

Independent Auditors' Report

To the Shareholders of Empire Company Limited

We have audited the accompanying consolidated financial statements of Empire Company Limited, which comprise the consolidated balance sheets as at May 7, 2011 and May 1, 2010, and the consolidated statements of retained earnings, comprehensive income, earnings and cash flows for the 53 and 52 week fiscal years then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these consolidated financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained in our audits is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of Empire Company Limited as at May 7, 2011 and May 1, 2010, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the 53 and 52 week fiscal years then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

The image shows a handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Grant Thornton LLP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chartered Accountants
New Glasgow, Canada
June 30, 2011