# INFORMATION CIRCULAR – PROXY STATEMENT DATED MARCH 29, 2018



www.nuvistaenergy.com



## **WHO WE ARE**

NuVista is an oil and natural gas company actively engaged in the exploration for, and the development and production of, oil and natural gas reserves in the Western Canadian Sedimentary Basin. Our primary focus is on the scalable and repeatable condensate-rich Montney formation in the Wapiti area of the Alberta Deep Basin.

We are publicly traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX: NVA). Find out more on our website www.nuvistaenergy.com, or contact us at inv\_rel@nuvistaenergy.com.

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## **PROXY SUMMARY**

The following summary highlights some of the important information you will find in this information circular – proxy statement. We recommend you read the entire information circular before voting.

Voting Matters	Board Vote Recommendation	For More Information See Pages
Election of 9 Directors	FOR each nominee	9
Appointment of KPMG LLP as Auditors	FOR	22
Approach to Executive Compensation Advisory Vote	FOR	23
Reduction of Share Capital	FOR	24
Amendment to our Stock Option Plan	FOR	24
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## **LETTER TO SHAREHOLDERS**

March 29, 2018

Dear Fellow Shareholder,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and management of NuVista Energy Ltd., we hope you will join us at the Calgary Marriott Downtown Hotel on Tuesday, May 8, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. (Calgary time) for our annual and special shareholders' meeting.

This meeting provides an opportunity for you to vote on the items of business, hear about our performance over the past year and learn more about our plans for tomorrow. The meeting also provides you with the opportunity to meet our board and staff.

The accompanying information circular – proxy statement describes the business that will be conducted at the meeting and provides information on our executive compensation and governance practises.

Your vote is important to us. If you are unable to attend the meeting, we encourage you to ensure your vote is recorded by returning the signed form of proxy or vote via our internet option. If your shares are not registered in your name and are held in the name of a nominee, you may wish to consult the information beginning on page 6 of the accompanying information circular – proxy statement for information on how to vote your shares.

We hope you will join us at this year's meeting.

Sincerely,

(signed) "Keith A. MacPhail"

Keith A. MacPhail Chairman of the Board



## **NOTICE OF ANNUAL AND SPECIAL MEETING**

NOTICE is hereby given that the annual and special meeting of the shareholders of NuVista Energy Ltd. will be held in the Acadia B Room at the Calgary Marriott Downtown Hotel, 110 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue S.E., Calgary, Alberta on Tuesday, May 8, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. (Calgary time) to:

- 1. receive and consider our financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2017, together with the report of the auditors;
- 2. elect nine (9) directors of NuVista Energy Ltd.;
- 3. appoint the auditors and authorize our directors to fix their remuneration as such;
- 4. consider a non-binding advisory resolution on our approach to executive compensation;
- 5. vote on an ordinary resolution to reduce our share capital for accounting purposes;
- 6. consider and, if thought fit, approve an ordinary resolution to approve an amendment to our stock option plan;
- 7. consider and, if thought fit, approve an ordinary resolution to approve an amendment to our share award incentive plan; and
- 8. transact such other business as may properly be brought before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

The specific details of the matters proposed to be put before the meeting are set forth in the information circular – proxy statement accompanying this notice.

If you are a registered shareholder and are unable to attend the meeting in person, please exercise your right to vote by dating, signing and returning the accompanying form of proxy to Computershare Trust Company of Canada, our transfer agent. To be valid, completed proxy forms must be dated, completed, signed and deposited with Computershare Trust Company of Canada, (i) by mail using the enclosed return envelope or one addressed to Computershare Trust Company of Canada, Proxy Department, 135 West Beaver Creek, P.O. Box 300, Richmond Hill, Ontario, L4B 4R5, (ii) by hand delivery to Computershare Trust Company of Canada, 8th Floor, 100 University Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M5J 2Y1, or (iii) by facsimile to (416) 263-9524 or 1-866-249-7775. If you vote through the internet, you may also appoint another person to be your proxyholder. Please go to www.investorvote.com and follow the instructions. You will require your 15-digit control number found on your proxy form. Your proxy or voting instructions must be received in each case no later than 3:00 p.m. (Calgary time) on May 4, 2018 or, if the meeting is adjourned, 24 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays) before the beginning of any adjourned meeting. If you receive more than one proxy form because you own our common shares registered in different names or addresses, each proxy form should be completed and returned.



Only shareholders of record at the close of business on March 29, 2018, will be entitled to vote at the meeting, unless that shareholder has transferred any shares subsequent to that date and the transferee shareholder, not later than 10 days before the meeting, establishes ownership of the shares and demands that the transferee's name be included on the list of shareholders entitled to vote at the meeting.

DATED at Calgary, Alberta this 29th day of March, 2018.

By order of the Board of Directors of NuVista Energy Ltd.

(signed) "Ross Andreachuk" Vice President, Finance, Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Secretary



INFORMATION CIRCULAR - PROXY STATEMENT DATED MARCH 29, 2018 FOR THE ANNUAL AND SPECIAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS OF NUVISTA ENERGY LTD. TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2018

## **VOTING MATTERS**

#### Solicitation of Proxies

This information circular - proxy statement is furnished in connection with the solicitation of proxies for use at the annual and special meeting of the shareholders of NuVista Energy Ltd. to be held at 3:00 p.m. (Calgary time) on Tuesday, May 8, 2018, in the Acadia B Room at the Calgary Marriott Downtown Hotel, 110 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue S.E., Calgary, Alberta.

If you are a registered shareholder and are unable to attend the meeting in person, please exercise your right to vote by dating, signing and returning the accompanying form of proxy to Computershare Trust Company of Canada, our transfer agent. To be valid, completed proxy forms must be dated, completed, signed and deposited with Computershare Trust Company of Canada, (i) by mail using the enclosed return envelope or one addressed to Computershare Trust Company of Canada, Proxy Department, 135 West Beaver Creek, P.O. Box 300, Richmond Hill, Ontario, L4B 4R5, (ii) by hand delivery to Computershare Trust Company of Canada, 8th Floor, 100 University Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M5J 2Y1, or (iii) by facsimile to (416) 263-9524 or 1-866-249-7775. If you vote through the Internet, you may also appoint another person to be your proxyholder. Please go to www.investorvote.com and follow the instructions. You will require your 15-digit control number found on your proxy form. Your proxy or voting instructions must be received in each case no later than 3:00 p.m. (Calgary time) on May 4, 2018 or, if the meeting is adjourned, 24 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays) before the beginning of any adjourned meeting.

The instrument appointing a proxy must be in writing and must be executed by you or your attorney authorized in writing or, if you are a corporation, under your corporate seal or by a duly authorized officer or attorney of the corporation.

The persons named in the enclosed form of proxy are our directors and/or officers. **As a shareholder you have the right to appoint a person or company, who need not be a shareholder, to represent you at the meeting**. To exercise this right you should insert the name of the desired representative in the blank space provided on the form of proxy and strike out the other names or submit another appropriate proxy.

Only shareholders of record at the close of business on March 29, 2018, will be entitled to vote at the meeting, unless that shareholder has transferred any shares subsequent to that date and the transferee shareholder, not later than 10 days before the meeting, establishes ownership of the shares and demands that the transferee's name be included on the list of shareholders entitled to vote at the meeting.



#### **Advice to Beneficial Holders of Common Shares**

The information set forth in this section is of significant importance to you if you do not hold your common shares in your own name. Only proxies deposited by shareholders whose names appear on our records as the registered holders of common shares can be recognized and acted upon at the meeting. If your common shares are listed in your account statement provided by your broker, then, in almost all cases, those common shares will not be registered in your name on our records. Such common shares will likely be registered under the name of your broker or an agent of that broker. In Canada, the vast majority of such shares are registered under the name of CDS & Co., the registration name for The CDS Clearing and Depository Services Inc., which acts as nominee for many Canadian brokerage firms. Common shares held by your broker or their nominee can only be voted upon your instructions. Without specific instructions, your broker or their nominee is prohibited from voting your shares.

Applicable regulatory policy requires your broker to seek voting instructions from you in advance of the meeting. Every broker has its own mailing procedures and provides its own return instructions, which you should carefully follow in order to ensure that your shares are voted at the meeting. Often, the form of proxy supplied by your broker is identical to the form of proxy provided to registered shareholders. However, its purpose is limited to instructing the registered shareholder how to vote on your behalf. The majority of brokers now delegate responsibility for obtaining instructions from clients to a mailing/tabulating agent who mails a scannable voting instruction form in lieu of the form of proxy. You are asked to complete and return the voting instruction form to them by mail or facsimile. Alternatively, you can use their website or call their toll-free telephone number to instruct them how to vote your shares. They then tabulate the results of all instructions received and provide appropriate instructions respecting the voting of shares to be represented at the meeting. If you receive a voting instruction form from a mailing/tabulating agent, it cannot be used as a proxy to vote shares directly at the meeting as it must be returned to the mailing/tabulating agent well in advance of the meeting in order to have the shares voted.

#### **Revocability of Proxy**

You may revoke your proxy at any time prior to a vote. If you or the person you give your proxy attends personally at the meeting, you or such person may revoke the proxy and vote in person. In addition to revocation in any other manner permitted by law, a proxy may be revoked by an instrument in writing executed by you or your attorney authorized in writing or, if you are a corporation, under your corporate seal or by a duly authorized officer or attorney of the corporation. To be effective the instrument in writing must be deposited either at our head office at any time up to and including the last business day before the day of the meeting, or any adjournment thereof, at which the proxy is to be used, or with the chairman of the meeting on the day of the meeting, or any adjournment thereof.

#### **Persons Making the Solicitation**

**This solicitation is made on behalf of our management**. We will bear the costs incurred in the preparation and mailing of the form of proxy, notice of annual and special meeting and this information circular - proxy statement. In addition to mailing forms of proxy, proxies may be solicited by personal interviews, or by other means of communication, by our directors, officers and employees who will not be remunerated therefor.



#### **Exercise of Discretion by Proxy**

The common shares represented by proxy in favour of management nominees will be voted or withheld from voting on any matter at the meeting. Where you specify a choice with respect to any matter to be acted upon, the shares will be voted on the matter in accordance with the specification so made. If you do not provide instructions, your shares will be voted in favour of the matters to be acted upon as set out herein. The persons appointed under the form of proxy, which we have furnished, are conferred with discretionary authority with respect to amendments or variations of those matters specified in the form of proxy and notice of annual and special meeting and with respect to any other matters which may properly be brought before the meeting or any adjournment thereof. At the time of printing this information circular – proxy statement, we know of no such amendment, variation or other matter.

#### **Notice-and-Access**

We have elected to use the "notice-and-access" provisions under National Instrument 54-101 - Communications with Beneficial Owners of Securities of a Reporting Issuer for the meeting to those of you who do not hold your common shares in your own name. The notice-and-access provisions are a set of rules developed by the Canadian Securities Administrators that reduce the volume of materials that must be physically mailed to shareholders by allowing us to post our information circular in respect of our meeting and related materials online.

We have also elected to use procedures known as "stratification" in relation to our use of the notice-and-access provisions. Stratification occurs when we, while using the notice-and-access provisions, provide a paper copy of our notice of meeting and information circular and, if applicable, a paper copy of our financial statements and related management's discussion and analysis, to some but not all of our shareholders. In relation to the meeting, our registered shareholders will receive a paper copy of the notice of the meeting, this information circular, a form of proxy and our financial statements and related management's discussion and analysis whereas non-registered holders of our common shares will receive a notice-and-access notification and a voting instruction form. In addition, a paper copy of the notice of the meeting, this information circular, a form of proxy and our financial statements and related management's discussion and analysis will be mailed to those shareholders who do not hold their common shares in their own name but who have previously requested to receive paper copies of these materials.

We will be delivering proxy-related materials to non-objecting beneficial owners of our common shares directly with the assistance of Broadridge Investor Communications Solutions. We intend to pay for intermediaries to deliver proxy-related materials to objecting beneficial owners of our common shares.

#### **Voting Shares and Principal Holders**

We are authorized to issue an unlimited number of common shares without nominal or par value. As at March 29, 2018, there were 174,184,248 common shares issued and outstanding. As a holder of common shares you are entitled to one vote for each share you own.

To the knowledge of our directors and officers, as at March 29, 2018 no person or company beneficially owned, or controlled or directed, directly or indirectly, more than 10% of our common shares.



## MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON AT THE MEETING

#### **Election of Directors**

Our board has fixed the number of directors to be elected at the meeting at nine members. You are being asked to cast your vote for the following nine directors:

Keith A. MacPhail Ronald J. Eckhardt Pentti O. Karkkainen Ronald J. Poelzer Brian G. Shaw Sheldon B. Steeves Deborah S. Stein Jonathan A. Wright Grant A. Zawalsky

Each director will hold office until the next annual meeting of our shareholders or his or her successor is duly elected or appointed, unless his or her office is earlier vacated.

In the event that a vacancy among such nominees occurs because of death or for any reason prior to the meeting, the proxy will not be voted with respect to such vacancy.

#### **Voting for Election of Directors**

Our directors are elected annually, individually and by majority vote. The individual voting results will be published by news release and on <a href="https://www.sedar.com">www.sedar.com</a> after the meeting. The individual voting results will also be reviewed by our Governance and Nominating Committee and will be considered as part of the committee's overall review and assessment of the nominees recommended to shareholders at our next annual meeting of shareholders.

We have a majority vote policy. Unless there is a contested election, a director who receives more withhold votes than votes "for" will immediately offer to resign. The Governance & Nominating Committee will review the latter and recommend to the board whether to accept the resignation. The committee will consider all relevant factors, including why shareholders withheld votes, the director's length of service, qualifications and contributions to us, share ownership, the current mix of skills and attributes of the directors on our board; the impact with respect to covenants in our agreements or plans, if any; and legal requirements, policies or guidelines (regulatory, securities or corporate laws, or stock exchange rules) for director numbers and qualifications, The resignation will be effective if and when accepted by the board. The director will not participate in any deliberations on the matter.

We expect to accept the resignation unless there is some special circumstance that warrants the director to stay on our board. In any case, our board shall determine whether or not to accept the resignation within 90 days of the relevant annual shareholders' meeting and we will promptly issue a news release with the board's decision. If the board determines not to accept a resignation, the news release will fully state the reasons for that decision.

Management recommends that shareholders vote FOR the election of each of these nominees. The persons named in the enclosed form of proxy intend to vote FOR the election of each of these nominees unless the shareholder specifies authority to do so is withheld.



#### **Biographies of our Directors**

The following information relating to the director nominees is based partly on our records and partly on information received by us from the nominees:



Keith A. MacPhail, P. Eng.

Bachelor of Science (Petroleum Engineering) (Honours) and a Diploma (Petroleum Technology) (Honours)

Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Age: 61

Director since 2003

Chairman of the Board

Independent Director

Shareholder approval rating at the 2017 annual meeting – 98.51%

Mr. MacPhail has over 35 years of experience in the oil and gas industry and is currently Chair of Bonavista Energy Corporation. Prior thereto, Mr. MacPhail was the Chairman and CEO of Bonavista. Prior to joining Bonavista in 1997, Mr. MacPhail held progressively more responsible positions with Canadian Natural Resources Limited with his final position being Executive Vice President and COO. Prior thereto, he held the position of Production Manager with Poco Petroleums Ltd.

Mr. MacPhail holds a Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree in Petroleum Engineering from the Montana College of Mineral Science, a diploma in Petroleum Technology (Honours) from SAIT and is a member of the Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists & Geophysicists of Alberta.

Mr. MacPhail also serves on the board of directors of two other private companies.

Board and Committee Participation	ı	Position	Meetings	Attendance
Board of Directors		Chairman	7/7	100%
Reserves Committee		Member	2/2	100%
Compensation Committee		Member	6/6	100%
Executive Committee		Member	5/5	100%
Equity Holdings <sup>(1)</sup>		2017	20	016
	Number	Value <sup>(2)</sup>	Number	Value <sup>(3)</sup>
Common Shares	2,394,812	2 19,206,392	2 2,614,312	18,143,325
Stock Options	10,000	0	- 23,000	15,520
Deferred Share Units	44,104	4 353,714	17,584	122,033
Total	2,448,91	6 19,560,100	2,654,896	18,280,878
Other Public Board Directorships Committee Positions				
Bonavista Energy Corporation	Chair of the Board Executive Committee (Chair) Reserves Committee			





#### Ronald J. Eckhardt

Bachelor of Science (Mechanical Engineering)

Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Age: 63

Director since 2013 Independent Director

Shareholder approval rating at the 2017 annual meeting – 99.88%

Mr. Eckhardt has more than 35 years of experience in the oil and gas industry. Most recently, Mr. Eckhardt was the Executive Vice-President, North American Operations for Talisman Energy Inc., a public oil and gas company from 2003 to 2009. Mr. Eckhardt joined Talisman (then BP Canada) in 1986 as Chief Drilling Engineer and held positions of increasing responsibility in domestic operations until his retirement in 2009.

Mr. Eckhardt holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Manitoba.

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<b>Board and Committee Participation</b>		Position	Meetings	Attendance
Board of Directors		Member	7/7	100%
Reserves Committee		Chair	2/2	100%
Equity Holdings <sup>(1)</sup>	2	2017	20	016
	Number	Value <sup>(2)</sup>	Number	Value <sup>(3)</sup>
Common Shares	146,011	1,171,008	145,649	1,010,804
Stock Options	18,000	20,320	31,000	23,360
Deferred Share Units	30,586	245,300	14,589	101,248
Total	194,597	1,436,628	191,238	1,135,412
Other Public Board Directorships Committee Positions				
Athabasca Oil Corporation		(	Chairman of the Board	
			Reserves Committee	





#### Pentti O. Karkkainen, ICD.D

Bachelor of Science (Geology) (Honours) and Masters of Business Administration

West Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Age: 63

Director since 2003

Lead Director

Independent Director

Shareholder approval rating at the 2017 annual meeting – 99.02%

Mr. Karkkainen has over 30 years of investment management, energy sector research and investment banking experience, as well as four years of industry experience with Gulf Canada Resources. Mr. Karkkainen was a Co-Founder and General Partner of KERN Partners, a leading Canadian based energy focused capital markets and private equity firm, from September 2000 to July 2014 and was the firm's Senior Strategy Advisor from July, 2014 until his retirement from the firm in August, 2015. Prior to establishing KERN Partners, Mr. Karkkainen was Managing Director and Head of Oil and Gas Equity Research at RBC Capital Markets.

Mr. Karkkainen holds a Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree in Geology from Carleton University, a Masters of Business Administration degree from Queen's University and is a holder of the Institute of Corporate Directors Director designation.

<b>Board and Committee Participati</b>	on	Position	Meetings	Attendance
Board of Directors	L	ead Director	7/7	100%
Audit Committee	1	Member	4/4	100%
Compensation Committee	(	Chair	6/6	100%
Equity Holdings <sup>(1)</sup>	20	017	2	016
	Number	Value (2)	Number	Value <sup>(3)</sup>
Common Shares	76,000	609 520	76,000	527.440

	Number	Value (2)	Number	Value (3)
Common Shares	76,000	609,520	76,000	527,440
Stock Options	10,000	=	23,000	15,520
Deferred Share Units	38,306	307,214	15,801	109,659
Total	124,306	916,734	114,801	652,619

Other Public Board Directorships	Committee Positions
None	-





Ronald J. Poelzer, CPA, CA
Bachelor of Commerce (Distinction)
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Age: 56
Director since 2003
Independent Director

Shareholder approval rating at the 2017 annual meeting – 99.04%

Mr. Poelzer has more than 30 years of experience in the oil and gas industry and is currently Vice Chair of Bonavista Energy Corporation. Prior thereto, Mr. Poelzer was Executive Vice President and Vice Chair of Bonavista responsible for various strategic planning, business development, financial and capital market roles. Prior to joining Bonavista in 1997, Mr. Poelzer was with Poco Petroleum Ltd. as Vice President, Business Development. Prior thereto, Mr. Poelzer was in public accounting practise.

Mr. Poelzer is a Chartered Professional Accountant and holds a Bachelor of Commerce (Distinction) degree from the University of Saskatchewan.

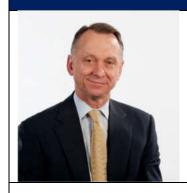
Mr. Poelzer is also a member of the board of directors of various private companies and a charitable foundation.

Board and Committee Participation	Position	Meetings	Attendance
Board of Directors	Member	7/7	100%
Audit Committee	Member	4/4	100%
Governance and Nominating Committee	Member	2/2	100%
Executive Committee	Member	5/5	100%

Equity Holdings <sup>(1)</sup>	2017		201	
	Number	Value <sup>(2)</sup>	Number	Value <sup>(3)</sup>
Common Shares	3,501,277	28,080,242	3,501,277	24,298,862
Stock Options	10,000	=	23,000	15,520
Deferred Share Units	19,928	159,823	9,632	66,846
Total	3,531,205	28,240,065	3,533,909	24,381,228

Other Public Board Directorships	Committee Positions
Bonavista Energy Corporation	Vice Chair of the Board
	Executive Committee





Brian G. Shaw, CFA

Masters of Business Administration and Bachelor of Commerce Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Age: 64

Director since 2014 Independent Director

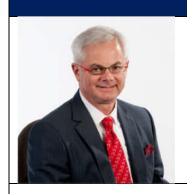
Shareholder approval rating at the 2017 annual meeting – 99.86%

Mr. Shaw is an experienced financial industry executive with particular expertise in capital markets and investing activities. He is also currently a director of Encana Corp., Manulife Bank of Canada and Manulife Trust Company.

Mr. Shaw is an alumni of CIBC World Markets Inc. (and its predecessor firm Wood Gundy) where he was employed for 23 years. He was Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of CIBC World Markets Inc. from 2005 through 2008 and prior to that managed the Global Equities Division for a number of years. Mr. Shaw is a Chartered Financial Analyst and holds a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Alberta and a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Alberta.

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<b>Board and Committee Participation</b>		Position	Meetings	Attendance
Board of Directors		Member	7/7	100%
Audit Committee		Member	4/4	100%
Equity Holdings <sup>(1)</sup>	2017 2016			016
	Number	Value (2)	Number	Value (3)
Common Shares	89,30	1 716,19	4 89,301	619,749
Stock Options	15,00	0	- 15,000	-
Deferred Share Units	26,61	8 213,47	6 13,160	91,330
Total	130,91	929,67	0 117,461	711,079
Other Public Board Directorships Committee Positions				
Encana Corp.		_	Audit Committee	
			Reserves Committee	





Sheldon B. Steeves, P. Geol.
Bachelor of Science (Geology)
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Age: 64
Director since 2013
Independent Director
Shareholder approval rating at the 2017 annual meeting – 99.86%

Mr. Steeves has more than 35 years of experience in the North American oil and natural gas business. Mr. Steeves was most recently the Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of Echoex Ltd., a private oil and natural gas exploration and production company. Mr. Steeves started Echoex Ltd. in January of 2001 and monetized the company in April 2012. Prior to Echoex, Mr. Steeves was the Chief Operating Officer of Renaissance Energy Ltd.

Mr. Steeves holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from the University of Calgary and is a member of the Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta, the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists and the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

Board and Committee Participation	on	Position	Meetings	Attendance
Board of Directors		Member	7/7	100%
Reserves Committee		Member	2/2	100%
Governance and Nominating Comm	nittee	Member	2/2	100%
Equity Holdings (1)	:	2017	20	016
	Number	Value <sup>(2)</sup>	Number	Value <sup>(3)</sup>
Common Shares	21,33	1 171,07	5 21,331	148,037
Stock Options	10,000	0	- 31,000	23,360
Deferred Share Units	17,06	0 136,82	9,632	66,846
Total	48,39	307,89	61,963	238,243
Other Public Board Directorships		(	Committee Positions	
Enerplus Corporation		Re	serve Committee (Cha	ir)
	Audit and Risk Management Committee			ommittee
PrairieSky Royalty Ltd.	Reserve Committee (Chair)			ir)
	Audit and Risk Management Committee			ommittee
		Governance	e and Compensation (	Committee





Deborah S. Stein, CPA, CA
Bachelor of Arts (Economics)
Heritage Pointe, Alberta, Canada
Age: 57
Director since 2016
Independent Director
Shareholder approval rating at the 2017 annual meeting – 99.97%

Ms. Stein has over 30 years of industry experience, including 17 years of direct experience in the oil and gas industry, most recently having held the position of Chief Financial Officer at AltaGas Ltd. Prior to joining AltaGas in 2005, Ms. Stein held various positions at TransCanada Corporation. Ms. Stein also led the finance functions of Wendy's Restaurants of Canada and Paramount Canada's Wonderland. She is currently a director of Velvet Energy Ltd., CEDA and past chair of Financial Executives Canada.

Ms. Stein is a Chartered Professional Accountant, holds a designation from the Institute of Corporate Directors and obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree from York University, majoring in Economics.

<b>Board and Committee Participation</b>	on	Position	Meetings	Attendance	
Board of Directors		Member	7/7	100%	
Audit Committee		Chair	4/4	100%	
Compensation Committee		Member	5/5	100%	
Equity Holdings (1)	:	2017	2	016	
	Number	Value <sup>(2)</sup>	Number	Value	
Common Shares	18,75	150,37	5 11,800	81,892	
Stock Options		-	-	-	
Deferred Share Units	17,060	136,82	9,632	66,846	
Total	35,810	287,19	21,432	148,738	
Other Public Board Directorships Committee Positions				•	
Parkland Fuel Corporation	Audit Committee				
		Human Resources & Corporate Governance Committee			
Trican Well Service Ltd.	Audit Committee				
		Со	mpensation Committ	ee	





#### Jonathan A. Wright, P. Eng.

Masters of Science (Mechanical Engineering) (Great Distinction) and Bachelor of Science (Mechanical Engineering) (Great Distinction) Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Age: 52

Director since 2011

President & CEO (Not Independent)

Shareholder approval rating at the 2016 annual meeting – 99.69%

Mr. Wright has been our President and Chief Executive Officer since May 9, 2011. Mr. Wright has more than 29 years of experience in the oil and gas industry.

Prior to joining NuVista, Mr. Wright has held progressively more responsible roles both domestically and abroad with Talisman Energy Ltd., most recently as Senior Vice-President of Talisman's North American Conventional Production Division which produced approximately one-half of Talisman's North American production at the time. Prior to joining Talisman in 1995, Mr. Wright spent six years with Shell Canada Ltd. in various operations and business development roles.

Mr. Wright possesses both a Masters and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering (with great distinction) from the University of Saskatchewan, where he earned, among other awards, the Canadian Governor General's Gold Medal for being the Outstanding University Post-Graduate for his pursuit in hydraulics and computer controls.

In addition, Mr. Wright serves on the Board of Governors for CAPP, the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers.

Board and Committee Participation	1	Position	Meetings	Attendance	
Board of Directors		Member	7/7	100%	
Executive Committee		Member	5/5	100%	
Equity Holdings <sup>(1)</sup>	2	2017	2016		
	Number	Value <sup>(2)</sup>	Number	Value <sup>(3)</sup>	
Common Shares	275,459	2,209,18	1 262,937	1,824,783	
Stock Options	909,532	1 916,34	4 844,249	519,425	
Share Awards	69,418	556,73	2 60,392	419,120	
Deferred Share Units	n/a	a n/	a n/a	n/a	
Total	1,246,980	3,682,25	7 1,167,578	2,763,328	
Other Public Board Directorships			Committee Positions	5	
None			-		





Grant A. Zawalsky, LL.B.

Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Commerce

Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Age: 58

Director since 2003 Independent Director

Shareholder approval rating at the 2017 annual meeting – 87.12%

Mr. Zawalsky is the Managing Partner of Burnet, Duckworth & Palmer LLP (Barristers and Solicitors) where he has been a Partner since 1994.

Mr. Zawalsky holds a B.Comm and LL.B. from the University of Alberta and is a member of the Law Society of Alberta.

Mr. Zawalsky currently sits on the board of directors of a number of private and public companies and is Corporate Secretary of ARC Resources Ltd. and Bonavista Energy Corporation. Mr. Zawalsky is also a Governor of the Calgary Petroleum Club.

Board and Committee Participation	Position	Meetings	Attendance		
Board of Directors		Member	7/7	100%	
Governance Committee		Chair	2/2	100%	
Executive Committee		Member	5/5	100%	
Equity Holdings (1)	2	2017	20	016	
	Number	Value <sup>(2)</sup>	Number	Value <sup>(3)</sup>	
Common Shares	189,81	1,522,31	5 188,158	1,305,817	
Stock Options	10,000	)	- 23,000	15,520	
Deferred Share Units	24,185	193,96	12,165	84,425	
Total	224,000	1,716,28	223,323	1,405,762	
Other Public Board Directorships Committee			Committee Positions		
PrairieSky Royalty Ltd.		Reserves Committee			
Governance and Compensation Comm			Committee		
Whitecap Resources Inc.		Health, Safety and Environment Committee			
Zargon Oil & Gas Ltd.		Governance	e and Compensation	Committee	

- (1) We have established an equity ownership policy that non-management directors must have an equity ownership interest in our common shares within six months of joining our board of at least three times their annual board retainer. Following the phase-in period, directors are expected to be in continuous compliance with these guidelines. In the event that an individual who has achieved the target ownership level subsequently falls below such target ownership level due solely to a decline in the market price of our common shares, such individual will be considered to be in compliance with the ownership guidelines as long as the adjusted cost base of his or her common shares exceeds the target ownership level.
- (2) The value of the 2017 Equity Holdings have been calculated as the sum of: (i) the number of common shares held by each nominee as of December 31, 2017 multiplied by the closing price of our common shares on the Toronto Stock Exchange on December 29, 2017 (\$8.02), (ii) the number of common shares issuable upon exercise of the stock options held by the nominee as of December 31, 2017 multiplied by



the difference between the closing price of our common shares on the Toronto Stock Exchange on December 29, 2017 (\$8.02) and the exercise price of the applicable stock option; and (iii) in the case of Mr. Wright, the number of restricted share awards held by Mr. Wright as of December 31, 2017 multiplied by the closing price of our common shares on the Toronto Stock Exchange on December 29, 2017 (\$8.02); and (iv) the value of the deferred share units ("**DSUs**") of each nominee is based on the number of DSUs held by the nominee as of December 31, 2017 multiplied by the closing price of our common shares on the Toronto Stock Exchange on December 29, 2017 (\$8.02).

The value of the 2016 Equity Holdings have been calculated as the sum of: (i) the number of common shares held by each nominee as of December 31, 2016 multiplied by the closing price of our common shares on the Toronto Stock Exchange on December 31, 2016 (\$6.94), (ii) the number of common shares issuable upon exercise of the stock options held by the nominee as of December 31, 2016 multiplied by the difference between the closing price of our common shares on the Toronto Stock Exchange on December 31, 2016 (\$6.94) and the exercise price of the applicable stock option; (iii) in the case of Mr. Wright, the number of restricted share awards held by Mr. Wright as of December 31, 2016 multiplied by the closing price of our common shares on the Toronto Stock Exchange on December 31, 2016 (\$6.94); and (iv) the value of the DSUs of each nominee is based on the number of DSUs held by the nominee as of December 31, 2016 multiplied by the closing price of our common shares on the Toronto Stock Exchange on December 31, 2016 (\$6.94).

#### **Experience and Background of Proposed Directors**

Our Governance and Nominating committee seeks to recruit candidates who reflect a diversity of skills, experience and perspectives which are relevant to our business. Our Governance and Nominating committee has established the following "skills matrix" outlining the skills and experience which they believe are required by the members of our board of directors.

Skills Matrix				
Executive Leadership	Experience as a CEO or equivalent is believed to provide the most effective counsel to management, as well as critical oversight on behalf of stakeholders.			
Enterprise Risk Assessment	Board or executive experience in evaluating and managing risks in the oil and natural gas business is sought to assist our board in understanding and assessing the risks and opportunities faced by us.			
Value Creation	Board or executive experience in evaluating and executing on, value creation opportunities through acquisitions, divestiture, mergers or developmental opportunities is critical to our board's ability to effectively fulfill its oversight responsibilities relating to our corporate strategy and ultimate value creation.			
Health, Safety & Environment	Board or management experience with environmental compliance and workplace health and safety in the oil and gas industry are important since such experiences assists our board in more effectively carrying out compliance oversight responsibilities and to support our commitment to managing and operating in a safe, efficient, environmentally responsible manner in association with our industry partners and to continually improving our environmental, health, safety and social performance.			



	Skills Matrix
Operations	As all of our business is derived from oil and natural gas operations, we seek candidates who possess a solid understanding of our industry and its operations.
Reserves and Resource Evaluation	Board experience with, or management responsibility for, oil and natural gas reserve and resource evaluation and reporting is critical to assist our board to carry out its oversight responsibilities of the evaluation of our reserves and resources.
Compensation and Human Resources	Compensation and human resource skills and experience assist our board in fulfilling its responsibility to ensure that we maintain effective incentive programs which attract, motivate and retain top talent, while at the same time reinforcing strategic priorities.
Accounting & Finance	Financial literacy in reading financial statements, financial accounting and operational accounting experience as well as corporate finance knowledge and experience usually from senior accounting and financial management, audit firm background or banking experience are valued in order to enable our board to oversee management's handling of financial and financial reporting matters, including by: critically assessing our financial performance and projections; understanding our critical accounting policies, as well as technical issues relevant to the external audit; and evaluating the robustness of our internal controls.
Legal, Regulatory and Governmental	A broad understanding of corporate, securities, land tenure and oil and natural gas law, regulatory regimes in Western Canada and governmental royalty, incentive and taxation policies usually through management experience or a legal background are important since such experiences assists our board in more effectively carrying out its compliance oversight responsibilities and to support our board in understanding the regulatory trends shaping the oil and gas industry and assessing our strategic response to such trends.
Corporate Governance	A broad understanding of good corporate governance usually through experience as a board member or as a senior executive officer is valued in light of the competing demands of stakeholders and the increasingly complex governance environment in which public companies operate.



The following table outlines the experience and background of, but not necessarily the technical expertise of, the individual nominees of our board based on information provided by such individuals:

Name	Executive Leadership	Enterprise Risk Assessment	Value Creation	Health, Safety & Environment	Operations	Reserves and Resource Evaluation	Compensation and Human Resources	Accounting & Finance	Legal, Regulatory and Governmental	Corporate Governance
Ronald J. Eckhardt	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Pentti O. Karkkainen	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
Keith A. MacPhail	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Ronald J. Poelzer	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓
Brian G. Shaw	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓		✓
Sheldon B. Steeves	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Deborah S. Stein	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓
Jonathan A. Wright	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Grant A. Zawalsky	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓
Total	9/9	8/9	9/9	8/9	4/9	6/9	8/9	4/9	4/9	9/9

#### Additional Disclosure Relating to Proposed Directors

Except as otherwise disclosed herein or in connection with the other matters described below, none of our directors (nor any personal holding company of any of such persons) is, as of the date hereof, or was within ten years before the date hereof, a director, chief executive officer or chief financial officer of any company (including us), that was subject to a cease trade order (including a management cease trade order), an order similar to a cease trade order or an order that denied the relevant company access to any exemption under securities legislation, in each case that was in effect for a period of more than 30 consecutive days (collectively, an "**Order**") that was issued while the director was acting in the capacity as director, chief executive officer or chief financial officer; or was subject to an Order that was issued after the director 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 director, chief executive officer or chief financial officer.

None of our directors (nor any personal holding company of any of such persons) is, as of the date hereof, or has been within the ten years before the date hereof, a director or executive officer of any company (including us) 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 other than Mr. MacPhail who was formerly a director of The Resort at Copper Point Ltd. (a private real estate development company) which was placed in receivership in 2009 and Mr. Zawalsky who was formerly a director of Endurance Energy Ltd. (a private company engaged in the exploration and production of natural gas) which filed for creditor



protection under the *Companies Creditors' Arrangement Act* on May 30, 2016. Mr. Zawalsky resigned as a director of Endurance Energy Ltd. on November 1, 2016.

None of our directors (nor any personal holding company) or any such person has, within the ten years before the date hereof, 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.

None of our directors (nor any personal holding company of any of such persons) has been subject to any penalties or sanctions imposed by a court relating to securities legislation or by a securities regulatory authority or has entered into a settlement agreement with a securities regulatory authority or any other penalties or sanctions imposed by a court or regulatory body that would likely be considered important to a reasonable investor in making an investment decision.

#### **Appointment of Auditors**

Our board recommends the appointment of the firm of KPMG LLP, Independent Registered Chartered Professional Accountants, as our auditors, to hold office until the next annual meeting of our shareholders. Our board will also be authorized to set the fees paid to KPMG LLP.

KPMG LLP has acted as our auditors since 2003. In 2017, an internal assessment of KPMG LLP was undertaken by the Board of Directors and NuVista management to assess the performance of KPMG LLP as our auditors. The assessment concluded KPMG LLP was providing the necessary services and the quality thereof was sufficient to maintain KPMG LLP as our recommended auditors. Our Board and management will conduct a similar assessment at least every three years.

The following table provides information about the fees billed to us for professional services rendered by KPMG LLP during fiscal 2016 and 2017:

Type of Work	2017 Fees (\$)	2016 Fees (\$)
Audit fees (1)	279,000	314,000
Audit related fees (2)	35,000	55,000
Tax fees (3)	350	9,205
All Other fees	Nil	Nil

- (1) Audit fees consist of fees for the audit of our annual financial statements or services that are normally provided in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements.
- (2) Audit related fees consist of fees for assurance and related services that are reasonably related to the performance of the audit or review of our financial statements and are not reported as audit fees.
- (3) Tax fees include tax compliance, tax advice, tax planning and compilation of tax returns.



#### **Advisory Vote on Executive Compensation**

The underlying principle for executive compensation throughout NuVista is "pay-for-performance". We believe that this philosophy achieves the goal of attracting and retaining excellent employees and executive officers, while rewarding the demonstrated behaviors that reinforce our values and help us to deliver on our corporate objectives.

Our board believes that shareholders should have the opportunity to fully understand the objectives, philosophy and principles that guide the executive compensation-related decisions made by our Compensation Committee. Shareholders are encouraged to review the *Executive Compensation* section of this information circular - proxy statement, which discusses our compensation philosophy and approach to executive compensation, what our named executive officers are paid, and how their respective levels of compensation are determined.

As part of our ongoing commitment to corporate governance, our board of directors has approved a non-binding advisory vote on executive compensation at the meeting with the intention that this shareholder advisory vote will form an integral part of our ongoing process of engagement between our shareholders and our board of directors relating to executive compensation. We will disclose the results of the shareholder advisory vote as a part of our report on voting results for the meeting. At our last annual shareholders meeting we received over 99% support for our advisory vote on executive compensation.

As this is an advisory vote, the results will not be binding upon our board of directors. Our board, and specifically the Compensation Committee, will not be obligated to take any compensation actions, or make any adjustments to executive compensation programs or plans, as a result of the vote. However, the Compensation Committee and our board of directors will take into account the results of the vote, together with feedback received from our shareholders, in considering our approach to compensation in the future.

In the event that there is a significant vote against or the advisory resolution is not approved by a majority of the votes cast at the meeting, our board of directors will consult with shareholders (particularly those who are known to have voted against it) to understand their concerns and will review our approach to compensation in the context of those concerns. Results from this review, if necessary, will be discussed in our information circular - proxy statement for the annual meeting of shareholders to be held in 2019. Shareholders may contact our Corporate Secretary by mail at our head office at Suite 3500, 700 – 2nd Street S.W., Calgary, Alberta, T2P 1G1, if they wish to share their view on executive compensation with our board of directors.

At the meeting, shareholders will be asked to vote on the following resolution:

"BE IT RESOLVED, on an advisory basis and not to diminish the role and responsibilities of the board of directors of NuVista Energy Ltd. (the "Corporation"), that the shareholders accept the approach to executive compensation disclosed in the information circular - proxy statement of the Corporation dated March 27, 2018."

Our board of directors recommends that shareholders vote FOR the non-binding advisory resolution regarding our approach to executive compensation.



#### **Reduction of Share Capital for Accounting Purposes**

Management is proposing to reduce our share capital for accounting purposes, without payment of or reduction to our stated capital or paid-up capital, by the amount of the deficit on December 31, 2017. Management believes the elimination of the accounting deficit of \$462,392,000 as at December 31, 2017 is beneficial on a go-forward basis. The reduction of our share capital for accounting purposes is an accounting entry only and has no tax or legal implications to shareholders. Accordingly, at the meeting, shareholders will be asked to consider, and if deemed advisable, to approve an ordinary resolution, with or without variation, as follows:

"BE IT RESOLVED, as an ordinary resolution of the shareholders of NuVista Energy Ltd. (the "Corporation"), that:

- 1. The Corporation's share capital for accounting purposes be reduced, without payment of or reduction to the Corporation's stated capital or paid up capital, by the amount of the accounting deficit of the Corporation on December 31, 2017;
- Notwithstanding that this resolution has been duly passed, the board of directors
  of the Corporation may, without further notice to or approval of the shareholders
  of the Corporation, revoke this resolution at any time prior to implementation of
  the reduction to the Corporation's share capital without further approval of the
  shareholders of the Corporation; and
- 3. Any officer or director of the Corporation be and is hereby authorized for and on behalf of the Corporation (whether under its corporate seal or otherwise) to execute and deliver all such documents and instruments and to take all such other actions as such officer or director may deem necessary or desirable to implement this resolution and the matters authorized hereby, such determination to be conclusively evidenced by the execution and delivery of such documents and other instruments or the taking of any of such actions."

Our board of directors recommends that shareholders vote FOR the ordinary resolution to reduce our share capital for accounting purposes.

#### **Matters Respecting our Stock Option Plan**

#### Amendment to our Stock Option Plan

At the meeting, shareholders will be asked to vote on an ordinary resolution to approve an amendment to our stock option plan to increase the maximum number of common shares reserved for issuance under the plan from 8,900,000 to 9,500,000 common shares. Our board has approved this amendment.

Assuming approval of the 600,000 increase in the number of common shares available for stock option grants, the total number of common shares that will be available for stock option grants following the meeting will be 2,749,660 common shares (1.6% of our issued and outstanding common shares as at March 21, 2018). We currently have 2,149,660 common shares available for grants of stock options under the stock option plan.



The following table summarizes the activity in our stock option plan since it was implemented in 2013:

	Stock Options Outstanding	Stock Options available for future grants	Maximum number of Common Shares Issuable
Opening Balance	-	8,900,000	8,900,000
Grant Activity:			
Granted	8,452,315	(8,452,315)	
Exercised	(510,255)	-	(510,255)
Cancelled/Expired	(1,701,975)	1,701,975	
Proposed Increase		600,000	600,000
Balance	6,240,085	2,749,660	8,989,745
% of Shares Outstanding	3.6%	1.6%	5.2%

The amendment to our stock option plan has been approved by the Toronto Stock Exchange, subject to shareholder approval. A summary of our amended stock option plan is provided below under "Executive Compensation – Long-term Incentive Plans – Stock Option Plan" and a copy of the plan will be filed on our profile on the SEDAR website at www.sedar.com on or about April 4, 2018 under the category "Other Securityholder Documents".

#### **Text of Resolution**

At the meeting, shareholders will be asked to consider and, if thought fit, pass an ordinary resolution substantially in the form set forth below:

"BE IT RESOLVED as an ordinary resolution of the shareholders of NuVista Energy Ltd. (the "Corporation"), that:

- 1. The amendment to the stock option plan of the Corporation increasing the maximum number of common shares reserved for issuance under the plan from 8,900,000 to 9,500,000 common shares is hereby ratified, confirmed and approved; and
- 2. Any officer or director of the Corporation be and is hereby authorized for and on behalf of the Corporation (whether under its corporate seal or otherwise) to execute and deliver all such documents and instruments and to take all such other actions as such officer or director may deem necessary or desirable to implement this resolution and the matters authorized hereby, such determination to be conclusively evidenced by the execution and delivery of such documents and other instruments or the taking of any of such actions."



In order to be passed, the above ordinary resolution must be approved by a majority of the aggregate votes cast by shareholders at the meeting. Management recommends that shareholders vote FOR the above resolution. The persons named in the enclosed form of proxy intend to vote FOR this resolution unless expressly directed to the contrary.

#### **Matters Respecting our Share Award Incentive Plan**

#### **Amendment to our Share Award Incentive Plan**

At the meeting, shareholders will be asked to vote on an ordinary resolution to approve an amendment to our share award incentive plan to increase the maximum number of common shares reserved for issuance under the plan from 1,650,000 common shares to 3,750,000 common shares. Our board has approved this amendment, as well as certain other amendments, which do not require shareholder approval.

Assuming approval of the 2,100,000 increase in the number of common shares available for share award grants, the total number of common shares that will be available for share award grants following the meeting will be 2,356,124 common shares (1.4% of our issued and outstanding common shares as at March 21, 2018). We currently have 256,124 common shares available for grants of share awards under the share award plan.

The following table summarizes the activity in the plan since it was first implemented in 2011:

	Restricted Share Awards Outstanding	Awards available for future grants	Maximum number of Common Shares Issuable
Opening Balance	-	1,650,000	1,650,000
Grant Activity:			
Granted <sup>(1)</sup>	1,539,114	(1,539,114)	
Settled	(752,205)		(752,205)
Cancelled	(145,238)	145,238	
Proposed Increase		2,100,000	2,100,000
Balance	641,671	2,356,124	2,997,795
% of Shares Outstanding	0.4%	1.4%	1.7%

The amendments to the plan that have been approved by our board that do not require shareholder approval include changing the name of the plan to the "Share Award Incentive Plan" and various amendments to the plan to enable us to issue performance share awards in addition to restricted share awards. Each performance share award will entitle the holder to be issued the number of common shares designated in the performance award multiplied by a payout multiplier ranging from 0 to 2.0x.



The payout multiplier for performance-based awards will be determined by our board based on an assessment of our achievement of predefined corporate performance measures in respect of the applicable period. The payout multiplier for a particular period will be determined by our board from time to time but is initially expected to be as set out below. In addition, if relative total shareholder return is negative, we intend to cap the payout multiplier at 1.0x.

For 2018, our corporate performance measures will consist of:

Weighting	Performance Category (each with range of 0 to 2.0 times)
10%	Absolute health, safety and environmental performance
15%	Absolute production per share growth relative to target
15%	Absolute proved developed producing recycle ratio relative to target
10%	Absolute net debt to adjusted funds flow relative to target
30%	Absolute execution relative to the strategic plan
20%	Relative total shareholder return
100%	Total blended performance multiplier ranging from 0 to 2.0 times

We believe these metrics provide a balanced assessment of our corporate and share price performance. With the implementation of the performance element, we intend to reduce the number of stock options that we grant going-forward. This change to our share award plan to include performance share awards in our compensation structure, while reducing the proportion of stock options we grant, is intended to even further align executive and staff compensation with corporate performance and shareholder returns.

Our board will be responsible for determining the allocation of the share awards between restricted and performance awards. The performance awards, through the payout multiplier, will provide a direct link between corporate performance and the level of payout received. We believe that the pay for performance orientation of the performance awards is aligned with shareholder interests.

Our amended restricted share incentive award plan has been approved by the Toronto Stock Exchange, subject to shareholder approval, as applicable. A summary of our amended share award plan is provided below under "Executive Compensation – Long-term Incentive Plans – Share Award Incentive Plan" and a copy of the plan will be filed on our profile on the SEDAR website at www.sedar.com on or about April 4, 2018 under the category "Other Securityholder Documents".



#### **Text of Resolution**

At the meeting, shareholders will be asked to consider and, if thought fit, pass an ordinary resolution substantially in the form set forth below:

"**BE IT RESOLVED** as an ordinary resolution of the shareholders of NuVista Energy Ltd. (the "**Corporation**"), that:

- 1. The amendment to the share award incentive plan of the Corporation increasing the maximum number of common shares reserved for issuance under the plan from 1,650,000 common shares to 3,750,000 common shares, is hereby ratified, confirmed and approved; and
- 2. Any officer or director of the Corporation be and is hereby authorized for and on behalf of the Corporation (whether under its corporate seal or otherwise) to execute and deliver all such documents and instruments and to take all such other actions as such officer or director may deem necessary or desirable to implement this resolution and the matters authorized hereby, such determination to be conclusively evidenced by the execution and delivery of such documents and other instruments or the taking of any of such actions."

In order to be passed, the above ordinary resolution must be approved by a majority of the aggregate votes cast by shareholders at the meeting. Management recommends that shareholders vote FOR the above resolution. The persons named in the enclosed form of proxy intend to vote FOR this resolution unless expressly directed to the contrary.

### **DIRECTOR COMPENSATION**

Our board, through the Governance and Nominating Committee, is responsible for the development and implementation of a compensation plan for our directors who are not also officers. We do not pay any compensation to officers for acting as a director. For information concerning the compensation paid to Mr. Wright who is also our President and Executive Officer, see *Executive Compensation*.

The main objectives of our compensation plan for directors are to attract and retain the services of the most qualified individuals and to compensate our directors in a manner that is commensurate with the risks and responsibilities assumed in board and committee membership and at a level that is similar to the compensation paid to directors of a peer group of oil and gas companies. In addition, our philosophy of using compensation to foster a culture of ownership also extends to our director compensation policies.

The total compensation structure for non-employee directors for 2017 consisted of annual retainers, meeting fees and a semi-annual equity award provided in the form of deferred share units. Each DSU represents the right to receive a cash payment equivalent to the fair market value of our common shares, or in the case of a DSU issued in lieu of board and committee retainers and meeting fees only, at our election, a common share issued from treasury, and therefore have the same upside and downside risk as the value of our common shares.



#### Fees and Retainers

Our non-employee directors receive cash retainers and meeting fees which are paid on a quarterly basis. They are also reimbursed for travel expenses related to their attendance at meetings. The following table displays the compensation structure for 2017 for our non-employee directors:

2017 Annual Retainers and Meeting Fees	Amount (\$) <sup>(1)</sup>
Annual Board Retainer	40,000
Additional Board Retainers:	
Board Chairman Retainer	40,000
Lead Director Retainer	7,000
Audit Chair Retainer	14,000
Audit Committee Member Retainer	5,600
Other Committee Member Retainer <sup>(2)</sup>	3,750
Per Meeting Attendance Fee:	
Board Meeting	1,400
Committee Meeting (excluding Executive Committee)	1,400
Executive Committee	700

#### Notes:

- (1) Each year, a non-employee director may elect to receive all or part of his or her annual remuneration in the form of deferred share units.
- (2) We do not pay retainers for our Executive Committee.

#### **Incentive Compensation**

Historically we have granted stock options to our directors, although we have not granted any stock options to our directors since 2014. As at December 31, 2017, our outside directors held an aggregate of 83,000 options, which represented less than 1% of our issued and outstanding common shares as at such date. For information regarding the outstanding options held by the independent directors, see *Directors Outstanding Option-Based and Share-based Awards* and *Directors Incentive Plan Awards – Value Vested or Earned during the Year* below.

In May of 2016, we implemented a directors' deferred share unit plan or DSU plan for our non-management directors. The DSU Plan is the only active form of long term incentive compensation for our non-management directors. A copy of our deferred share unit plan has been filed on our profile on the SEDAR website at *www.sedar.com* on August 8, 2016 under the category "Other Securityholder Documents".

Our directors receive a semi-annual grant of deferred share units under the plan. Our directors are also able to elect to take all or a portion of their annual board and committee retainers and meeting attendance fees in the form of deferred share units. Deferred share units vest once they are credited to the director's deferred share unit account and may only be redeemed after the director ceases to be a director. In 2017, we granted an aggregate of 68,028 deferred share units to our non-management directors under the plan. An additional 47,624 deferred share units were issued to our outside directors in 2017 in lieu of cash fees.



The following is a detailed description of the terms of our deferred share unit plan.

#### Deferred Share Unit Plan

The deferred share unit plan allows our Compensation Committee to grant deferred share units to members of our board, who are not also full time employees of us or one of our subsidiaries, partnerships, trusts or other controlled entities. Each deferred share unit represents the right to receive a cash payment equivalent to the fair market value of our common shares, or in the case of a deferred share issued in lieu of board and committee retainers and meeting fees only, at our election, a common share issued from treasury.

The purposes of the deferred share unit plan are to: (i) promote greater alignment of the interests between our directors and our shareholders by providing a means to accumulate a financial interest in us that corresponds to the risk, responsibility and commitment of directors; (ii) support compensation that is competitive and rewards our long term success as measured in total shareholder return; and (iii) attract and retain qualified individuals with the experience and ability to serve as directors.

The deferred share unit plan is administered by our Compensation Committee. Subject to the Compensation Committee's reporting to and obtaining approval from our board on all matters relating to the deferred share unit plan, the Compensation Committee has sole and absolute discretion to administer the plan.

The Compensation Committee authorizes the amount of deferred share units to be granted to each of the participants for each calendar year, and the date that the grant becomes effective. In cases where a participant becomes a board member after the deferred share units for that calendar year have been granted, deferred share units may be granted as of the date of the appointment to our board and in such amount as determined by the Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee may also from time to time determine that special circumstances justify the approval of a grant of deferred share units in addition to the other compensation to which the participant is entitled.

Participants may also elect to receive all or part of their annual remuneration in the form of deferred share units. In order to do so, participants must complete a written election form by no later than December 1 of the calendar year preceding the year in which the participant earns the deferred remuneration. For individuals who become participants after the commencement of a calendar year, and for the year in which the plan is established, participants may make an election within 30 days of becoming a director or the establishment of the plan. A participant's election for the latest calendar year will continue to apply to subsequent calendar years until the participant submits another election in respect of a calendar year. Participants may only file one election in respect of a calendar year, and that election is irrevocable for that calendar year.

Deferred share units are not transferable or assignable.

Subject to an extension for blackouts, we credit deferred share units in respect of an election to a participant's deferred share unit account on the date that the remuneration would otherwise be payable. The number of deferred share units credited is determined by dividing the amount of the participant's deferred remuneration by the fair market value (as defined in the plan) of our common shares on the date the deferred share units are credited.



The number of common shares reserved for issuance from time to time pursuant to outstanding deferred share units granted and outstanding under the plan is currently limited to 500,000 common shares. If any deferred share units granted under the plan expire, terminate or are cancelled for any reason without the common shares issued thereunder having been issued in full, any unissued common shares to which such deferred share units relate shall be awardable for the purposes of granting of further restricted deferred share units.

The aggregate number of deferred share units granted to any single holder cannot exceed 1% of our issued and outstanding common shares (including common shares issuable upon exchange or conversion of any of our fully paid securities or those of our controlled entities that are exchangeable or convertible into common shares). In accordance with the rules of the Toronto Stock Exchange, the number of common shares issued to insiders within one year pursuant to the plan, and issuable to insiders at any time, under the plan or when combined with all of our other security based compensation arrangements, shall not exceed 10% of our issued and outstanding shares (including common shares issuable upon exchange or conversion of any of our fully paid securities or those of our controlled entities that are exchangeable or convertible into common shares).

Dividends paid on our common shares before the maturity date of the deferred share units will be credited as deferred share units to the participant's account as of the dividend payment date.

Deferred share units vest immediately upon being credited to a participant's account.

Following the date on which the participant ceases to hold all positions with us and our subsidiaries, partnerships, trusts or other controlled entities (the "**Termination Date**"), except as a result of death, all deferred share units credited to a participant's account will be redeemed as of the maturity date. The maturity date for US taxpayers is the Termination Date.

For directors who are not US taxpayers, the maturity date is December 1st of the calendar year immediately following the year of the Termination Date. Directors may file an irrevocable maturity date acceleration election subsequent to the Termination Date. Subject to the exceptions below, the elected maturity date must be no earlier than 180 days after the Termination Date and no later than December 1st of the calendar year following the Termination Date. The elected maturity date may be any time between the Termination Date and December 1st of the following calendar year, if one of the following exceptions apply: (i) the director resigns pursuant to the "majority voting" or similar policy; (ii) the director fails to be elected as a director at a shareholder meeting after being included as a nominee in our information circular; or (iii) the director is removed from office by a vote of shareholders.

Following a participant's Termination Date except as a result of death, the participant will have the right to have the deferred share units credited to their account redeemed by us. All deferred share units and dividend entitlements thereon (if any) will be redeemed for a cash payment except that, at our election, we may redeem deterred share units and dividend entitlements thereon (if any) issued as compensation for annual board and committee retainers and meeting attendance fees, in cash or through the issuance of common shares from treasury or purchased on the market and any combination of these. The cash payment will be equal to the number of deferred share units and dividend entitlements thereon (if any) in the participant's account as of the Termination Date, multiplied by the fair market value of our common shares determined at the maturity date.



If a participant dies while in office, or after ceasing to hold any position with us and our subsidiaries, partnerships, trusts or other controlled entities but before the Maturity Date, we must make a lump sum cash payment to the participant's legal representative within 90 days of the participant's death. The cash payment will be equal to the number of deferred share units in the participant's account as of the date of the participant's death, multiplied by the fair market value of our common shares determined at the date of death.

Participants have no further rights respecting any redeemed deferred share units. Deferred share units are deemed cancelled upon redemption.

The deferred share unit plan may be amended, modified or terminated by our board of directors without shareholder approval, subject to any required approval of the Toronto Stock Exchange. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the deferred share unit plan and any deferred share units granted under the plan may not be amended without shareholder approval to: (a) increase the fixed number of common shares available to be issued under outstanding deferred share units at any time; (b) extend the term of any outstanding deferred share units; (c) permit a holder to transfer or assign deferred share units to a new beneficial holder other than in the case of death of the holder; (d) increase the number of common shares that may be issued to participants above the restriction in the deferred share unit plan; (e) increase the number of common shares that may be issued to insiders above the restriction contained in the deferred share unit plan; or (f) amend the amendment provision.

In addition, no amendment to the deferred share unit plan or deferred share units granted pursuant to the plan may be made without the consent of the holder, if it adversely alters or impairs any right previously granted to such holder under the deferred share unit plan.

The deferred share unit plan also contains anti-dilution provisions which allow our board of directors to make such adjustments to the plan and to any deferred share units as our board of directors may, in its sole discretion, consider appropriate in the circumstances to prevent dilution or enlargement of the rights granted to participants thereunder.



#### **Directors' Summary Compensation Table**

The following table sets forth for the year ended December 31, 2017, information concerning the compensation paid to our outside directors:

	Fees Earned and Payable in Cash <sup>(1)(3)</sup>	Fees Earned and Payable in Share Based Awards <sup>(2)(3)(4)</sup>	Other Share Based Awards <sup>(5)</sup>	Total
Name	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)
Keith A. MacPhail	-	113,300	83,728	197,028
Ronald J. Eckhardt	-	59,600	59,264	118,864
Pentti O. Karkkainen	-	85,350	83,728	169,078
Ronald J. Poelzer	72,350	-	83,728	156,078
Brian G. Shaw	19,125	42,525	59,264	120,914
Sheldon B. Steeves	63,550	-	59,264	122,814
Deborah S. Stein	79,750	-	59,264	139,014
Grant A. Zawalsky <sup>(6)</sup>	31,875	31,875	59,264	123,014

- (1) Represents fees earned and payable in cash during the year, regardless of when paid.
- (2) Represents fees earned and payable in deferred share units regardless of when paid.
- (3) In May of 2016, we implemented our deferred share unit plan which allows our directors to take all or a portion of their annual board and committee retainers and meeting attendance fees in the form of cash or deferred share units. Each deferred share unit represents the right to receive a cash payment equivalent to the fair market value of our common shares, or in the case of a deferred share issued in lieu of board and committee retainers and meeting fees only, at our election, a common share issued from treasury.
- (4) These share-based awards consist of deferred share units granted to the director in lieu of cash fees. The value is calculated based on our weighted average share price for the five trading days immediately preceding the date the deferred share unit was awarded.
- (5) These share-based awards consist of deferred share units which are determined and awarded semiannually. The value is calculated based on our weighted average share price for the five trading days immediately preceding the date the deferred share unit was awarded (\$7.43 and \$8.53 respectively).
- (6) Mr. Zawalsky is the Managing Partner Burnet, Duckworth & Palmer LLP who provide legal services to us.
- (7) We do not provide stock options, pension benefits, non-equity incentives or other compensation to non-employee directors.



#### **Directors' Outstanding Share-Based Awards and Option-Based Awards**

The following table sets forth for each non-employee director, all option-based awards and share-based awards outstanding at the end of the year ended December 31, 2017:

	Option-based Awards				Share-based Awards		
Name	Number of securities underlying unexercised options	Option exercise price (\$)	Option expiration date	Value of unexercised in-the- money options <sup>(1)</sup> (\$)	Number of shares or units of shares that have not vested (#)	Market or payout value of share- based awards that have not vested (\$)	Market or payout value of vested share-based awards not paid out or distributed (2)
Keith A. MacPhail	10,000	8.79	(4)	-	-	-	83,728
Ronald J. Eckhardt	8,000 10,000	5.48 8.79	(3) (4)	20,320 -	-	-	59,264
Pentti O. Karkkainen	10,000	8.79	(4)	-	-	-	83,728
Ronald J. Poelzer	10,000	8.79	(4)	-	-	-	83,728
Brian G. Shaw	15,000	9.57	(5)	-	-	-	59,264
Sheldon B. Steeves	10,000	8.79	(4)	-	-	-	59,264
Deborah S. Stein	-	-		-	-	-	59,264
Grant A. Zawalsky	10,000	8.79	(4)	-	-	-	59,264

- (1) Calculated based on the difference between the market price of our common shares at December 29, 2017 of \$8.02 and the exercise price of the options.
- (2) Represents deferred share units granted to the director other than deferred share units issued in lieu of cash director fees. See the Directors' Summary Compensation Table above for those fees. The value is calculated based on our weighted average share price for the five trading days immediately preceding the date the deferred share unit was awarded (\$7.43 and \$8.53 respectively). Deferred share units vest once they are credited to the director's deferred share unit account and may only be redeemed after the director ceases to be a director.
- (3) These options expire on September 13, 2018.
- (4) 50% of these options expire on September 17, 2018 and 50% expire on September 16, 2019 respectively.
- (5) 33% of these options expire on May 10, 2018, May 10, 2019 and May 9, 2020 respectively.



#### Directors' Incentive Plan Awards - Value Vested or Earned During the Year

	Option-based awards – Value vested during the year <sup>(1)</sup>	Share-based awards granted in lieu of cash fees – Value vested during the year <sup>(2)(3)</sup>	Other Share-based awards – Value vested during the year <sup>(2)(4)</sup>
Name	(\$)	(\$)	
Keith A. MacPhail	-	113,300	83,728
Ronald J. Eckhardt	-	59,600	59,264
Pentti O. Karkkainen	-	85,350	83,728
Ronald J. Poelzer	-	-	83,728
Brian G. Shaw	-	42,525	59,264
Sheldon B. Steeves	-	-	59,264
Deborah S. Stein	-	-	59,264
Grant A. Zawalsky	-	31,875	59,264

- (1) Calculated based on the difference between the market price of our common shares on the vesting date and the exercise price of the options.
- (2) Share-based awards represent deferred share units. Each deferred share unit represents the right to receive a cash payment equivalent to the fair market value of our common shares, or in the case of a deferred share issued in lieu of board and committee retainers and meeting fees only, at our election, a common share issued from treasury. Deferred share units vest once they are credited to the director's deferred share unit account and may only be redeemed after the director ceases to be a director.
- (3) These share-based awards consist of deferred share units granted to the director in lieu of cash fees. The value is calculated based on our weighted average share price for the five trading days immediately preceding the date the deferred share unit was awarded.
- (4) These share-based awards consist of deferred share units which are determined and awarded semiannually. The value is calculated based on our weighted average share price for the five trading days immediately preceding the date the deferred share unit was awarded (\$7.43 and \$8.53 respectively).



## **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE PRACTISES**

#### Independence

Our Board Chairman is independent and the majority of our board of directors is independent. Our board of directors has determined that Messrs. Eckhardt, Karkkainen, MacPhail, Poelzer, Shaw, Steeves and Zawalsky and Ms. Stein are independent.

Our board has determined that Mr. Wright is not independent as he is our President and Chief Executive Officer.

Mr. Zawalsky is the Managing Partner of Burnet, Duckworth & Palmer LLP who provide legal services to us. Our board has concluded that Mr. Zawalsky is independent and capable of exercising independent judgement after considering, among other things:

- that the fees charged by Burnet, Duckworth & Palmer LLP to us are less than 1% of Burnet, Duckworth & Palmers LLP's total income;
- his equity interest in Burnet, Duckworth & Palmer LLP;
- his common share ownership position and personal financial circumstances; and
- the statutory guidance with respect to the meaning of independence contained in National Instrument 58 101 *Disclosure of Corporate Governance Practises*.

Our independent board members conduct "in-camera" sessions as part of the agenda of each regularly scheduled meeting, generally immediately following regularly scheduled board of directors or committee meetings. In 2017, we held 14 such in-camera sessions.

The following directors are presently directors of other issuers that are reporting issuers (or the equivalent):

Name	Names of Other Issuers
Keith A. MacPhail	Bonavista Energy Corporation
Ronald J. Eckhardt	Athabasca Oil Corporation
Pentti O. Karkkainen	None
Ronald J. Poelzer	Bonavista Energy Corporation
Brian G. Shaw	Encana Corp.
Sheldon B. Steeves	Enerplus Corporation and PrairieSky Royalty Ltd.
Deborah S. Stein	Trican Well Service Ltd. and Parkland Fuel Corporation
Jonathan A. Wright	None
Grant A. Zawalsky	PrairieSky Royalty Ltd., Whitecap Resources Inc. and Zargon Oil & Gas Ltd.



#### **Board Mandate**

Our board is responsible for our stewardship with oversight in several key areas including vision, strategy and leadership, risk management, succession planning, and corporate governance practises. The board's duties are set out in the Board Mandate which is found in Schedule A and on our website at www.nuvistaenergy.com.

Our board, in part, performs its mandated responsibilities through the activities of its five committees: the Audit Committee, Compensation Committee, Reserves Committee, Governance and Nominating Committee and Executive Committee. Our board has accepted overall responsibility for health, safety and environment and no separate committee has been established to deal with these issues. Each of the six committees has their own mandate as described below.

### **Committee Membership and Responsibilities**

Set forth below is information with respect to each of the committees of our board, including membership and a brief description of their board approved mandate which outlines the roles and responsibilities of the committee. The full text of the mandate of each committee is available on our website www.nuvistaenergy.com.

Audit Committee					
Current Members	All members of the Audit Committee are independent and financially literate.  • Deborah S. Stein (Chair)  • Pentti O. Karkkainen  • Ronald J. Poelzer  • Brian G. Shaw				
Membership changes during 2017	There were no changes to the composition of the Audit Committee during 2017.				
Mandate	<ul> <li>The committee's mandate includes:</li> <li>reviewing our annual audited financial statements and the auditors' report thereon and related public disclosure documents prior to submission to the board for approval;</li> <li>reviewing our quarterly financial statements prior to submission to the board for approval;</li> <li>reviewing the scope of external and internal audits;</li> <li>reviewing and discussing accounting and reporting policies and changes in accounting principles;</li> <li>reviewing our internal control systems and procedures; and</li> <li>overseeing the work of the external auditors and meeting with the external auditors independently of our management.</li> </ul>				



Audit Committee	
	This committee is required to be composed of at least three individual members appointed by our board from amongst its members, all of which are to be independent within the meaning of National Instrument - 52-110 - Audit Committees.
	There were no substantive changes to the mandate of the Audit Committee in 2017.

For more information relating to the background of the Audit Committee members, see *Biographies of our Directors* above under *Matters to be Acted Upon at the Meeting*.

The Audit Committee pre-approves all audit and non-audit services performed by our external auditor. For more information relating to the fees billed by our external auditor for audit services in 2017 and 2016, see *Appointment of Auditors* above under *Matters to be Acted Upon at the Meeting*.

All	members of the Compensation Committee are independent.  • Pentti O. Karkkainen (Chair)		
Current Members	<ul> <li>Keith A. MacPhail</li> <li>Deborah S. Stein</li> </ul>		
	There were no changes to the composition of the Compensation Committee during 2017.		
Mandate Th income Mandate The income Mandate The income	<ul> <li>determining compensation and terms of employment for executives, including the granting of common shares and incentives;</li> <li>approving our compensation and variable pay plans; and</li> <li>assessing, at least annually, the compensation and terms of employment of our President and Chief Executive Officer.</li> <li>is committee is required to be composed of at least three dividual members appointed by our board from amongst its embers, all of which are to be independent within the meaning of ational Instrument 58-101 - Disclosure of Corporate Governance actises.</li> <li>ere were no substantive changes to the mandate of the</li> </ul>		

See Compensation Discussion and Analysis – Compensation Committee for more information in relation to the role of our Compensation Committee in determining executive compensation.

For more information relating to the background of the Compensation Committee members, see *Biographies of our Directors* above under *Matters to be Acted Upon at the Meeting*.



Reserves Committee					
Current Members	<ul> <li>All members of the Reserves Committee are independent.</li> <li>Ronald J. Eckhardt (Chair)</li> <li>Keith A. MacPhail</li> <li>Sheldon B. Steeves</li> </ul>				
Membership changes during 2017	There were no changes to the composition of the Reserves Committee during 2017.				
Mandate	<ul> <li>The Reserves Committee's mandate with respect to reserves includes, in consultation with our senior engineering management:</li> <li>reviewing management's recommendations for the appointment of the independent engineers;</li> <li>reviewing the terms of the independent engineers' engagement and the appropriateness and reasonableness of the proposed fees;</li> <li>reviewing the scope and methodology of the independent engineers' evaluation;</li> <li>reviewing any significant new discoveries, additions, revisions and acquisitions;</li> <li>reviewing assumptions and consistency with prior years;</li> <li>reviewing any problems experienced by the independent engineer in preparing the reserve report, including any restrictions imposed by management or significant issues on which there was a disagreement with management; and</li> <li>reviewing all public disclosure documents containing reserve information prior to its release, including, the annual report, the annual information form and management's discussion and analysis.</li> <li>This committee is required to be composed of at least three individual members appointed by our board from amongst its members, all of which are to be independent within the meaning of National Instrument 51-101 - Standards of Disclosure for Oil and Gas Activities.</li> <li>There were no substantive changes to the mandate of the Reserves Committee in 2017.</li> </ul>				



Governance and Nominating Committee				
Current Members	All members of the Governance and Nominating Committee are independent.  • Grant A. Zawalsky (Chair)  • Ronald J. Poelzer  • Sheldon B. Steeves			
Membership changes during 2017	There were no changes to the composition of the Governance and Nominating Committee during 2017.			
Mandate	<ul> <li>The Governance and Nominating Committee's mandate includes:         <ul> <li>assessing our corporate governance practises and making recommendations to the board with respect to corporate governance practises;</li> <li>establishing a nomination process and making recommendations to the board with respect to the nomination of directors; and</li> <li>assessing, at least annually, the effectiveness of the board and its committees.</li> </ul> </li> <li>This committee is required to be composed of at least three</li> </ul>			
	individual members appointed by our board from amongst its members, all of which are to be independent within the meaning of National Instrument 58-101 - <i>Disclosure of Corporate Governance Practises</i> .  There were no substantive changes to the mandate of the Governance and Nominating Committee in 2017.			



<b>Executive Committee</b>			
Current Members	All members of the Executive Committee are independent othe than Mr. Wright.  • Keith A. MacPhail (Chair)  • Jonathan A. Wright  • Ronald J. Poelzer  • Grant A. Zawalsky		
Membership changes during 2017	There were no changes to the composition of the Executive Committee during 2017.		
Mandate	<ul> <li>The Executive Committee's mandate includes:</li> <li>reviewing material items impacting our affairs and the energy industry, which may include relevant and material operational updates from time to time. The meeting topics concentrate on our strategic issues/decisions;</li> <li>monitoring and influencing strategic direction by bringing its expertise to bear in dealing with value enhancement opportunities and/or challenges of our business; and</li> <li>defining and resolving material business opportunities/issues as identified and required by our Chief Executive Officer or Chief Financial Officer.</li> <li>There were no substantive changes to the mandate of the Executive Committee in 2017.</li> </ul>		



### **Meeting Attendance**

The following is a summary of attendance of our directors at meetings of our board and its committees for 2017:

	Committee Meetings Attended				Total Board		
Name	Board Meetings Attended	Audit	Reserves	Governance and Nominating	Compensation	Executive	and Committee Meeting Attendance
Ronald J. Eckhardt	7/7	4/4 (1)	2/2	2/2 (1)	3/6 (1)	-/-	100%
Pentti O. Karkkainen	7/7	4/4	2/2 (1)	2/2 (1)	6/6	-/-	100%
Keith A. MacPhail	7/7	4/4 (1)	2/2	2/2 (1)	6/6	5/5	100%
Ronald J. Poelzer	7/7	4/4	2/2 (1)	2/2	3/6 (1)	5/5	100%
Brian G. Shaw	7/7	4/4	2/2 (1)	2/2 (1)	3/6 (1)	-/-	100%
Sheldon B. Steeves	7/7	4/4 (1)	2/2	2/2	3/6 (1)	-/-	100%
Deborah S. Stein (2)	7/7	4/4	2/2 (1)	2/2 (1)	6/6	-/-	100%
Jonathan A. Wright	7/7	4/4 (1)	2/2 (1)	2/2 (1)	6/6 (1)	5/5	100%
Grant A. Zawalsky	7/7	4/4 (1)	2/2 (1)	2/2	3/6 (1)	5/5	100%

Note:

(1) Attendance by non-committee member.

# **Board Nominations and Diversity Policy**

The Governance and Nominating Committee has the responsibility for establishing a nomination process and making recommendations to the board with respect to nomination of directors. See *Board Committees – Governance and Nominating Committee* for a summary of the committee's mandate. The Governance and Nominating Committee is composed entirely of independent directors. In accordance with the mandate of the Governance and Nominating Committee, the guidelines include considering what competencies and skills the board, as a whole, should possess, the competencies and skills the board considers each existing director to possess and the competencies and skills each proposed nominee will bring to the board as well as whether the new nominee can devote sufficient time and resources to his or her duties as a member of the board. In seeking nominees, the Governance and Nominating Committee encourages input from all members of the board and may use the services of professional recruiters if required.

Our board has adopted a policy regarding board diversity. Our board believes that board nominations and executive officer appointments should be made on the basis of the skills, knowledge, experience and character of individual candidates and the requirements of the board or the particular position at the time. We are committed to a meritocracy and believe that considering the broadest group of individuals who have the skills, knowledge, experience and character required to provide the leadership needed to achieve our business objectives, without reference to their age, gender, race, ethnicity or religion, is in our best interests and all of our stakeholders. Our board of directors recognize the benefits of diversity and has



established a minimum target of 20% female representation on our board within three years. Of our nine directors, one woman is currently serving on our board, which represents 11% of our directors.

To ensure the effectiveness of the board diversity policy and to assist us in attaining our targeted representation, our Governance and Nominating Committee will review the number of women considered or brought forward as potential nominees for board positions when the board is looking to add additional members or replace existing members. The committee will evaluate the skills, knowledge, experience and character of any such women candidates relative to other candidates to ensure that women candidates are being fairly considered relative to other candidates.

The Governance and Nominating Committee is authorized under its mandate to retain experts to assist it in fulfilling its responsibilities. To the extent that the committee retains an expert to assist it in "board searches" for qualified candidates, the committee will provide direction to such experts to proactively seek out women candidates alongside any male candidates for consideration as nominees to the board.

#### **Board Assessment**

We have a formal process of assessing our board and its committees and the individual directors, under the direction of the Governance and Nominating Committee. Our process consists of an annual written director self-assessment completed by all directors as well as one-on-one personal interviews conducted by our Chairman and lead director with each member of the board. The board has satisfied itself that the board, its committees and individual directors are performing effectively through this process. The most recent board effectiveness survey was conducted in March of 2017 and our board of directors has determined that the required skills are well represented by the current slate of director nominees for election at the meeting.

### **Director Orientation and Continuing Education**

Upon joining our board, a new director is provided with a directors' information binder which includes a copy of all board and committee mandates, corporate policies, relevant position descriptions, organizational structure, the structure of the board and its committees, by-laws as well as agendas and minutes for board and committee meetings for the preceding 12 months. In addition, any new director will receive presentations with respect to our operations. As part of continuing education, our board receives management presentations with respect to the operations and risks of our business at least four times per year, with a more significant presentation provided in conjunction with the annual budgeting process and annual strategic planning meeting with all directors and officers in attendance. In addition, the individual directors identify their continuing education needs through a variety of means, including discussions with management and at board and committee meetings. In 2017 we conducted a field trip including a tour of production facilities, well pads, and an active well fracture stimulation operation.

#### **Ethical Business Conduct**

Our board has adopted a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, a copy of which is available to review at www.sedar.com and on our website at www.nuvistaenergy.com. Each employee, officer and director confirms annually that he or she has read, understood and complied with the code. Any reports of variance from the code are reported to the board.



Our board has also adopted a whistleblower policy which provides employees with the ability to report, on a confidential and anonymous basis, any violations within our organization including (but not limited to), falsification of financial records, unethical conduct, harassment or theft. Our board believes that providing a forum for employees, officers and directors to raise concerns about ethical conduct and treating all complaints with the appropriate level of seriousness fosters a culture of ethical conduct.

### **Position Descriptions**

Our board has developed position descriptions for each of the Chairman, the Lead Director, the President and Chief Executive Officer and the chairman of each committee of our board.

# **Executive Succession Planning and Diversity Policy**

Our board has developed a formal succession plan process for each of the executive officers, including the President and Chief Executive Officer. Our process includes:

- The presentation of formal written succession plans to the Compensation Committee and board of directors;
- The succession plans include details around each possible successor's competencies and areas requiring development, as well as a timeline and development plan;
- These plans are reviewed by the board annually with the Chief Executive Officer; and
- The board reviews the Chief Executive Officer's plan in an in-camera meeting of the independent directors.

Our board receives regular updates on the status of the succession plans and the professional development of individuals within our organization. Consistent with our board diversity policy, our board believes that executive officer appointments should be made on the basis of the skills, knowledge, experience and character of individual candidates. We are committed to a meritocracy and believe that considering the broadest group of individuals who have the skills, knowledge, experience and character required to provide the leadership needed to achieve our business objectives, without reference to their age, gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity or religion, is in our best interests and all of our stakeholders and as such no such quotas or targets have been imposed. We currently do not have any women serving in an executive officer position, although we have three women in management positions, which represent approximately 28% of our management positions. We will strive to add female representation to our executive when considering female appointments. This is effected in part by ensuring that qualified female candidates are proactively sought out for consideration alongside any male candidates.

#### **Retirement Policy / Board Tenure**

We do not have a formal retirement policy for our directors or officers or a policy for term limits for our directors. We believe it is important that directors understand our industry and our business and this requires a certain length of tenure on our board. We also want diverse viewpoints and those often come from newer directors.



Our Governance and Nominating committee considers both the term of service of individual directors, the average term of the board as a whole and turnover of directors over the prior three years when proposing a slate of nominees. The committee considers the benefits of regular renewal in the context of the needs of the board at the time and the benefits of the institutional knowledge of the board members.

As at December 31, 2017, our board was comprised of nine directors with an average tenure of 8 years. The tenure of the directors currently on our board is summarized below:

- Four of our directors (44 percent) have been on our board for a period of more than 10 years;
- One of our directors (11 percent) has been on our board for more than 5 years but less than 10 years;
- Three of our directors (33 percent) have been on our board for more than 2 years but less than 5 years; and
- One of our directors (11 percent) has been on the board for less than 2 years.

# **EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

### **Identification of Named Executive Officers**

We are required to disclose the compensation paid to our Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, and each of the three other most highly compensated executive officers whose total annual compensation was more than \$150,000. For the year ended December 31, 2017 our named executive officers or NEOs were Jonathan Wright our President and Chief Executive Officer, Ross Andreachuk our Vice President, Finance, Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Secretary, Michael Lawford our Chief Operating Officer, Chris McDavid our Vice President, Development and Engineering, and Kevin Asman our Vice President, Marketing.

### **Compensation Objectives and Philosophy**

We have developed an executive compensation strategy built on offering a competitive compensation package, which is oriented toward developing a culture of ownership by providing long term equity-based incentives. As a result, the awarding of stock options and share awards is a significant component of our executive compensation. This approach is based on the assumption that our common share price performance over the long term is an important indicator of long term performance.

Our compensation philosophy is based on the following fundamental principles:

- Our compensation programs must be aligned with shareholder interests by aligning the goals of executives with maximizing long term shareholder value;
- Our compensation to NEOs must be performance sensitive by linking compensation to our operating and market performance; and



• Our compensation programs must be market competitive in terms of value and structure in order to retain existing employees who are performing according to their objectives and to attract new individuals of the highest calibre.

### **Compensation Risk and Risk Mitigation**

In establishing our executive compensation program our Compensation Committee considers the implication of the risks associated with our compensation program, including:

- The risk of executives taking inappropriate or excessive risks;
- The risk of inappropriate focus on achieving short term goals at the expense of long term return to shareholders;
- The risk of encouraging aggressive accounting practises; and
- The risk of excessive focus on financial returns and operational goals at the expense of regulatory, environmental and health and safety.

While no program can fully mitigate these risks we believe that many of these risks are mitigated by:

- Weighting our long term incentives towards share ownership and vesting our long term incentives over a number of years;
- Avoiding narrowly focused performance goals which may encourage loss of focus on providing long term shareholder return and retaining adequate discretion to ensure that our Compensation Committee and board retain their business judgement in assessing actual performance;
- Establishing a formal recoupment or "clawback" policy pursuant to which some or all incentive awards made to executives are subject to recoupment in the event of an accounting restatement resulting from misconduct;
- Establishing share ownership guidelines and imposing short selling and restrictions; and
- Establishing a strong "tone at the top" for accounting, regulatory, environmental and health and safety compliance.



### Incentive Plan Design

The ability of our Compensation Committee to consider factors such as personal contributions to corporate performance and non-financial, non-production or non-reserves based elements of corporate performance allows the Compensation Committee to consider whether executive officers have attempted to bolster short term results at the expense of our long term success in determining executive compensation. In addition, as the compensation program consists of fixed (base salary) and variable (annual cash variable pay and long term incentive plan grants), the incentive for short term risk taking is balanced with the incentive to focus on generating long term sustainable value for shareholders. Stock options and restricted share awards which make up a significant portion of an executive officer's total compensation, generally vest over a period of time, which acts to further mitigate against the potential and inappropriate short term risk taking. There are no compensation policies and practises that are structured significantly different for any named executive officers. Our Compensation Committee and board of directors will continue to monitor compensation risk assessment practises on an ongoing basis to ensure that our compensation program is appropriately structured.

### Clawback Policy

We have implemented a formal recoupment or "clawback" policy on executive incentive compensation, including, without limitation, variable pay, stock options, restricted awards and restricted stock units, that may be awarded to our Chief Executive Officer and any of our Vice-President's including our named executive officers when (i) any of these executives engages in willful misconduct or fraud which causes or significantly contributes to a restatement of our financial statements due to material noncompliance with any applicable financial reporting requirement under securities laws, (ii) the executive receives incentive compensation calculated on the achievement of those financial results, and (iii) the incentive compensation received would have been lower had the financial statements been properly reported. The policy provides that when a clawback is triggered, our board may, in its sole discretion and to the extent that it determines it is in our best interests to do so, require the executive to repay the amount of incentive compensation relating to the year(s) subject to the restatement (or received upon exercise or payment of incentive compensation in or following the year(s) subject to the restatement that is in excess of the incentive compensation the executive would have received if the incentive compensation had been computed in accordance with the results as restated, calculated on an after tax basis. In addition, the executive is required to repay any profits realized from the sale of our securities during a 12 month period from the date that the original financial statements that are subsequently restated were filed.

#### **Short Selling Restrictions**

Our directors and officers are not permitted to knowingly sell, directly or indirectly, any of our securities that he or she does not own or has not fully paid for. Directors and officers may not: (i) sell a call option or buy a put option in respect of our common shares or any other of our securities; (ii) enter into any financial instrument or other transaction designed to hedge or offset a decrease in the market value of our common shares; or (iii) enter into any other derivative instruments, agreements, arrangements or understanding (commonly known as equity monetization transactions) the effect of which is to alter, directly or indirectly, the director's or officer's economic interest in our securities, or the director's or officer's economic exposure to us.



Notwithstanding these prohibitions, solely in connection with the administration of our compensation plans, our directors and officers are permitted to sell through our compensation agent, currently Solium Capital Inc., common shares that are not yet owned by such director or officer provided that he or she holds stock options or other compensation related rights to acquire an equivalent number of our common shares and such director or officer has provided a notice of exercise for such stock options or other compensation rights to our compensation agent in order to facilitate the orderly settlement of such options or rights.

### Share Ownership Requirements - Executives

Our executive officers are required to maintain a significant equity investment in us to align their interests with those of our shareholders and mitigate against the likelihood of undue risk taking. Our share ownership guidelines establish minimum share ownership levels for executives based on a multiple of their salary and executive level. See *Ownership Guidelines*.

# **Compensation Governance and Decision Making Process**

The purpose of our Compensation Committee is to assist our board in fulfilling its responsibilities by monitoring our compensation plans and practises and ensuring their congruence with our objectives and goals by assessing and making recommendations regarding compensation, benefits, short and long term incentive programs and employee retention. The compensation packages awarded to our executives is substantively the same as that provided to the rest of our employees, varying only with respect to the level of compensation provided in order to remain competitive with executives within our industry. This is intended to ensure that the interests of all of our employees are aligned internally, and with the long term interests of our shareholders. Although the discussion below focuses upon our named executive officers, the same approach is broadly used for all staff. The more senior the staff, the higher the portion of "at risk" pay. Particularly at the most senior levels (executive), corporate performance target achievements are weighted more highly than personal performance although both are considered. Our Compensation Committee is currently composed of three independent directors, Mr. Karkkainen (Chair), Ms. Stein and Mr. MacPhail. As described under *Biographies of our Directors* above each member of our Compensation Committee has direct experience in establishing and operating executive and corporate compensation programs.

Our Chief Executive Officer presents recommendations to the Compensation Committee regarding the total budget for salary adjustments, variable pay amounts and long term incentives for all non-executive employees. Specific salary, variable pay and long term incentive recommendations for each of our executive members are presented by our Chief Executive Officer to the Compensation Committee and recommendations are made by the Compensation Committee to our board. The Compensation Committee also makes specific recommendations to our board on our Chief Executive Officer's salary, variable pay and long term incentive awards. Our board reviews all recommendations of the Compensation Committee before final approval. Any director who is also an officer is excused from the directors' meeting during any discussion of their compensation. Recommendations and approvals regarding executive salary, variable and long term incentive awards are made at the same time as that for all of our employees.



### **Analysis of Compensation Practises of Competitors**

Aggregate compensation for each NEO is designed to be competitive. In order to assess the market competitiveness of our executive compensation programs and assist the Compensation Committee in its evaluation of compensation, we participate in the annual Mercer Total Compensation Survey for the Petroleum Industry and compare to companies with production rates of between 10,000 and 100,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day. In addition, we review specific publicly disclosed compensation data from selected publicly traded peer companies. For the purpose of compensation comparisons, we select peer oil and gas companies from the Toronto Stock Exchange with market capitalization which range in size from 0.5 to 3.0 times of ours. In 2017, we considered data from for the following 22 publicly traded companies:

Advantage Oil & Gas Ltd. Athabasca Oil Corp. Baytex Energy Corp. Birchcliff Energy Ltd. Bonavista Energy Corporation

Bonterra Energy Corp.
Cardinal Energy Ltd.
Crew Energy Inc.
Enerplus Corporation

Kelt Exploration Ltd. Obsidian Energy Ltd. Painted Pony Energy Ltd. Paramount Resources Ltd. Parex Resources Inc.

Pengrowth Energy Corporation

Peyto Exploration & Development Corp.

Raging River Exploration Ltd.

Spartan Energy Corp.
Storm Resources Ltd.
Surge Energy Inc.
TORC Oil & Gas Ltd.
Whitecap Resources Inc.

The purpose of reviewing the Mercer and peer company data was to:

- understand the competitiveness of current salaries, variable payment levels and long term incentives for each executive position relative to companies of similar size;
- identify and understand any gaps that may exist between actual compensation levels and market compensation levels; and
- establish a basis for developing salary adjustments and short and long term incentive awards.



# **Elements of Compensation and Compensation Mix**

Our executive compensation consists of essentially four components: (1) base salary; (2) variable pay - an annual payment for short term incentive; (3) long term incentive compensation; and (4) other benefits, as more fully described in the table below:

	Not at Risk	Compensation	At Risk Compensation		
	Base Salary	Other Benefits	Variable Pay	Long Term Incentives	
Description	Fixed amount of pay for day to day work	Includes health benefits, insurance, Employee Stock Saving Plan and parking	Lump sum cash payment for prior calendar year performance	Long term incentives are split with 75% from stock options and 25% from restricted share awards (" <b>RSAs</b> ")	
Purpose	Compensates for executive's role, experience and performance	To assist in share ownership, the health and the well-being of the executives and their families	To recognize achievement of prior year's corporate and individual performance targets	To align compensation with long term strategy and overall long term corporate performance	
Determination	Based on peer market data (including Mercer), performance and scope of duties	Components are based primarily on industry norms and value determined as a percentage of base salary	On corporate and individual performance and achievement of targets	On corporate and individual long term performance versus industry	
Timing of Payment or Grant	Bi-monthly	Bi-monthly	Annually	Options and RSAs are granted semi-annually and vest as follows: Options – vest in thirds over 3 years, expire 2.5 years after vesting RSAs – cliff vest two years after grant anniversary	

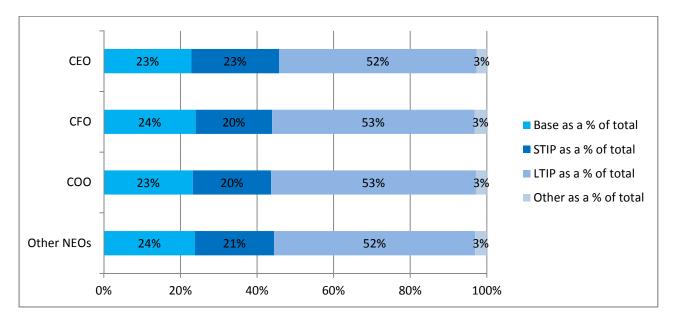


### **Performance Evaluations**

In establishing base salary and long term incentive compensation levels, the Compensation Committee uses current levels of compensation as the starting point and adjusts this based on certain factors including company and individual performance and industry and competitor analysis. By contrast, the annual variable pay amount is a complete reset annually and is based on achievement of annual corporate and individual targets. Depending on those results, the variable pay is pegged at the appropriate point in a predetermined range which is chosen to be competitive with the industry.

"At risk" refers to the fact that the payment is not guaranteed. A significant percentage of each executive's total compensation is comprised of variable pay and long term incentives which are directly linked to corporate and individual performance. The salary component provides a base of secure compensation necessary to attract and retain executive talent and targets the median of the Mercer data for executives. The "at risk" components, variable pay and long term incentives are designed to balance short term performance with our long term interests and motivate the superior performance of both. The long term incentive plan also aligns NEOs with shareholders and helps retain executive talent. Our employee stock savings plan further aligns NEOs with shareholders and allows NEOs to accumulate savings for retirement or other purposes. In line with our overall compensation philosophy that promotes ownership among our executives, a higher proportion of our NEO total compensation is at-risk and tied to our long term performance. The following chart depicts 2017 at-risk target total direct compensation among our NEOs.

The following chart depicts 2017 at-risk target total direct compensation among our NEOs:



### Note:

(1) STIP represents short term incentives (annual variable pay) and LTIP represents long term incentives (long term incentive plan awards such as stock options and share awards).



In determining both variable pay and long term incentives, our Compensation Committee reviews an internal scorecard which covers key aspects of our overall corporate performance. Our performance is compared against a variety of financial and operating targets including but not limited to health, safety and environment; absolute and per share growth of: production, adjusted funds flow, and reserves. Greatest weight is given to per share metrics for the long term, however the meeting of absolute annual targets is also considered since appropriate long term funding plans can impact short term per share metrics. Also considered are operating and general & administrative costs per barrel of oil equivalent (Boe); operating netbacks; finding and development costs and corporate recycle ratio. Greatest weight is given to management controllable items as opposed to those which are more commodity price driven.

As part of the scorecard, the Compensation Committee also considers our annual share price performance both on a standalone basis and versus industry peers, the development and execution of our longer term business strategies and other subjective elements. The Compensation Committee assesses the individual performance of our President and Chief Executive Officer and each of our other officers. Our President and Chief Executive Officer assists the Compensation Committee with the performance assessment of the other officers. This assessment considers both performance against the corporate scorecard described below and performance against specific departmental and personal goals. There is no specific weighting between the NEO's performance against the corporate goals and individual goals however heaviest weight is given to corporate performance, particularly for the CEO.

The following table outlines our corporate scorecard for 2017:

Performance Metric	2017 Target	2017 Actual	Status (Red/Yellow / Green)
Health, safety and environment ("HSE")	Various lost time accident, incident, and environment targets	Various	Yellow
Production – 2017 average (Boe per day)	28,000 – 31,000	29,783	Green
Production growth per weighted average share	+9%	+9%	Green
Capital expenditures	\$280-\$300 MM	\$315 MM	Green
Reserve additions – PDP ((1)(2)	22 MMBoe <sup>(3)</sup>	28 MMBoe <sup>(3)</sup>	Green
Reserve additions – TP+PA ((1)(2)	30 MMBoe <sup>(3)</sup>	104 MMBoe <sup>(3)</sup>	Green
PDP F&D <sup>(4)</sup>	\$12.50/Boe	\$11.35/Boe	Green
Operating costs per Boe	\$10.87	\$10.25	Green
General & Administrative expense per Boe	\$1.48	\$1.60	Green



Performance Metric	2017 Target	2017 Actual	Status (Red/Yellow / Green)
Adjusted funds flow (5)	\$140 MM	\$200 MM	Green
Adjusted funds flow per weighted average share growth (5)	-7%	+32%	Green
Adjusted funds flow netback per Boe (5)	\$13.14	\$18.40	Green
Share price growth	15%	+16%	Green
Corporate recycle ratio (PDP and TP+PA) (6)	1.5x	1.6x – 2.6x	Green
Strategic Initiatives			
Advance Montney play	Execution of key 5 year plan initiatives		Green
Manage egress and processing plan	Continue enhancing plan		Green
Execute asset divestitures	\$10-\$25 MM/ year	\$6 MM	Yellow
Manage net debt to adjusted funds flow ratio (5)	2.0x	0.6x	Green

### Notes:

- (1) Reserve additions reflect 2017 drilling extensions plus technical revisions.
- (2) TP + PA represents total proved plus probable reserves and PDP represents proved developed producing reserves.
- (3) MMBoe means million barrels of oil equivalent.
- (4) Represents finding and developed costs ("F&D") for total proved plus probable reserves, an oil and gas metric prepared by management, which does not have a standardized meaning or standard method of calculation and therefore may not be comparable to similar measures used by other companies. This finding and development cost calculation includes all exploration and development capital for that period (as outlined in our annual financial statements) plus the change in future development capital for that period. This total capital including the change in the future development capital is then divided by the change in our total proved plus probable reserves for that period including revisions for that same period. The aggregate of the exploration and development costs incurred in the most recent financial year and the change during the year in estimated future development costs generally will not reflect total finding and development costs related to reserve additions for the year.
- (5) We use "adjusted funds flow", "adjusted funds flow per weighted average share outstanding", "adjusted funds flow netback per Boe", and "net debt to adjusted funds flow ratio" to analyze operating performance and leverage. These terms do not have any standardized meaning prescribed by GAAP and therefore may not be comparable with the calculation of similar measures for other entities. Adjusted funds flow are based on cash flow from operating activities as per the statement of cash flows before changes in non-cash working capital, asset retirement expenditures, note receivable allowance (recovery),



and environmental remediation expenses. Adjusted funds flow per weighted average share outstanding is calculated based on the weighted average number of common shares outstanding consistent with the calculation of net loss per share. Adjusted funds flow netback is operating netback less general and administrative, restricted share awards, deferred share units and interest expenses calculated on a Boe basis. Adjusted funds flow as presented is not intended to represent operating cash flow or operating profits for the period nor should it be viewed as an alternative to cash flow from operating activities, per the statement of cash flows, net earnings (loss) or other measures of financial performance calculated in accordance with GAAP. The net debt to adjusted funds flow ratio is calculated by dividing net debt by adjusted funds flow. Net debt is calculated as long-term debt plus senior unsecured notes plus adjusted working capital. Adjusted working capital is current assets less current liabilities and excludes the current portions of the financial derivative assets or liabilities, asset retirement obligations and deferred premium on flow through shares. For more details on non-GAAP measures, including a reconciliation to GAAP measures refer to our Management's Discussion and Analysis.

(6) Represents our proved developed producing recycle ratio and total proved plus probable recycle ratio, an oil and gas metric prepared by management, which does not have a standardized meaning or standard method of calculation and therefore may not be comparable to similar measures used by other companies. Proved developed producing recycle ratio has been calculated by dividing 2017 adjusted funds flow netback per Boe by our 2017 proved developed producing finding and development costs of \$11.35 per Boe and; total proved plus probable recycle ratio has been calculated by dividing 2017 adjusted funds flow netback per Boe by our 2017 total proved plus probable finding and development costs of \$6.95 per Boe.

When assessing performance, the Compensation Committee and our board do not apply numerical weightings to any of these categories, rather a traffic light system of green/yellow/red is applied. The evaluation of performance also involves the use of informed judgement and consideration of circumstances such as the macroeconomic environment, other external factors and internal constraints in determining overall performance. For the most part, 2017 was a successful year for us on a number of fronts as evidenced by our scorecard.

The key performance highlights in 2017 included the following:

- Continued on our 5 year growth plan towards 60,000 Boe per day with 21% production growth to
  a full year figure of approximately 29,800 Boe per day, or 11% year on year production per
  weighted average share growth. This was complete with the addition of more well inventory and
  egress commitments;
- HSE progress was very strong including a significant reduction in lost time and total recordable
  injuries as well as injury severity. Our environmental spill frequency improved greatly although
  one spill was larger than normal. As such HSE, was assessed with a yellow light status in respect of
  strong reporting, attitude and safety culture progress despite not achieving all goals;
- Achieved adjusted funds flow of \$200 million which resulted in year on year adjusted funds flow per share growth of 32% and adjusted funds flow netback of \$18.40/Boe;
- Executed a robust \$315 million capital program with PDP F&D costs of \$11.35/Boe and a PDP recycle ratio of 1.6x;
- Achieved full year operating costs under budget at \$10.25/Boe;



- Exited 2017 with a net debt to adjusted funds flow ratio of 0.6x on a quarterly annualized basis, and;
- Significantly advanced corporate long term strategies including:
  - Further diversified our long term access to downstream gas markets;
  - Continued our commodity price risk management program to underpin ongoing capital programs and to maintain balance sheet strength, and;
  - Drilled and placed on production a successful Lower Montney well to begin evaluating value and growth possibilities in this emerging zone.

#### **Base Salaries**

Typically, base salary increases are determined for all employees, including executives in December of each year. The determination of 2017 executive salaries were made in December, 2016 and implemented effective January 1, 2017. For base salary, NEOs are targeted approximately to the median of the Mercer and industry peer results. In light of the macro-environment and significantly lower commodity prices, base salaries were frozen for all NEOs in 2017 as was done in January of 2016 and 2015.

#### Variable Pay

NEO variable pay amounts are targeted at the appropriate point within the pre-specified ranges shown below. Individual placement within the range is dependent on the traffic light results, the board's judgement, and to some extent, the NEO's individual performance. The ranges themselves are selected based on industry competitive analysis for similar roles, and are revisited periodically to ensure continued alignment with industry. By way of example, if the majority of scorecard items were red variable pay would normally be targeted at the bottom of the range. If all were green, then variable pay would be targeted towards the top of the range. However our board also considers industry conditions.

The following table sets forth the variable pay target ranges for our CEO and the other NEOs:

NEO	Target (as a % of annual salary)
President and CEO	30% to 120%
All Other NEOs	20% to 100%

As a result of the performance evaluation described above, partially recovering industry and company conditions, and our adjusted funds flow, variable pay as a percentage of base pay for the CEO and NEOs was placed high in the respective target ranges, at 100% for the CEO and a range of 83% to 95% for the NEOs.

Our board approved an overall 2017 company variable pay pool amount of 37.35%% of 2017 annual salaries paid to employees, or \$3.57 million.



The following table details the portion of variable pay awarded to our NEOs for 2017 versus 2016:

Name	2017 Variable Pay	% of 2017 Annual Salary	2016 Variable Pay	% of 2016 Annual Salary
Jonathan Wright	455,000	100%	350,000	77%
Ross Andreachuk	220,000	83%	120,000	45%
Michael Lawford	235,000	89%	125,000	47%
Chris McDavid	230,000	87%	120,000	45%
Kevin Asman	220,000	95%	110,000	47%

### Long term Incentives

Our long term incentive plans for our officers and employees currently consist of our stock option plan, share award incentive plan and employee stock savings plan. We have phased out our restricted stock unit incentive plan. No restricted stock unit grants were made in 2016 and as at December 31, 2016, there were no restricted stock units outstanding.

Our non-employee directors are not entitled to participate in any of these plans. We have a separate deferred share unit plan for our non-employee directors. See *Director Compensation* for a summary of our deferred share unit plan.

Our long term incentive plans are designed to align the interests of our employees with shareholders by linking a component of compensation to the long term performance of our common shares. Our directors' deferred share unit plan is the only form of long term incentive for our non-management directors.

Stock options and restricted share awards are granted to officers, employees and other service providers generally upon commencement of service based on the level of responsibility with us. Our current policy is that additional grants are generally made on a semi-annual basis. Our Compensation Committee is responsible for determining the allocation of long term incentive grants between stock options and restricted share awards. The percentage of stock options received relative to restricted share awards increases with greater levels of responsibility.

In 2017, our CEO and NEOs' long term incentives were comprised of a combination of stock options and RSAs. This ratio was 75% options and 25% RSAs. In 2018, our long term incentive ratio is being amended. The new ratio will incorporate performance share awards ("**PSAs**") into our long term incentive mix. The new ratio for CEO and NEOs will be 50% options, 20% RSA and 30% PSAs further aligning our compensation structure to operational excellence and shareholder return.

We granted 322,750 restricted share awards and 1,773,080 stock options to employees during 2017, of which 117,756 restricted share awards and 808,720 stock options were granted to officers. No restricted share awards or stock options were granted to our non-management directors in 2017.



The Compensation Committee adjusted target long term incentive plan levels for our executive team gradually upwards through 2017 in order to move total compensation up from below the market median competitive level indicated by Mercer and competitor data. This was also done in concert with public recognition of the strengthening business plan and execution exhibited by us since 2013. As this was a change to long term incentive plan levels only and not to base and variable pay programs, actual payouts will be dependent on corporate and share value success. This change was made gradually and following an increase to senior professional staff long term incentive plan levels for competitive reasons in 2014.

For the long term incentive portion of total NEO compensation, the amounts targeted are primarily driven by an attempt to maintain long term incentive compensation in or near the second quartile of Mercer and industry peers. However, the data for these amounts are, by nature, annually volatile, so multi-year smoothing and dampening is always required. The exact placement each year is made to maintain the competitive position noted above, taking into account our long term, absolute and relative performance versus our peers, job responsibility, scarcity of skills, and to some extent, personal performance. We also believe that while creating long term retention, our long term incentive payments are also highly aligned with company and long term shareholder compensation given that actual payouts are entirely tied to share price performance.

The following table sets forth the long term incentive target ranges for our CEO and the other NEOs:

NEO	Target (as a % of annual salary)
President and CEO	130 - 225%
All Other NEOs	130 - 225%

Annual long term incentives granted as a percentage of base pay is currently set at approximately 185% for the President and CEO and 165% to 190% for NEOs.

The following table details the restricted share awards and stock options granted to each of our NEOs during 2017.

Name	Number of Stock Options Granted	Number of Restricted Share Awards Granted
Jonathan Wright	222,864	32,418
Ross Andreachuk	126,780	18,445
Michael Lawford	133,452	19,373
Chris McDavid	126,780	18,445
Kevin Asman	101,424	14,816



### Reported Compensation compared to Realized Compensation

Annual realized compensation varies from "as granted" or "reported" annual compensation due to phasing of LTIP encashment and also primarily due to the fact that LTIP is granted based on an assumed Black-Sholes calculation of the value of stock options and RSAs. Actual value when encashed is of course dependent on share performance between the grant date and the encashment date.

The following table demonstrates the long term orientation of our executive compensation program by comparing the difference between the reported pay shown in the summary compensation table and the actual pay realized by our NEOs for the last seven years (or the period of time for which they have been an NEO):

Name and principal position	Year	Total Reported "As Granted" Compensation (\$)	Total Realized Compensation <sup>(1)</sup> (\$)	Realized vs. Reported Compensation (\$)	Realized as a Percentage of Reported Compensation (%)
Jonathan Wright	2017	1,988,612	1,328,752	(659,860)	67
President and Chief Executive Officer	2016	1,690,501	1,173,530	(516,971)	69
	2015	1,176,717	945,201	(231,516)	80
	2014	1,776,483	2,103,638	327,155	118
	2013	1,425,987	1,499,709	73,722	105
	2012	1,656,837	796,497	(860,340)	48
	2011	2,779,847	421,018	(2,358,829)	15
Ross Andreachuk	2017	1,103,678	734,789	(368,889)	67
Vice President, Finance, Chief	2016	894,578	563,434	(331,144)	63
Financial Officer and Corporate Secretary	2015	671,934	497,140	(174,794)	74
Secretary	2014	749,199	784,903	35,704	105
Michael Lawford	2017	1,145,811	736,617	(409,194)	64
Chief Operating Officer	2016	919,264	765,652	(153,612)	83
	2015	672,086	508,537	(163,549)	76
	2014	857,809	1,033,378	175,569	120
	2013	673,482	420,474	(253,008)	62
	2012	970,709	447,907	(522,802)	46
Chris McDavid	2017	1,112,085	828,841	(283,244)	75
Vice President, Development and	2016	894,515	589,272	(305,243)	66
Engineering	2015	671,606	505,293	(166,313)	75
	2014	846,602	924,931	78,329	109
	2013	674,118	484,383	(189,735)	72
	2012	789,948	400,806	(389,142)	51
	2011	488,234	343,829	(144,405)	70

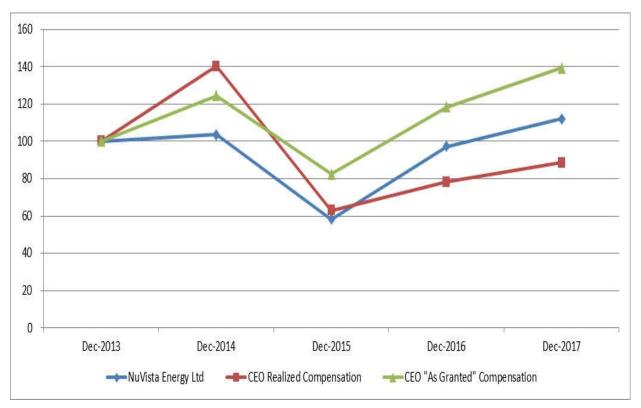


Name and principal position	Year	Total Reported "As Granted" Compensation (\$)	Total Realized Compensation (1) (\$)	Realized vs. Reported Compensation (\$)	Realized as a Percentage of Reported Compensation (%)
Kevin Asman	2017	949,145	676,684	(272,461)	71
Vice President, Marketing	2016	754,774	512,346	(242,428)	68
	2015	570,514	442,183	(128,331)	78
	2014	748,698	805,740	57,042	108

#### Note:

(1) Total realized compensation is based on income as reported on the officer's official tax slip adjusted for variable pay amounts which apply to that year but not paid until the following January. For example, the 2017 realized compensation above is the officer's income as per their 2017 tax slip minus the variable pay amount paid in January 2017 (which applies to 2016 performance) plus the variable pay amount paid in January 2018 (which applies to 2017 performance).

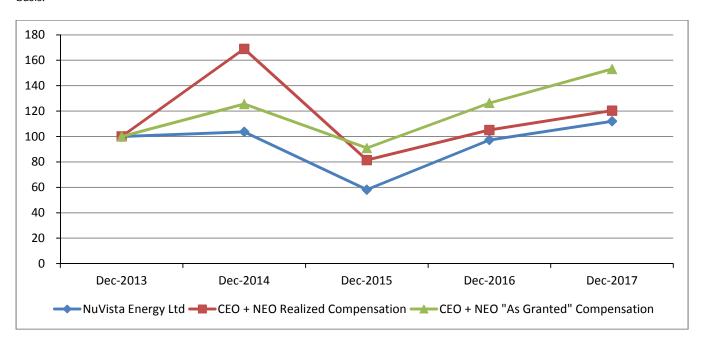
The following graph demonstrates the long term orientation of our executive compensation program by comparing the difference between the reported pay shown in the summary compensation table and the actual pay realized by our CEO for the last four years, versus NuVista's stock price performance on a relative basis:



	2013/12	2014/12	2015/12	2016/12	2017/12
NuVista Stock Price	100	104	58	97	112
CEO Realized Compensation	100	140	63	78	89
CEO "As Granted" Compensation	100	125	83	119	139



The following graph demonstrates the long term orientation of our executive compensation program by comparing the difference between the reported pay shown in the summary compensation table and the actual pay realized by our CEO and NEOs who have been NEOs for the last four years versus NuVista's stock price performance on a relative basis.



	2013/12	2014/12	2015/12	2016/12	2017/12
NuVista Stock Price	100	104	58	97	112
CEO + NEO Realized Compensation	100	169	81	105	120
CEO + NEO "As Granted" Compensation	100	126	91	126	153



### **Summary Compensation of NEOs**

The following table sets forth the full detail for the years ended December 31, 2017, December 31, 2016 and December 31, 2015 information concerning the as granted compensation paid to our NEOs:

					Non-equity plan comp				
Name and principal position	Year	Salary (\$)	Share- based awards (1)(2)	Option- based awards <sup>(3)</sup> (\$)	Annual incentive plans <sup>(4)</sup> (\$)	Long term incentive plans (\$)	Pension value (\$)	All other compensation (\$)	Total compen- sation (\$)
Jonathan Wright	2017	455,000	256,923	768,752	455,000	-	-	52,937	1,988,612
President and Chief	2016	455,000	240,645	592,795	350,000	-	-	52,061	1,690,501
Executive Officer	2015	455,000	137,223	357,289	175,000	-	-	52,205	1,176,717
Ross Andreachuk	2017	264,800	146,177	437,317	220,000	-	-	35,384	1,103,678
Vice President,	2016	264,800	137,958	336,542	120,000	-	-	35,278	894,578
Finance, Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Secretary	2015	264,800	83,752	218,036	70,000	-	-	35,346	671,934
Michael Lawford (5)	2017	267,058	153,582	460,332	235,000	-	-	32,839	1,148,811
Chief Operating	2016	265,200	143,202	351,216	125,000	-	-	34,646	919,264
Officer	2015	265,200	83,752	218,036	70,000	-	-	35,098	672,086
Chris McDavid	2017	264,800	146,177	437,317	230,000	-	-	33,791	1,112,085
Vice President,	2016	264,800	137,958	336,542	120,000	-	-	35,215	894,515
Development and Engineering	2015	264,800	83,752	218,036	70,000	-	-	35,018	671,606
Kevin Asman	2017	231,500	117,347	349,854	220,000	-	-	30,444	949,145
Vice President,	2016	231,500	110,553	270,452	110,000	-	-	32,269	754,774
Marketing	2015	231,500	68,941	179,963	58,000	-	-	32,110	570,514

#### Notes:

- (1) Includes restricted share awards and restricted stock units granted to our NEOs.
- (2) Based on the grant date fair value of the applicable awards on the date of the grant. These amounts are not necessarily reflective of actual amounts that may be realized on exercise. See *Outstanding Share-Based Awards and Option-based Awards* which reflect the value at December 31, 2016 and *Performance Graph Incentive Plan Awards Value at Time of Grant versus Value Vested or Earned.*
- (3) Based on the grant date fair value of the applicable options on the date of grant. The fair value of each option granted is determined on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option pricing model. During 2017, in the pricing model, the average risk free interest rate was 1.5%; volatility of 51.5%; an average expected life of 4.5 years; an estimated forfeiture rate of 10%; and dividends of \$nil per share. These amounts are not necessarily reflective of actual amounts that may be realized on exercise. See *Outstanding Share-Based Awards and Option-based Awards* which reflect the value at December 31, 2017 and *Performance Graph Incentive Plan Awards Value at Time of Grant versus Value Vested or Earned*.
- (4) This represents annual cash variable payments to our NEOs.
- (5) Mr. Lawford was promoted to Chief Operating Officer effective December 1, 2017. As such, his base salary was adjusted December 1, 2017.



### **Long-Term Incentive Plans**

The following is a summary of the terms of our stock option plan, share award incentive plan and employee stock savings plan.

### Stock Option Plan

A copy of our stock option plan (as amended) has been filed on our profile on the SEDAR website at www.sedar.com on April 4, 2018 under the category "Other Securityholder Documents".

# **Purpose**

The principal purposes of stock option plan are: (i) to retain and attract qualified directors, officers, employees and other service providers that we require; (ii) to promote a proprietary interest in us by such persons and to encourage such persons to remain in our employ or service and put forth maximum efforts for the success of our business; and (iii) to focus management on operating and financial performance and long term total shareholder return.

Incentive-based compensation such as our stock option plan is an integral component of our compensation. The attraction and retention of qualified employees has been identified as one of the key risks to our long term strategic growth plan. Our stock option plan is intended to maintain our competitiveness within the Canadian oil and gas industry to facilitate the achievement of our long term goals. In addition, this incentive-based compensation is intended to directly link a component of compensation to the performance of our common shares.

### **Administration**

Our stock option plan is administered by our board and our board has the authority to appoint a committee of the board to administer the stock option plan. In addition, our board may delegate to one or more of its members, to our President and Chief Executive Officer or to one or more agents such administrative duties as it may deem advisable, and the board or any person to whom it has delegated duties as aforesaid may employ one or more persons to render advice with respect to any responsibility the board or such person may have under the stock option plan.

### **Participants**

Under the terms of stock option plan, any of our directors, officers, employees and other service providers may be granted stock options. In determining the persons to whom stock options may be granted and the number of common shares to be granted, our board may take into account such factors as it shall determine in its sole discretion.

#### **Exercise Price**

The exercise price of any stock option granted pursuant to the stock option plan must be fixed by our board when the stock option is granted, provided that such price shall not be less than the "market price" of our common shares on the date of the grant. "Market Price", on any date, is defined in the stock option plan, as the volume weighted average trading price of our common shares on the Toronto Stock Exchange for the five trading days prior to the date of grant (or, if our common shares are not then listed and posted for trading on the Toronto Stock Exchange, such price as is required by such stock exchange



in Canada on which our common shares are listed and posted for trading as may be selected for such purpose by our board) and provided that in the event that our common shares are not listed and posted for trading on any stock exchange in Canada, the exercise price shall be determined by the board in its sole discretion. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in certain circumstances, such as when a stock option is offered to an individual as an inducement to secure employment, the exercise price may be otherwise determined, but only with the prior consent of all stock exchanges on which our common shares are at that time listed.

#### Plan Limits

Our stock option plan currently provides that the maximum number of common shares reserved for issuance from time to time pursuant to outstanding stock options granted and outstanding under the plan may not exceed 8,900,000 common shares. At this meeting, we are proposing to increase this amount to 9,500,000 common shares.

The aggregate number of common shares issuable pursuant to the stock option plan to any single holder of stock option plan may not exceed 5% of our outstanding common shares. In addition, in accordance with the rules of the Toronto Stock Exchange, the number of common shares issued to insiders within one year pursuant to the stock option plan, and issuable to insiders at any time, under the stock option plan or when combined with all of our other security based compensation arrangements, may not exceed 10% of our outstanding common shares. In determining the number of common shares issuable within one year for this purpose, the number of common shares will be determined on the basis of the number of common shares that are outstanding immediately prior to the common share issuance, excluding any common shares issued pursuant to share compensation arrangements over the preceding one-year period.

The number of common shares issuable pursuant to the stock option plan to all non-management directors is limited to a maximum of 0.25% of our outstanding common shares and the value of stock options granted to any one non-management directors during a calendar year, as calculated on grant date, shall not exceed \$100,000. Notwithstanding this, our deferred share unit plan is our only form of long term incentive for our non-management directors.

Our plan provides that if any stock option granted under the stock option plan expires, terminates or is cancelled for any reason without the common shares issuable thereunder having been issued in full, such unissued common shares shall be available for the purposes of the granting of further stock options under the plan. Common shares issued upon exercise of stock options are not available for the purposes of the granting of further stock options under the plan.

# <u>Vesting</u>

Our board has the sole discretion to determine the time during which stock options will vest and the method of vesting, or that no vesting restriction shall exist either before or after the date of grant.



### **Expiry**

All stock options granted pursuant to the stock option plan will expire on a date determined by our board at the time of the grant provided that no stock option may be exercised beyond six years from the time of the grant. Any stock options which have not been exercised by the applicable expiry date will expire and become null and void.

If the expiry date of any stock option falls within any blackout period imposed by our board, then the expiry date of such stock options will be extended to the date that is ten business days, following the end of such blackout period and if that date is not a business day, such date will be further extended by that number of days required such that the period ends on a business day. Unless approved by the board, no stock options may be exercised by a holder of stock options during a blackout period.

### Put Right

Holders of stock options may exercise stock options from time to time by delivering a written notice of exercise specifying the number of common shares with respect to which the stock option is being exercised and accompanied by payment in full of the exercise price of the common shares then being purchased. In addition, holders of stock options have the right (the "Put Right") to request that we purchase each of their vested stock options for a price equal to the difference, if positive, between the market price of our common shares on the day prior to date of notice of exercise of the Put Right and the exercise price of the option. We have the discretion to not accept any exercise of the Put Right. In addition, each holder of stock options that exercises the Put Right may purchase common shares from treasury with the proceeds of the exercise of the Put Right at the market price of our common shares. In certain circumstances as set forth in the stock option plan, a holder of stock options that exercises the Put Right may purchase common shares from us, which may, at our election, be issued on a flow-through basis under the *Income Tax Act* (Canada). The maximum number of common shares available under the Put Right is currently set at 700,000 common shares. To date, we have not issued any common shares pursuant to the exercise of this Put Right.

#### Financial Assistance

Our stock option plan does not contain any provisions for financial assistance by us in respect of any stock options granted thereunder.

### **Change of Control**

In the event of a "change of control" of us, the expiry date(s) applicable to all stock options will be accelerated to the effective date of the change of control. Under the stock option plan, a "change of control" means:

(b) a successful "take-over bid" as defined in Multilateral Instrument 62-104 or any replacement or successor provisions ("MI 62-104"), which is not exempt from the take-over bid requirements of MI 62-104, pursuant to which the "offeror" as a result of such take-over bid, beneficially owns, directly or indirectly, in excess of 50% of our outstanding common shares;



the issuance to or acquisition by any person, or group of persons acting in concert, of directly, or indirectly, including through an arrangement, merger or other form of reorganization of us, of our common shares which in the aggregate total 50% or more of the then issued and outstanding common shares;

- (c) the winding up or termination of us or the sale, lease or transfer of all or substantially all of our directly or indirectly held assets to any other person or persons (other than pursuant to an internal reorganization or in circumstances where our business is continued, provided that notwithstanding the application of any of the foregoing, a "change of control" shall be deemed to not have occurred;
- (d) pursuant to an arrangement, merger or other form of reorganization of us where the holders of our outstanding voting securities or interests immediately prior to the completion of the reorganization will hold more than 50% of the outstanding voting securities or interests of the continuing entity upon completion of the reorganization; or
- (e) if a majority of our board determines that in substance an arrangement, merger or reorganization has not occurred or the circumstances are such that a change of control should be deemed to not have occurred and any such determination shall be binding and conclusive for all purposes of the stock option plan.

### **Anti-Dilution**

The stock option plan contains anti-dilution provisions which allow our board to make such adjustments to the plan, to any stock option as our board of directors may, in its sole discretion, consider appropriate in the circumstances to prevent dilution or enlargement of the rights granted to employees thereunder.

### **Early Termination**

Our plan currently provides that, unless otherwise determined by our board or unless otherwise provided in an option agreement pertaining to a particular award or any written employment or consulting agreement, the following provisions shall apply in the event that a holder ceases to be a director, officer, employee or other service provider:

- (a) <u>Involuntary Termination for Cause</u> Upon the termination of a holder for cause, all stock options held by such person on the cessation date (whether vested or not) shall immediately terminate and become null and void and all rights to receive common shares thereunder shall be forfeited effective on the cessation date.
- (b) Termination Upon Retirement or Death Upon the retirement or death of a holder, the holder or the holder's personal representative, as applicable, may, within six months from the cessation date and prior to the expiry date, exercise stock options which are vested within such period, after which time any remaining stock options held by such person (whether vested or not) shall terminate and become null and void and all rights to receive common shares thereunder shall be forfeited. Retirement is defined as either the voluntary termination at or after the age of 55 with the approval of our President and CEO or the voluntary termination of employment on or after the age of 65.



(c) Other Termination – If a holder ceases to be a director, officer, employee or other service provider for any reason whatsoever, other than the termination for cause, or the death or retirement of such holder: (i) all stock options held by the holder which have vested as of the cessation date shall be forfeited effective on the earlier of: (a) the expiry date; and (b) the date that is 30 days from the cessation date; and (ii) all stock options held by the holder which have not vested as of the cessation date shall immediately terminate and become null and void and all rights to receive common shares thereunder shall be forfeited.

### No Assignment

Except in the case of death, the right to receive common shares pursuant to a stock option may only be exercised by a holder personally. Except as otherwise provided in the stock option plan, no assignment, sale, transfer, pledge or charge of a stock option, whether voluntary, involuntary, by operation of law or otherwise, vests any interest or right in such stock option whatsoever in any assignee or transferee and, immediately upon any assignment, sale, transfer, pledge or charge or attempt to assign, sell, transfer, pledge or charge, such stock option shall terminate and be of no further force or effect.

### **Amendments**

Our stock option plan and any stock options granted pursuant thereto may, subject to any required approval of the Toronto Stock Exchange, be amended, modified or terminated without the approval of our shareholders. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the stock option plan or any stock options may not be amended without shareholder approval to:

- (a) make any amendment to the stock option plan to increase the number of common shares issuable on exercise of outstanding stock options above the plan limit;
- (b) extend the expiry date of any outstanding stock options;
- (c) make any reduction in the exercise price of a stock option or permit a reduction in the exercise price of a stock option by the cancellation and immediate re-issue of stock options or other entitlements;
- (d) change participants eligible to receive stock options under the plan to permit the introduction or re-introduction of non-employee directors on a discretionary basis;
- (e) make any amendment to the stock option plan that would permit a holder to transfer or assign stock options to a new beneficial holder other than in the case of death of the holder;
- (f) any amendment to increase the number of common shares that may be issued to a single holder above the restriction contained in the stock option plan;
- (g) any amendment to the limit on non-employee directors;
- (h) any amendment to increase the number of common shares that may be issued to an; or
- (i) an amendment to amend the amending provision of the stock option plan.



In addition, no amendment to the stock option plan or stock options granted pursuant to the stock option plan may be made without the consent of the holder, if it adversely alters or impairs any stock option previously granted to such holder under the stock option plan.

### 2017 Grants and Total Outstanding

At December 31, 2017, we had 6,478,308 stock options outstanding, 6,353,352 of which were granted under our current plan and 124,956 of which were granted under a prior plan that expired in 2013. In 2017 we granted a total of 1,773,080 stock options to employees of NuVista. All of these stock options vest over a three year period, with a vesting of one third of the grants at each anniversary date.

### Share Award Incentive Plan

A copy of our share award incentive plan (as amended) has been filed on our profile on the SEDAR website at www.sedar.com on April 4, 2018 under the category "Other Securityholder Documents".

#### **Name**

In conjunction with certain amendments to our share award incentive plan to enable us to issue performance share awards in addition to restricted share awards, we have amended the name of the plan from our "Restricted Share Award Incentive Plan" to our "Share Award Incentive Plan".

#### **Purpose**

Our long term incentive plans are designed to align the interests of our employees with shareholders by linking a component of compensation to the long term performance of our common shares. Our share award plan allows grantees the opportunity to retain some or all of the underlying shares. Share awards also allow us to conserve cash for the operation of our business.

#### Administration

Our share award plan is administered by our board, provided that our board has the authority to appoint a committee of the board to administer the plan. In the event that the board appoints a committee of the board to administer the plan, all references in the plan to our board will be deemed to be references to such other committee.

Our board has the full power and sole responsibility to interpret the provisions of the plan, to administer the plan and to exercise all the powers and authorities either specifically granted to it under the plan or necessary or advisable in the administration of the plan.

# <u>Participants</u>

Share awards may be granted under the plan to our officers, employees, consultants and other service providers and any of our controlled entities such as a subsidiary, partnership or trust.



### Type of Awards

Under the terms of the plan we may grant time-based awards or performance-based awards. In determining the persons to whom share awards may be granted, the number of common shares to be covered by each share award and the allocation of the share award between time-based awards and performance-based awards, our board of directors may take into account such factors as it shall determine in its sole discretion.

Each time-based award will entitle the holder to be issued the number of common shares designated in the share award. Each performance-based award will entitle the holder to be issued the number of common shares designated in the performance-based award multiplied by a payout multiplier.

The payout multiplier for performance-based awards is determined by our board based on an assessment of the achievement of predefined corporate performance measures in respect of the applicable period. These corporate performance measures may include: health, safety and environmental performance, production growth, recycle ratio, our debt to cash flow ratio, the execution of our strategic plan; relative total shareholder return and such additional measures as our board of directors considers appropriate in the circumstances. The payout multiplier for a particular period will be determined by our board from time to time but is initially expected to be one of 0x (for fourth quartile ranking), 0.67x (for third quartile ranking), 1.33x (for second quartile ranking) and 2x (for first quartile ranking). In addition, if relative total shareholder return is negative, we intend to cap the payout multiplier at 1.0x.

Where the settlement date of a performance-based award is not the first anniversary of the grant date, the payout multiplier for those performance-based awards will be the arithmetic average of the payout multiplier for each of the preceding annual performance assessment periods. In any case where the payout multiplier has not been determined prior to the vesting date of a performance-based award, our President and Chief Executive Officer in the case of a Grantee who is not a director or officer and our board in all other cases, taking into consideration the performance of the applicable Grantee and our performance since the date of grant of the performance-based award(s), may determine in its sole discretion the payout multiplier to be applied to any performance-based awards held by the Grantee of such award.

### **Plan Limits**

The number of common shares reserved for issuance from time to time pursuant to outstanding share awards granted and outstanding under the plan is currently limited to 1,650,000 common shares. We are proposing to increase this amount to 3,750,000 common shares at this meeting.

If any share awards granted under the plan expire, terminate or are cancelled for any reason without the common shares issued thereunder having been issued in full, any unissued common shares to which such share awards relate shall be awardable for the purposes of granting of further share awards under the plan. Non-management directors are not eligible to participate in the plan.



Share awards may be granted under the plan to our officers, employees, consultants and other service providers and any of our controlled entities such as a subsidiary, partnership or trust provided that the aggregate number of share awards granted to any single holder shall not exceed 1% of our issued and outstanding common shares (including common shares issuable upon exchange or conversion of any of our fully paid securities or those of our controlled entities that are exchangeable or convertible into common shares). In accordance with the rules of the Toronto Stock Exchange, the number of common shares issued to insiders within one year pursuant to the plan, and issuable to insiders at any time, under the plan or when combined with all of our other security based compensation arrangements, shall not exceed 10% of our issued and outstanding shares (including common shares issuable upon exchange or conversion of any of our fully paid securities or those of our controlled entities that are exchangeable or convertible into common shares).

#### **Vesting**

Vesting arrangements are within the discretion of our board, and our Chief Executive Officer, in certain circumstances, although each time-based share award will typically vest on the second anniversary of the grant date and each performance-based award will typically vest on the third anniversary of the grant date. In the event of a change of control (as defined in the plan), all outstanding share awards will fully vest on the date that the change of control is completed and the payout multiplier applicable to any performance-based awards will be determined by the board and in making such determination, the board shall assess performance relative to the pre-established corporate performance measures using an end date for the current performance assessment period as determined by the board.

The expiry date of share awards issued pursuant to the plan will typically be the next business day following the applicable vesting date(s) unless otherwise determined by our board or our Chief Executive Officer, in certain circumstances, provided however that in the event of a blackout period imposed upon a grantee, the expiry date will be extended to the date which is ten business days from the date that the blackout period ends and any expiry date that falls on a non-business day will be extended to the next business day.

# **Settlement**

Share awards will be settled through the issuance of common shares from treasury or acquired by us on the Toronto Stock Exchange, or a combination thereof, at our discretion. In addition, in certain circumstances, a holder may request that we settle a share award in cash in an amount equal to the aggregate current market value of the common shares to be issued. We may, but are not obligated to accept such election.

#### **Early Termination**

Unless otherwise determined by our board or our Chief Executive Officer, in certain circumstances or unless otherwise provided in a share award agreement pertaining to a particular grant or any written employment agreement, upon the termination of a grantee for cause, all share awards held by the grantee on the cessation date shall immediately terminate. If a grantee voluntarily ceases employment for any reason whatsoever, other than retirement, all outstanding share awards which have not vested shall terminate and all vested share awards will terminate on their expiry date. In the case of retirement or involuntary termination not for cause or death, a certain number of unvested share awards will vest in accordance with the provisions of the plan and all share awards held by the grantee will expire on the



earlier of their expiry date or 30 days following the cessation of employment. In the case of death of the grantee, a certain number of share awards will vest in accordance with the provisions of the plan and all share awards held by the grantee will expire on the earlier of their expiry date or six months following cessation of employment.

### No Assignment

No assignment, sale, transfer, pledge or charge of a share award, whether voluntary, involuntary, by operation of law or otherwise (except by will or the laws of descent and distribution), vests any interest or right in a share award whatsoever in any assignee or transferee and, immediately upon any assignment, sale, transfer, pledge or charge or attempt to assign, sell, transfer, pledge or charge, such share award will terminate and be of no further force or effect.

#### **Amendments**

We have the right to amend the terms and conditions of the plan and any share awards granted under the plan, without shareholder approval. However, the plan and any share award granted thereunder may not be amended without shareholder approval to: (a) increase the number of common shares issuable on exercise of share awards; (b) extend the expiry date of any outstanding share awards held by insiders; (c) permit a grantee to transfer or assign share awards to a new beneficial holder other than in the case of death; (d) any amendment to the limits on non-management directors contained in the plan; (e) any amendment to increase the number of common shares that may be issued to insiders above the restrictions contained in the plan or (f) amend the amendment provisions of the plan.

#### Anti-Dilution

The plan contains anti-dilution provisions which allow our board to make such adjustments to the plan, to any restricted share awards as our board of directors may, in its sole discretion, consider appropriate in the circumstances to prevent dilution or enlargement of the rights granted to employees thereunder.

### 2017 Grants and Total Outstanding

In 2017, we granted a total of 322,750 restricted share awards all of which vest two years from the date of grant. At December 31, 2017, there were 645,992 restricted share awards outstanding.

### Employee Stock Savings Plan

We have an employee savings plan whereby all employees, including executive officers, are encouraged to contribute up to a maximum of 6% of their salary to the employee stock savings plan. Employees can choose to direct this money into a registered or non-registered savings plan. For each dollar contributed by the employee to the plan, we contribute 1.5 dollars. The funds are used to purchase our common shares in the open market. Both the employee and the employer contributions are subject to a one-year restriction on removal from the plan. Since the plan is available to all employees, it has been successful in encouraging employees to become shareholders of us and promoting the principle of alignment with shareholder interests. The Compensation Committee considers this program to be competitive. There is no other form of retirement or savings program. All NEOs participated in the program in 2017. These amounts are included in the "All Other Compensation" on the Summary Compensation Table above.



# **Outstanding Share-Based Awards and Option-Based Awards**

The following table sets forth for each NEO, all option-based awards and share-based awards outstanding at the end of the year ended December 31, 2017:

		Option-ba	ased Awards		s	hare-based Aw	ards
Name	Number of securities underlying unexercised options (#)	Option exercise price (\$)	Option expiration date	Total value of all unexercised in-the- money options <sup>(1)</sup> (\$)	Number of shares or units of shares that have not vested (2)	Market or payout value of share-based awards that have not vested (3)	Market or payout value of vested share-based awards not paid out or distributed (\$)
Jonathan Wright	90,000 30,000 125,000 140,000 50,000 111,432 25,000 82,000 111,432 90,000 54,667	4.25 5.41 6.24 6.87 7.03 7.43 8.04 8.10 8.53 9.57 10.79	4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	916,345	69,418	556,732	-
Ross Andreachuk	55,000 71,500 79,000 17,334 63,390 8,000 50,000 63,390 44,000 20,000	4.25 6.24 6.87 7.03 7.43 8.04 8.10 8.53 9.57 10.79	4 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	480,030	39,645	317,952	-



		Option-ba	ased Awards		S	hare-based Awa	ards
Name	Number of securities underlying unexercised options (#)	Option exercise price (\$)	Option expiration date	Total value of all unexercised in-the- money options (1) (\$)	Number of shares or units of shares that have not vested (2)	Market or payout value of share-based awards that have not vested (3)	Market or payout value of vested share-based awards not paid out or distributed (\$)
Michael Lawford	55,000 13,334	4.25 5.41	4 5		41,373	331,811	-
Lawiora	74,000	6.24	6				
	83,000	6.87	7				
	24,000	7.03	8				
	66,726	7.43	9				
	11,000	8.04	10				
	50,000	8.10	11				
	66,726	8.53	12				
	44,000	9.57	13				
	26,667	10.79	14				
				417,514			
Kevin Asman	44,000	4.25	4		31,816	255,164	-
	58,000	6.24	6				
	63,000	6.87	7				
	20,000	7.03	8				
	50,712	7.43	9				
	10,000	8.04	10				
	42,000	8.10	11 12				
	50,712	8.53	13				
	37,500	9.57	13				
	23,334	10.79	14		_		
				391,290			

# Notes:

- (1) Calculated based on the difference between the market price of our common shares at December 29, 2017 (\$8.02) and the exercise price of the options.
- (2) Includes restricted share awards granted under our share award incentive plan.
- (3) Calculated based on the value of our common shares at December 29, 2017 (\$8.02).
- (4) 33% of the options expire on May 18, 2019, May 18, 2020 and May 17, 2021 respectively.
- (5) All of the options expire on May 26, 2018
- (6) 33% of the options expire on December 23, 2019, December 23, 2020 and December 22, 2021 respectively.
- (7) 33% of the options expire on June 5, 2020, June 5, 2021 and June 4, 2022 respectively.
- (8) 50% of the options expire on June 20, 2018 and June 19, 2019 respectively.
- (9) 33% of the options expire November 19, 2020, November 19, 2021 and November 18, 2022 respectively.
- (10) All of the options expire on November 30, 2018.
- (11) 33% of the options expire on November 21, 2018, November 21, 2019 and November 20, 2020 respectively.
- (12) 33% of the options expire on May 9, 2021, May 9, 2022 and May 8, 2023 respectively.



- (13) 33% of the options expire on May 10, 2018, May 10, 2019 and May 9, 2020 respectively.
- (14) 50% of the options expire on November 27, 2018 and November 26, 2019 respectively.

## Incentive Plan Awards - Value Vested or Earned During the Year

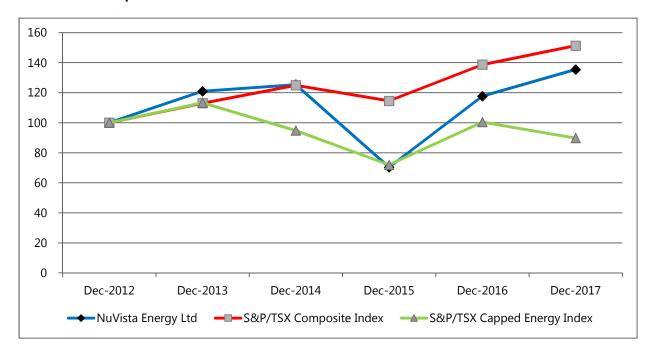
The following table sets forth for each NEO, the value of option-based awards and share-based awards which vested during the year ended December 31, 2017, and the value of non-equity incentive plan compensation earned during the year ended December 31, 2017:

	Option-based awards – Value vested during the year <sup>(1)</sup>	Share-based awards – Value vested during the year <sup>(2)</sup>	Non-equity incentive plan compensation – Value earned during the year
Name	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)
Jonathan Wright	181,433	178,227	455,000
Ross Andreachuk	107,751	108,822	220,000
Michael Lawford	109,619	108,822	235,000
Chris McDavid	107,751	108,822	230,000
Kevin Asman	86,184	88,789	220,000

- (1) Calculated based on the difference between the market price of our common shares on the vesting date and the exercise price of the options on the vesting date.
- (2) Calculated based on the five day volume weighted average share price for the five trading days prior to the vesting date.



## **Performance Graph**



	2012/12	2013/12	2014/12	2015/12	2016/12	2017/12
NuVista Stock Price	100	121	125	70	118	135
S&P/TSX Composite Index	100	113	125	115	139	151
S&P/TSX Capped Energy Index	100	113	95	72	100	90

### Notes:

- (1) The S&P/TSX was previously called the TSE 300 Index.
- (2) The S&P/TSX Capped Energy Index.

Our cumulative shareholder return performance reflects both operational and financial performance within our control as well as volatile commodity prices and economic and market conditions beyond our control with the impact of the decline in the global economy and more recently with the collapse of North American natural gas prices and world oil prices.

Salaries and variable pay for our executive officers are based on peer company salary levels and the board's assessment of annual corporate and individual performance based on financial and operating performance metrics and other pertinent considerations. The variable pay amounts awarded do not necessarily track the annual change in the market value of our common shares.

Our long term incentive plans are designed to align the interests of employees, including NEOs, with shareholders by linking a component of compensation to our common share performance. The percentage of stock options received relative to restricted share awards increases with greater levels of responsibility. The mix of stock options and restricted share awards in our NEOs compensation is more heavily weighted towards stock options.



## Securities Authorized for Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans

The following sets forth information in respect of securities authorized for issuance under our equity compensation plans as at December 31, 2017:

	Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options and awards	Weighted average exercise price of outstanding options and awards	Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a))
Plan Category	(a)	(b)	(c)
Equity compensation plans approved by securityholders:			
Stock Option Plan (1)	6,353,352	\$7.47	2,298,906
Prior Stock Option Plan (2)	124,956	\$5.47	-
Share Award Incentive Plan (3)	645,992	-	257,989
Deferred Share Unit Plan <sup>(4)</sup>	217,847	=	276,303
Equity compensation plans not approved by securityholders	-	-	-
Total	7,342,147		2,833,198

- (1) As at December 31, 2017 and March 27, 2018 respectively, an aggregate of 6,353,352 and 6,240,085 stock options were outstanding under our current stock option plan. The maximum number of common shares available under our stock option plan is currently limited to 8,900,000 although we are proposing to increase this to 9,500,000 common shares at this meeting. In addition, if any option granted under the option plan expires, terminates or is cancelled without the underlying common shares having been issued, such common shares will be available for further option grants under the plan.
- (2) As at December 31, 2017 and March 27, 2018 respectively, an aggregate of 124,956 and 93,621 stock options were outstanding under our prior stock option plan which expired on May 13, 2013 and was replaced by our current stock option plan.
- (3) As at December 31, 2017 and March 27, 2018 respectively, an aggregate of 645,992 and 641,671 restricted share awards were outstanding under our share award plan. Under our share award plan, the number of common shares reserved for issuance from time to time pursuant to outstanding share awards granted and outstanding under the plan shall not exceed 1,650,000 common shares although we are proposing to increase this to 3,750,000 common shares at this meeting. In addition, if any share award granted under the share award plan expires, terminates or is cancelled without the underlying common shares having been issued, such common shares will be available for further grants under the plan. Share awards will be settled through the issuance of common shares from treasury or acquired by us on the Toronto Stock Exchange, or a combination thereof, at our discretion.
- (4) At December 31, 2017 there were 217,847 deferred share units outstanding. The number of common shares reserved for issuance from time to time pursuant to outstanding deferred share units granted and outstanding under our directors' deferred share unit plan is currently limited to 500,000 common shares. If any deferred share units granted under the plan expire, terminate or are cancelled for any reason without the common shares issued thereunder having been issued in full, any unissued common shares to which such deferred share units relate shall be awardable for the purposes of granting of further restricted deferred share units. All deferred share units and dividend entitlements thereon (if any) will be redeemed



for a cash payment except that, at our election, we may redeem deterred share units and dividend entitlements thereon (if any) issued as compensation for annual board and committee retainers and meeting attendance fees, in cash or through the issuance of common shares from treasury or purchased on the market and any combination of these.

The following table summarizes the number of share awards granted to all of our directors, officers and employees during the periods noted below and the potential dilutive effect of such awards:

	Stock Options	Share Awards	Weighted Average Common Shares Outstanding (1)	Burn Rate (2)
2015	1,608,305	275,850	148,522,935	1.3%
2016	2,043,450	355,500	157,977,233	1.5%
2017	1,773,080	322,750	173,220,974	1.2%

#### Notes:

Pursuant to the requirements of the Toronto Stock Exchange, the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period is the number of common shares outstanding at the beginning of the period, adjusted by the number of common shares bought back or issued during the period multiplied by a time-weighting factor. The time-weighting factor is the number of days that the common shares are outstanding as a proportion of the total number of days in the period.

The burn rate for a given period is calculated by dividing the number of stock options and restricted share awards granted during such period by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during such period.

#### **Pension Plan Benefits**

We do not have any pension plans for our employees. We have established a savings plan to assist employees in meeting their savings goals. See *Compensation Discussion and Analysis – Employee Stock Savings Plan*.

## **Employment Agreements**

We have entered into employment agreements with each of our NEOs pursuant to which we have agreed to make certain payments to the executive in the event of termination without cause, a "change of control" without termination and a "change of control" with termination. The following is a description of payments or the nature of the vesting of long term incentives due to the NEO's departure upon resignation, termination without cause, normal retirement, and change of control without termination and a change of control with termination. For the purpose of the employment agreements, termination includes constructive dismissal.

## Resignation

- Retiring allowance none.
- Stock options prior to the applicable expiry date or within 30 days of ceasing to be an employee, whichever is earlier, the NEO can exercise all stock options vested or vesting within such period.
- Restricted share awards all unvested restricted share awards are forfeited as of the date of ceasing to be an employee.



#### **Termination Without Cause**

- Retiring allowance to be paid within five business days of termination consisting of:
  - One and one-half times the NEO's current base salary;
  - 20% of such amounts in-lieu of employment benefits; and
  - One times the greater of any cash variable pay amount paid to the NEO in the year prior to termination or an average of the variable pay amount paid to the NEO in the two years prior to termination. Mr. Wright's and Mr. Lawford's employment agreements provide for payment one and one-half times the greater of any cash variable pay amount paid to the NEO in the year prior to termination or an average of the cash variable pay amount paid to the NEO in the two years prior to termination.
- Stock options prior to the applicable expiry date or within 30 days of ceasing to be an employee, whichever is earlier, the NEO can exercise all stock options vesting within one and one-half years of the date of ceasing to be an employee.
- Restricted share awards prior to the applicable expiry date or within 30 days of ceasing to be an
  employee, whichever is earlier, the NEO can exercise all restricted share awards that have vested on
  the date of ceasing to be an employee plus a proportionate number of restricted share awards that
  had not yet vested.

### **Normal Retirement**

- Retiring allowance none.
- Stock options within six months of ceasing to be an employee, the NEO can exercise all stock options vested or vesting within six months of the date of ceasing to be an employee.
- Restricted share awards prior to the applicable expiry date or within 30 days of ceasing to be an employee, whichever is earlier, the NEO can exercise all restricted share awards that have vested on the date of ceasing to be an employee plus a proportionate number of restricted share awards that had not yet vested.
- At the discretion of the CEO, stock options granted under our 2010 and 2013 stock option plans that would have vested had the eligible retiring employee continued employment for two years after the retirement date, will vest on the retirement date, and with respect to options under the 2013 plan the retiring employee will have 6 months after the retirement date to exercise the vested options and with respect to options under the 2010 plan the retiring employee will have 30 days after the retirement date to exercise the vested options.



## **Change of Control Without Termination**

- Retiring allowance none.
- Stock options all stock options outstanding vest prior to the change of control in accordance with the stock option agreement.
- Restricted share awards all outstanding restricted share awards vest on the change of control and the underlying common shares are issued.

## **Change of Control With Termination**

- Retiring allowance to be paid within five business days of termination consisting of:
  - One and one-half times the NEO's current base salary;
  - 20% of such amounts of employment benefits; and
  - One times the greater of any cash variable pay amount paid to the NEO in the year prior to termination or an average of the cash variable pay amounts paid to the NEO in the two years prior to termination. Mr. Wright's and Mr. Lawford's employment agreements provide for payment of one and one-half times the greater of any cash variable pay amount paid to the NEO in the year prior to termination or an average of the cash variable pay amounts paid to the NEO in the two years prior to termination.
- Stock options all stock options outstanding vest prior to the change of control in accordance with the stock option agreement.
- Restricted share awards all outstanding restricted share awards vest on the change of control and the underlying common shares are issued.

## Other key terms of the employment agreements:

- We are entitled to terminate a NEO's employment for just cause at any time without notice and without any payment to the NEO whatsoever, save and except only for payment of the pro-rata salary earned for services rendered up to and including the termination date, plus any outstanding vacation pay and expenses.
- The NEO may resign by providing us with two months advance written notice of the resignation date.
- Should there be a change of control and an event that constitutes constructive dismissal within six months of the change of control, the NEO has the right, for a period of ninety days following the event or events that constituted the change of control, to elect to terminate his employment upon providing us with one week advance written notice.



• In the event of a change of control and the NEO elects to terminate his employment, the NEO will be required, at our option, to continue his employment with us for a period of up to two months at the NEO's then existing compensation package, to assist us in an orderly transition of management.

The following table summarizes the estimated payments and benefits to each of our NEOs as if the employment events listed above had occurred on December 31, 2017:

Name	Resignation (\$)	Termination (without cause) (\$)	Normal Retirement (\$)	Change of Control without Termination (\$)	Change of Control with Termination (\$)
Jonathan Wright	481,834	2,827,656	719,996	1,473,076	2,827,656
Ross Andreachuk	228,097	1,520,691	364,132	797,983	1,520,691
Michael Lawford	272,516	1,607,691	413,804	864,261	1,607,192
Chris McDavid	165,581	1,473,175	301,616	735,467	1,473,175
Kevin Asman	188,948	1,324,115	298,437	646,454	1,324,115



## **EQUITY OWNERSHIP**

The following table summarizes the common shares and other securities beneficially owned, controlled or directed (directly or indirectly) by each of our named executive officers and all of our directors as of March 21, 2018 based on information provided by such individuals.

	Commo	n Shares <sup>(1)</sup>	Stock O <sub>l</sub>	otions <sup>(2)</sup>	Share-based awards (3)		
	Amount	Value	Amount	Value	Amount	Value	<b>Total Value</b>
	(#)	(\$)	(#)	(\$)	(#)	(\$)	(\$)
Jonathan Wright	275,459	2,074,206	879,531	584,993	69,418	522,718	3,181,917
Ross Andreachuk	43,986	331,215	471,614	339,781	39,645	298,527	969,523
Michael Lawford	94,259	709,770	501,119	349,313	41,373	311,539	1,370,622
Chris McDavid	87,467	658,627	468,281	282,982	39,645	298,527	1,240,136
Kevin Asman	77,577	584,155	399,258	275,791	31,816	239,574	1,099,520
Total Named Executive Officers	578,748	4,357,973	2,719,803	1,832,860	221,897	1,670,885	7,861,718
Keith A. MacPhail	2,394,812	18,032,934	10,000	-	44,104	332,103	18,365,037
Ronald J. Eckhardt	146,011	1,099,463	18,000	16,400	30,586	230,313	1,346,176
Pentti O. Karkkainen	76,000	572,280	10,000	-	38,306	288,444	860,724
Ronald J. Poelzer	3,501,277	26,364,616	10,000	-	19,928	150,058	26,514,674
Brian G. Shaw	89,301	672,437	15,000	-	26,618	200,434	872,871
Sheldon B. Steeves	21,331	160,622	10,000	-	17,060	128,462	289,084
Deborah S. Stein	18,750	141,188	-	-	17,060	128,462	269,650
Grant A. Zawalsky	189,815	1,429,307	10,000	-	24,185	182,113	1,611,420
Total Outside Directors	6,437,297	48,472,847	83,000	16,400	217,847	1,640,389	50,129,636
Total Directors and NEOs	7,016,045	52,830,820	1,915,860	1,849,260	439,744	3,311,274	57,991,354

- (1) The value of the common shares was based on the closing price of our common shares on the Toronto Stock Exchange on March 21, 2018 (\$7.53).
- (2) The value of the stock options was calculated based on the difference between the closing price of our common shares on the Toronto Stock Exchange on March 21, 2018 and the exercise price of the stock options.
- (3) Includes restricted share awards and deferred share awards, as applicable, which have been valued based on the closing price of our common shares on the Toronto Stock Exchange on March 21, 2018.



## **OWNERSHIP GUIDELINES**

Our board believes it is important that our directors and our senior officers demonstrate their commitment to our stewardship through common share ownership.

We have established an equity ownership policy that non-management directors must have an equity ownership interest in our common shares within six months of joining our board of at least three times their annual board retainer. Following the phase-in period, directors are expected to be in continuous compliance with these guidelines. In the event that an individual who has achieved the target ownership level subsequently falls below such target ownership level due solely to a decline in the market price of our common shares, such individual will be considered to be in compliance with the ownership guidelines as long as the adjusted cost base of his or her common shares exceeds the target ownership level.

In 2016, following a review of our executive compensation governance practises; we amended our equity ownership policy to include our Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer and all of our Vice Presidents, although our Chief Executive Officer has always had ownership requirements under his employment contract.

The policy requires our CEO to maintain an equity ownership interest in our common shares equal to at least three times his annual base salary within five years from the later of the commencement of employment or December 31, 2015. Our other officers are required to maintain an equity ownership interest in our common shares equal to at least two times their annual base salary within five years from the later of the commencement of employment or December 31, 2015. Officers are expected to work towards this goal and will be required to meet one-fifth of this requirement cumulatively for each year of the phase-in period. Following the phase-in period, these officers are expected to be in continuous compliance with these guidelines. In the event that an individual who has achieved the target ownership level subsequently falls below such target ownership level due solely to a decline in the market price of our common shares, such individual will be considered to be in compliance with the ownership guidelines as long as the adjusted cost base of his or her common shares exceeds the target ownership level.



The following table sets out the total ownership level of our named executive officers and each of our non-management directors as at March 21, 2018, relative to our equity ownership policy:

Name	Amount of Annual Salary/Retainer (\$)	Ownership Value Guideline (\$)	Ownership Value (\$) <sup>(1)</sup>	Guideline Met (Y) or Not Met (N) (2)(3)
Named Executive Officers:				
Jonathan Wright	455,000	1,365,000	2,074,206	Υ
Ross Andreachuk	264,800	529,600	331,215	N
Michael Lawford	265,200	530,400	709,770	Υ
Chris McDavid	264,800	529,600	658,627	Υ
Kevin Asman	231,500	463,000	584,155	Υ
Directors:				
Keith A. MacPhail	40,000	120,000	18,032, 394	Υ
Ronald J. Eckhardt	40,000	120,000	1,099,463	Υ
Pentti O. Karkkainen	40,000	120,000	572,280	Υ
Ronald J. Poelzer	40,000	120,000	26,364,616	Υ
Brian G. Shaw	40,000	120,000	672,437	Υ
Sheldon B. Steeves	40,000	120,000	160,622	Υ
Deborah S. Stein	40,000	120,000	141,188	Υ
Grant A. Zawalsky	40,000	120,000	1,429,307	Υ

- (1) Based on the closing price of the common shares on the Toronto Stock Exchange on March 21, 2018 (being \$7.53).
- (2) For the purposes of compliance with the policy, the value of holdings is based on the higher of average cost base or the current market price. As a result, the value presented may be less than the required multiple although the guideline has been met.
- (3) Officers that do not meet the ownership guideline have until December 31, 2020 to meet the ownership guideline.
- (4) Does not include our Vice President, Land who currently holds common shares which were valued at \$367,743 as of March 21, 2018 based on the closing price of our common shares on that date. Does not include our Vice President, Production & Facilities who currently holds common shares which were valued at \$602,942 as of March 21, 2018 based on the closing price of our common shares on that date.



## **DIRECTORS' AND OFFICERS' LIABILITY INSURANCE**

We have directors' and officers' liability insurance with an annual aggregate limit of \$70 million. The premium expensed in the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, for the liability insurance was \$150,000. The program carries a deductible of \$200,000 which would be our responsibility.

In addition, we have entered into indemnity agreements with each of our directors and officers pursuant to which we have agreed to indemnity such directors and officers from liability arising in connection with the performance of their duties. Such indemnity agreements conform to the provisions of the Business Corporations Act (Alberta).

## INDEBTEDNESS OF DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

At no time during the most recently completed fiscal period was there any indebtedness of any executive officer, director, employee or any former executive officer, director or employee, or any associate of any of the foregoing to us or to any other entity which is, or at any time since the beginning of the most recently completed financial period, has been the subject of a guarantee, support agreement, letter of credit or other similar arrangement or understanding provided by us.

# INTEREST OF INFORMED PERSONS IN MATERIAL TRANSACTIONS

Except as disclosed herein or as set forth below, there were no material interests, direct or indirect, of our insiders, proposed nominees for election as directors, or any associate or affiliate of such insiders or nominees since January 1, 2017 or in any proposed transaction, which has affected or would materially affect us or any of our subsidiaries.

# INTEREST OF CERTAIN PERSONS AND COMPANIES IN MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON

Our management is not aware of any material interest, direct or indirect, by way of beneficial ownership of securities or otherwise, of any director or executive officer or anyone who has held office as such since the beginning of our last financial year, any proposed nominee for election as a director, or of any associate or affiliate of any of the foregoing in any matter to be acted on at the meeting, save as is disclosed herein.



# **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Upon request, we will provide securityholders with a copy of our 2017 annual financial statements and associated management's discussion and analysis of financial condition and results of operations, as well as a copy of our annual information form, subsequent interim financial statements and management's discussion and analysis and this information circular - proxy statement.

Copies of these documents may be obtained on request without charge from our Vice President, Finance and Chief Financial Officer at 2500, 525 – 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue S.W., Calgary, Alberta, T2P 1G1, telephone (403) 538-8500 or by accessing the disclosure documents available through the internet on SEDAR website at www.sedar.com.

## **OTHER MATTERS**

Our management knows of no amendment, variation or other matter to come before the meeting other than the matters referred to in the notice of annual and special meeting. However, if any other matter properly comes before the meeting, the accompanying proxy will be voted on such matter in accordance with the best judgement of the person voting the proxy.

The contents and the sending of this information circular - proxy statement have been approved by our directors.

Dated: March 23, 2018



## **SCHEDULE A**

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MANDATE**

The Board of Directors (the "**Board**") of NuVista Energy Ltd. ("**NuVista**") is responsible for the stewardship of NuVista, its subsidiaries, partnerships and other controlled entities. In discharging its responsibility, the Board will exercise the care, diligence and skill that a reasonably prudent person would exercise in comparable circumstances and will act honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of NuVista. In general terms, the Board will:

- In consultation with the CEO, define the principal objectives of NuVista.
- Supervise the management of the business and affairs of NuVista with the goal of achieving NuVista's principal objectives as defined by the Board.
- Discharge the duties imposed on the Board by applicable laws.
- For the purpose of carrying out the foregoing responsibilities, take all such actions as the Board deems necessary or appropriate.

Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Board will perform the following duties:

## Strategic Direction and Capital and Financial Plans

- Require the CEO to present annually to the Board a longer range strategic plan and a shorter range business plan for NuVista's business, which plans must:
  - be designed to achieve NuVista's principal objectives;
  - identify the principal strategic and operational opportunities and risks of NuVista's business; and
  - be approved by the Board as a pre-condition to the implementation of such plans.
- Review progress towards the achievement of the goals established in the strategic, operating and capital plans.
- Identify the principal risks of NuVista's business and take all reasonable steps to ensure the implementation of the appropriate systems to manage these risks.
- Approve the annual operating and capital plans.
- Approve acquisitions and dispositions which require approval pursuant to expenditure limits established by the Board.
- Approve the establishment of credit facilities.
- Approve issuances of common shares or other instruments to the public.



## **Monitoring and Acting**

- Monitor NuVista's progress towards achieving its goals, and revise and alter its direction through management in light of changing circumstances.
- Monitor overall human resources policies and procedures, including compensation and succession planning.
- Approve the dividend policy of NuVista.
- Appoint the CEO and determine the terms of the CEO's employment with NuVista.
- Ensure systems are in place for the implementation and integrity of NuVista's internal control and management information systems.
- In consultation with the CEO, develop a position description for the CEO.
- Evaluate the performance of the CEO at least annually.
- In consultation with the CEO, establish the limits of management's authority and responsibility in conducting NuVista's business.
- In consultation with the CEO, appoint all officers of NuVista and approve the terms of each officer's employment with NuVista.
- Develop a system under which succession to senior management positions will occur in a timely manner.
- Approve any proposed significant change in the management organization structure of NuVista.
- Approve all NuVista-sponsored retirement plans for officers and employees of NuVista.
- In consultation with the CEO, establish a disclosure policy for NuVista.
- Generally provide advice and guidance to management.
- Approve all matters relating to a takeover bid for the securities of NuVista.

## **Finances and Controls**

- Review NuVista's systems to manage the risks of NuVista's business and, with the assistance of management, NuVista's auditors and others (as required), evaluate the appropriateness of such systems.
- Monitor the appropriateness of NuVista's capital structure.
- Ensure that the financial performance of NuVista is properly reported to shareholders, other security holders and regulators on a timely and regular basis.



- In consultation with the CEO, establish the ethical standards to be observed by all officers and employees of NuVista and use reasonable efforts to ensure that a process is in place to monitor compliance with those standards.
- Require that the CEO institute and monitor processes and systems designed to ensure compliance with applicable laws by NuVista and its officers and employees.
- Require that the CEO institute, and maintain the integrity of, internal control and information systems, including maintenance of all required records and documentation.
- Approve material contracts to be entered into by NuVista.
- Recommend to shareholders of NuVista a firm of chartered accountants to be appointed as NuVista's auditors.
- Ensure NuVista's oil and gas reserves report fairly represents the quantity and value of corporate reserves in accordance with generally accepted engineering principles and applicable securities laws.
- Take reasonable actions to gain reasonable assurance that all financial information made public by NuVista (including NuVista's annual and quarterly financial statements) is accurate and complete and represents fairly NuVista's financial position and performance.

## **Governance**

- In consultation with the Chair of the Board, develop a position description for the Chair.
- Select nominees for election to the Board.
- Facilitate the continuity, effectiveness and independence of the Board by, amongst other things:
  - appointing a Chair of the Board;
  - appointing from amongst the directors an audit committee and such other committees of the Board as the Board deems appropriate;
  - defining the mandate of each committee of the Board;
  - ensuring that processes are in place and are utilized to assess the effectiveness of the Chair of the Board, the Board as a whole, each committee of the Board and each director; and
  - establishing a system to enable any director to engage an outside adviser at the expense of NuVista.
- Review annually the composition of the Board and its committees and assess directors' performance on an ongoing basis, and propose new members to the Board.
- Review annually the adequacy and form of the compensation of directors.



## **Delegation**

• The Board may delegate its duties to, and receive reports and recommendations from, any committee of the Board.

## **Composition**

- The Board should be composed of at least five individuals elected by the shareholders at the annual meeting.
- A majority of Board members should be independent directors (within the meaning of National Instrument 58-101) and free from any business or other relationship that could impair the exercise of independent judgment.
- Members should have or obtain sufficient knowledge of NuVista and the oil and gas business to assist in providing advice and counsel on relevant issues.
- Board members should offer their resignation from the Board to the Chair of the Governance and Nominating Committee following:
  - change in personal circumstances which would reasonably interfere with the ability to serve as a director; and
  - change in personal circumstances which would reasonably reflect poorly on NuVista (for example, finding by a Court of fraud, or conviction under Criminal Code or securities legislation).

## Meetings

- The Board shall meet at least four times per year and/or as deemed appropriate by the Chair.
- The Board shall meet at the end of its regular quarterly meetings without members of management being present.
- Minutes of each meeting shall be prepared.
- The CEO and CFO shall be available to attend all meetings of the Board upon invitation by the Board.
- Vice-Presidents and such other staff as appropriate to provide information to the Board shall attend meetings at the invitation of the Board.

## **Authority**

- The Board shall have the authority to review any corporate report or material and to investigate activity of NuVista and to request any employees to cooperate as requested by the Board.
- The Board may retain persons having special expertise and/or obtain independent professional advice to assist in fulfilling its responsibilities at the expense of NuVista.

Approved by the Board: March 8, 2018

**TSX: NVA** 

# **NUVISTA ENERGY LTD.**

2500, 525 8TH AVENUE S.W.

**CALGARY, ALBERTA** 

**T2P 1G1** 

www.nuvistaenergy.com