Stock Incentive Plan. The 2013 Stock Incentive Plan reserves 1,250,000 common shares plus 867,031 additional common shares previously reserved and available for grant under the Company's 2002 Stock Option Plan as Amended and Restated May 2011. The Company had previously reserved a total of 7,500,000 common shares under the 2002 Stock Option Plan. As of May 28, 2013, the Company combined the 2002 Stock Option Plan into the 2013 Stock Incentive Plan and all subsequent equity awards under the 2002 Stock Option Plan will be made under the 2013 Stock Incentive Plan.

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**PROPOSAL FOUR ADVISORY VOTE REGARDING THE FREQUENCY OF VOTING ON NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICER COMPENSATION**

The Company is required by the rules of the SEC to submit to its shareholders a nonbinding advisory vote on how frequently the Company should seek an advisory vote regarding the compensation of the named executive officers, as disclosed pursuant to the SEC's compensation disclosure rules, such as the advisory vote contemplated by Proposal Three included earlier in this Proxy Statement. In accordance with the SEC rules, at least once every three years, the Company's shareholders will be given an opportunity to provide a non-binding advisory vote on the frequency of the say on pay vote with respect to named executive officer compensation.

After careful consideration of this proposal, the Board of Directors believes that the Company should choose a frequency for the say on pay vote that is consistent with the frequency selected by shareholders. Accordingly, the Board of Directors is not making a particular recommendation with respect to the frequency of the say on pay vote.

**Vote Required**

You may cast your vote on your preferred voting frequency by choosing the option of one year, two years, three years or abstain from voting when you vote in response to this proposal. The option of one year, two years or three years that receives the highest number of votes cast by shareholders will be the frequency for the say on pay vote that has been selected by shareholders. Although this vote is advisory and not binding on the Board of Directors or the Company in any way, the Company intends to choose a frequency for the say on pay vote that is consistent with the frequency selected by shareholders. However, the Board of Directors may later decide that it is in the best interests of shareholders and the Company to hold an advisory vote regarding the compensation of named executive officers more or less frequently than the option approved by our shareholders. Abstentions and broker non-votes are counted for purposes of determining whether a quorum exists at the Meeting, but will have no effect on the results of the vote. Brokers and other nominees will not have discretionary authority to vote your shares if you hold your shares in street name and do not provide instructions as to how your shares should be voted on this proposal.

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## EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

**Steven Bromley** (Age 54) serves as Chief Executive Officer and a Director of the Company. Mr. Bromley joined the Company in June 2001, was appointed President in January 2005 and subsequently Chief Executive Officer in February 2007. Mr. Bromley was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Company on January 26, 2007. From June 2001 through September 2003 Mr. Bromley served as the Company's Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. Mr. Bromley was subsequently appointed as Chief Operating Officer and held this role until his appointment as Chief Executive Officer. In August 2012 Mr. Bromley relinquished the Presidency to Hendrik Jacobs, who joined the Company as President and Chief Operating Officer. Prior to joining the Company, Mr. Bromley spent over 13 years in the Canadian dairy industry in a wide range of financial and operational roles with both Natrel Inc. and Ault Foods Limited. From 1997 to 1999 he served on the Board of Directors of Natrel Inc. Mr. Bromley is a Director of most of the Company's subsidiaries, and since July 2004 has served on the Board of Directors of Opta Minerals Inc. which is approximately 66.0% owned by SunOpta.

**Robert McKeracher** (Age 37) serves as Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of the Company overseeing all financial reporting, compliance and corporate treasury activities. He previously served as Vice President of Financial Reporting for the Company from June 2008 until October 2011, and as Director of Financial Reporting from August 2007 to June 2008. Prior to joining the Company, Mr. McKeracher was the Manager of Business Planning and Treasury at Magna Entertainment Corp. from May 2003 to August 2007, after spending four years in public accounting in the assurance and business advisory practise at PriceWaterhouseCoopers LLP. Mr. McKeracher is a Chartered Professional Accountant, Chartered Accountant and holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from The University of Toronto. In the past five years, Mr. McKeracher has not served on any reporting issuer's Board of Directors.

**Hendrik (Rik) Jacobs** (Age 53) joined the Company in August 2012 as President and Chief Operating Officer. Mr. Jacobs brings over 20 years of international sales, marketing, innovation, strategic development and general management experience to this role. Over the previous 11 years Mr. Jacobs held a number of progressively responsible positions with Tetra Pak, the world's leading supplier of equipment and materials for the processing and packaging of liquid food products, with revenues of approximately \$12 billion in 165 markets worldwide. In his last position with Tetra Pak, Mr. Jacobs served as Cluster Vice President for North Europe with responsibility for the United Kingdom, Ireland, Scandinavia and the Baltic States. Prior to this role, he served as Managing Director Benelux with responsibility for the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxemburg, as Vice President of Strategy and Planning with responsibility for setting long term technology and product development strategies, and as Vice President of Sales for TetraPak USA. Prior to joining Tetra Pak Mr. Jacobs held a number of international sales, marketing and general management positions with PepsiCo, Royal Dutch Ahold and the Coca-Cola Company. Mr. Jacobs holds a Masters of Business Administration degree from the American Graduate School of International Management and a Bachelor of Business Administration from Oregon State University. In the past five years, Mr. Jacobs has not served on any reporting issuer's Board of Directors.

**John Ruelle** (Age 44) serves as Chief Administrative Officer and Senior Vice President of Corporate Development and Secretary. Mr. Ruelle was appointed to this position in January 2013. From October 2011 to January 2013, Mr. Ruelle served as Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer. Mr. Ruelle joined the Company in November 2007 as Vice President of Finance and Administration and Chief Financial Officer of the SunOpta Grains and Foods Group, the largest operating division of the Company at the time. Mr. Ruelle brought over 15 years of progressive food industry senior leadership experience to this role with a focus on building foundational structures to achieve aggressive revenue and profitably growth through driving talent management, business processes and strategy linkage. Prior to joining the Company, Mr. Ruelle was Vice President of Finance and Administration, Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer and Corporate Secretary for Restaurant Technologies, Inc. where he was co-founder and managed over 30 Greenfield start-ups. Earlier in his career he held various financial and operational roles with LaserMaster Technologies and was a Certified Public Accountant with Larson Allen, LLP. Mr. Ruelle has a Bachelor of Science degree from St. John's University. In the past five years, Mr. Ruelle has not served on any reporting issuer's Board of

Directors.

## **INTERESTS OF CERTAIN PERSONS IN MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON**

Except insofar as they may be shareholders of the Company or as otherwise disclosed in this Proxy Statement, no person who has been a director or executive officer of the Company at any time since the beginning of its last completed fiscal year, any proposed nominee for election as a director of the Company or any associate or affiliate of such persons has any substantial interest, direct or indirect, by way of beneficial ownership of securities or otherwise, in any matter to be acted upon at the Meeting.

## **SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS FOR 2015 ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS; SHAREHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS**

The Company's shareholders may submit proposals on matters appropriate for shareholder action at meetings of shareholders in accordance with Rule 14a-8 promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Section 137 of the CBCA. For such proposals to be included in the Company's proxy materials relating to its 2015 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, all applicable requirements of Rule 14a-8 and the CBCA must be satisfied and, under the CBCA, such proposals must be received by the Company no later than January 17, 2015. Such proposals should be delivered to SunOpta Inc., Attn: Corporate Secretary, 2838 Bovaird Drive West, Brampton, Ontario, Canada L7A 0H2.

Under SEC rules, notice of a shareholder proposal or nomination for the 2015 Annual Meeting of Shareholders submitted outside the processes of Rule 14a-8 and Section 137 of the CBCA must be received by the Corporate Secretary of the Company at our principal executive offices on or prior to February 16, 2015. The proxy solicited by the Board for the 2015 Annual Meeting of Shareholders will confer discretionary authority to vote on any proposal or nomination submitted by a shareholder at that meeting with respect to which the Company has received notice after such date.

Shareholders may recommend a person as a nominee for director by writing to the Secretary of the Company. Please see Corporate Governance-Board Committees-Corporate Governance Committee (Nominating Committee) in this Proxy Statement for information that each notice of nomination should contain.

Shareholders may communicate with the Board. Communications should be in writing and marked to the attention of the Board of Directors or any of its individual committees, or the Chairman of the Board. Any such communications should be delivered to the Company at its principal executive offices located at 2838 Bovaird Drive West, Brampton, Ontario, Canada L7A 0H2.

## **SOLICITATION OF PROXIES**

Proxies solicited in connection with this proxy statement are being solicited by the Board of Directors of the Company. Proxies may be solicited by officers, directors and regular employees of the Company. The Company does not expect to pay any additional compensation for the solicitation of proxies. These solicitations may be made personally or by mail, facsimile, telephone, messenger, or e-mail. The Company will bear all proxy solicitation costs, including the costs of preparing, assembling, printing and mailing this Proxy Statement, the accompanying proxy card, the Notice and any additional solicitation material that the Company may provide to shareholders.

We will request fiduciaries, custodians, brokerage houses and similar parties to forward copies of proxy materials to beneficial owners of the common shares, and we will reimburse these parties for their reasonable and customary charges for expenses of distribution.

**FORM 10-K AND OTHER INFORMATION**

The Company will mail without charge, upon written request, a copy of its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 28, 2013, including the consolidated financial statements, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations ( MD&A ), schedules and list of exhibits, and any particular exhibit specifically requested. Requests should be sent to: SunOpta Inc., Attn: Susan Wiekenkamp, 2838 Bovaird Drive West, Brampton, Ontario, Canada L7A 0H2. The Annual Report on Form 10-K and additional information relating to the Company is also available at [www.sunopta.com](http://www.sunopta.com), on EDGAR at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov) and on SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com). Financial information is provided in the Company's comparative financial statements and MD&A for the fiscal year ended December 28, 2013.

**OTHER MATTERS**

The Board knows of no other matters to be presented for shareholder action at the Meeting. However, if other matters do properly come before the Meeting or any adjournments or postponements thereof, the Board intends that the persons named in the proxies will vote upon such matters in accordance with their best judgment.

This proxy statement may include forward-looking statements (as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995). These statements are based on our current expectations and involve risks and uncertainties, which may cause results to differ materially from those set forth in the statements. The forward-looking statements may include statements regarding actions to be taken by us. We undertake no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. Forward-looking statements should be evaluated together with the many uncertainties that affect our business, particularly those mentioned in the risk factors in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 28, 2013 and in our periodic reports on Form 10-Q and Form 8-K.

Dated this 17<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2014.

**By Order of the Board of Directors**

*/s/ Steven Bromley*  
Steven Bromley  
Chief Executive Officer

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