

Management's Discussion and Analysis

17. FUTURE ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

The Company closely monitors new accounting standards to assess the impact, if any, on its consolidated financial statements.

In 2008, the Company will be reviewing the implications of the following standards and implementing the recommendations as required.

In December 2006, the CICA issued three new accounting standards: Section 1535, "Capital Disclosures", ("Section 1535"), Section 3862, "Financial Instruments – Disclosures" ("Section 3862") and Section 3863, "Financial Instruments – Presentation" ("Section 3863"). Section 1535 establishes guidelines for the disclosure of information regarding a company's capital and how it is managed. Enhanced disclosures with respect to the objectives, policies and processes for managing capital and quantitative disclosure about what a company regards as capital are required. Section 3862 and Section 3863 replace Section 3861 "Financial Instruments – Disclosure and Presentation". Section 3862 requires increased disclosures regarding the risks associated with financial instruments and how these risks are managed. Section 3863 carries forward standards for presentation of financial instruments and non-financial derivative instruments and provides additional guidance for the classification of financial instruments, from the perspective of the issuer, between liabilities and equity. These standards are effective for fiscal years beginning on or after October 1, 2007 and therefore the Company will implement them in the first quarter of 2008.

In June 2007, the CICA issued Section 3031, "Inventories", that will replace existing Section 3030 of the same title. The new standard requires inventories to be measured at the lower of cost and net realizable value with more specific guidance of costs to include in the cost of inventory. Costs such as storage costs and administrative overhead that do not contribute to bringing inventories to their present location and condition are specifically excluded from the cost of inventories and expensed in the period incurred. This standard is effective for fiscal years beginning on or after January 1, 2008 and will be implemented by the Company in the first quarter of 2008 to the opening inventory for the period with an adjustment to opening retained earnings, net of income taxes and applicable minority interest, for the difference in measurement of the opening inventory with no prior periods restated. Loblaw expects to record, upon implementation of this standard, a decrease in the measurement of its opening inventory of less than 4% of its inventory value resulting in a corresponding decrease to opening retained earnings of less than \$31 million net of income taxes and minority interest on the consolidated balance sheet. The impact of the Weston Foods adjustment to inventory and retained earnings is not expected to be material to the consolidated balance sheet. In addition to the changes in the cost of inventory, the Company is reviewing the additional presentation and disclosure requirements which will be required in the consolidated financial statements and/or in the accompanying notes.

In November 2007, the CICA issued amendments to Section 1000, "Financial Statement Concepts", and AcG 11, "Enterprises in the Development Stage", issued a new Handbook Section 3064, "Goodwill and Intangible Assets" ("Section 3064") to replace Section 3062, "Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets", withdrew Section 3450, "Research and Development Costs" and amended EIC 27, "Revenues and Expenditures During the Pre-operating Period" to not apply to entities that have adopted Section 3064. These amendments provide guidance for the recognition of internally developed intangible assets, including assets developed from research and development activities, ensuring consistent treatment of all intangible assets, whether separately acquired or internally developed. The amendments are effective for annual and interim financial statements relating to fiscal years beginning on or after October 1, 2008 and therefore the Company will implement them in the first quarter of 2009, retroactively with restatement of the comparative periods for the current and prior year. The impact of implementing these amendments on the Company's financial statements is currently being assessed.

The Canadian Accounting Standards Board will require all public companies to adopt International Financial Reporting Standards (“IFRS”) for interim and annual financial statements relating to fiscal years beginning on or after January 1, 2011. Companies will be required to provide IFRS comparative information for the previous fiscal year. The transition from Canadian GAAP to IFRS will be applicable for the Company for the first quarter of 2011 when the Company will prepare both the current and comparative financial information using IFRS. The Company expects the transition to IFRS to impact financial reporting, business processes and information systems. The Company will assess the impact of the transition to IFRS and will continue to invest in training and resources throughout the transition period to facilitate a timely conversion.

For further details on the above future accounting standards see note 1 to the consolidated financial statements.