

COMPETITION TRIBUNAL

OTTAWA, ONT.

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IN THE MATTER OF the *Competition Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-34, and the *Competition Tribunal Rules*, SOR/2008-141;

AND IN THE MATTER OF the proposed acquisition by Béton Provincial Ltée or a wholly-owned subsidiary thereof of the Québec-based cement, aggregate and ready-mix concrete operations of CRH Canada Group Inc. and its affiliates;

AND IN THE MATTER OF the filing and registration of a consent agreement pursuant to sections 92 and 105 of the *Competition Act*.

B E T W E E N :

THE COMMISSIONER OF COMPETITION

Applicant

– and –

BÉTON PROVINCIAL LTÉE

Respondent

CONSENT AGREEMENT

RECITALS:

A. Pursuant to an asset purchase agreement dated December 19, 2023, Béton Provincial Ltée (“Béton Provincial”) proposes to acquire CRH Canada Group Inc’s (“CRH Canada”) cement operations, certain aggregates operations and ready-mix concrete operations in Québec (the “Transaction”).

B. The Commissioner has concluded that the Transaction is likely to result in a substantial lessening of competition in the production and supply of ready-mix concrete in the area between Mont-Tremblant and Piedmont in the Laurentians area of the province of Québec, and that the implementation of this Agreement is necessary to ensure that any substantial lessening of competition will not result from the Transaction.

C. Béton Provincial does not admit but will not for the purposes of this Agreement, including execution, registration, enforcement, variation or rescission, contest the Commissioner’s conclusions that (i) the Transaction is likely to result in a substantial

lessening of competition in the production and supply of ready-mix concrete in the area between Mont-Tremblant and Piedmont in the Laurentians area of the province of Québec; and (ii) the implementation of this Agreement is necessary to ensure that any substantial lessening of competition will not result from the Transaction.

D. Nothing in this Agreement affects any investigation, inquiry or proceeding other than under section 92 of the Act in respect of the Transaction.

THEREFORE Béton Provincial and the Commissioner agree as follows:

I. DEFINITIONS

[1] Whenever used in this Agreement, the following words and terms have the meanings set out below:

- (a) **“Act”** means the *Competition Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-34, as amended;
- (b) **“Affiliate”** has the meaning given to it in subsection 2(2) of the Act;
- (c) **“Agreement”** means this Consent Agreement, including the schedules hereto, and references to a “Part”, “Section”, “Paragraph” or “Schedule” are, unless otherwise indicated, references to a part, section, paragraph or schedule of or to this Agreement;
- (d) **“Béton Provincial”** means Béton Provincial Ltée and its Affiliates and their directors, officers, employees, agents, representatives, successors and assigns;
- (e) **“Béton Provincial’s Continuing Employees”** means those employees of Béton Provincial who are not employed in connection with the Divestiture Assets;
- (f) **“Business Day”** means a day on which the Competition Bureau’s Gatineau, Quebec office is open for business;
- (g) **“Closing”** means the completion of the Transaction under the Transaction Agreement;
- (h) **“Closing Date”** means the date on which Closing occurs;
- (i) **“Commissioner”** means the Commissioner of Competition appointed under the Act and includes the Commissioner’s authorized representatives;
- (j) **“Confidential Information”** means competitively sensitive, proprietary and all other information that is not in the public domain, and that is owned by or pertains to a Person or a Person’s business, and includes, but is not limited to, manufacturing, operations and financial information, customer

lists, price lists, contracts, cost and revenue information, marketing methods, patents, technologies, processes, or other trade secrets;

- (k) **“CRH Canada”** means CRH Canada Group Inc., its Affiliates, and their directors, officers, employees, agents, representatives, successors and assigns;
- (l) **“Designated Personnel”** means the employees of Béton Provincial or CRH Canada listed in Confidential Schedule C to this Agreement, as modified from time to time by agreement of Béton Provincial and the Commissioner, who shall have signed a confidentiality agreement in a form satisfactory to the Commissioner only;
- (m) **“Divested Business”** means the business of producing and supplying ready-mix concrete carried out at CRH Canada’s ready-mix concrete facility in Mont-Tremblant, Quebec;
- (n) **“Divestiture”** means the sale, conveyance, transfer, assignment or other disposal of the Divestiture Assets to a Purchaser pursuant to this Agreement and with the prior approval of the Commissioner, such that Béton Provincial will have no direct or indirect interest in the Divestiture Assets;
- (o) **“Divestiture Agreement”** means a binding and definitive agreement between Béton Provincial and a Purchaser to effect the Divestiture pursuant to this Agreement and subject to the prior approval of the Commissioner;
- (p) **“Divestiture Applicant”** means Béton Provincial during the Initial Sale Period or the Divestiture Trustee during the Divestiture Trustee Sale Period;
- (q) **“Divestiture Assets”** means all of the right, title and interest in, to and under, or relating to, the tangible assets, Intangible Assets, property and undertaking owned or used or held for use in, or related to, the Divested Business, excluding the Excluded Assets but including, without limitation, the following properties, assets and rights:
 - (i) the immovable or real property, whether owned or leased in related to the Divested Business;
 - (ii) all applicable facility specific licenses, permits, contracts, agreements and authorizations, including all leases to which the Divested Business is a party or beneficiary used in the operation of the Divested Business;
 - (iii) the Intangible Assets used in connection with the Divested Business
 - (iv) the tangible assets and equipment including all inventory of equipment and assets used to produce and supply ready-mix

concrete at the facility, including storage facilities, mixing equipment, mixing stations and other inventories;

- (v) all books, records and files (for greater certainty, to the extent that there are any books, records or files which are common to the Divested Business and to Béton Provincial's ongoing business, Béton Provincial shall provide copies of such books, records and files with respect to only the Divested Business to the Purchaser;
- (vi) any assets used in any ancillary businesses, including, operated in connection with the Divested Business, including but not limited to, all permits, contracts, agreements and authorizations, to which CRH Canada is a party or a beneficiary, used in the operation of the Divested Business; and related computer hardware;
- (r) **"Divestiture Process Agreement"** means the agreement described in Section 6 of this Agreement;
- (s) **"Divestiture Trustee"** means the Person appointed pursuant to Part III of this Agreement (or any substitute appointed thereto) and any employees, agents or other Persons acting for or on behalf of the Divestiture Trustee;
- (t) **"Divestiture Trustee Sale"** means the Divestiture to be conducted by the Divestiture Trustee pursuant to Part III of this Agreement;
- (u) **"Divestiture Trustee Sale Period"** means the 6 month period commencing upon expiry of the Initial Sale Period;
- (v) **"Excluded Assets"** means the current assets on Béton Provincial's financial statements relating to the Divested Business, including cash, cash equivalents, accounts receivables, and other liquid assets, but excluding pre-paid liabilities and inventory;
- (w) **"First Reference Date"** shall have the meaning set out in Paragraph 22(d) of this Agreement;
- (x) **"Hold Separate Employees"** means those employees who are employed in connection with the Divestiture Assets, and **"Hold Separate Employee"** means any one of them;
- (y) **"Hold Separate Manager"** means the Person appointed pursuant to Part V of this Agreement (or any substitute appointed thereto) to manage the operation of the Divestiture Assets, and any employees, agents or other Persons acting for or on behalf of the Hold Separate Manager;
- (z) **"Hold Separate Period"** means the period that commences at Closing and ends upon the completion of the Divestiture;

- (aa) **“Initial Sale Period”** means the period that commences at Closing and ends at the time set out in Confidential Schedule A to this Agreement;
- (bb) **“Intangible Assets”** means intellectual property of any nature and kind, including:
 - (i) patents, copyrights, trademarks and software;
 - (ii) trade dress, industrial designs, distinguishing guises, trade secrets, know-how, techniques, data, inventions, practices, methods and other confidential or proprietary technical, business, research, development and other information, and all rights in any jurisdiction to limit the use or disclosure thereof;
 - (iii) rights to obtain and file for patents and registrations thereof; and
 - (iv) rights to sue and recover damages or obtain injunctive relief for infringement, dilution, misappropriation, violation or breach of any of the foregoing;
- (cc) **“Management Agreement”** means the agreement described in Section 26 of this Agreement;
- (dd) **“Monitor”** means the Person appointed pursuant to Part X of this Agreement (or any substitute appointed thereto), and any employees, agents or other Persons acting for or on behalf of the Monitor, provided that if no Monitor is appointed, other than in Part X of this Agreement Monitor means the Commissioner;
- (ee) **“Monitor Agreement”** means the agreement described in Section 40 of this Agreement;
- (ff) **“Person”** means any individual, corporation or partnership, sole proprietorship, trust or other unincorporated organization capable of conducting business, and any Affiliates thereof;
- (gg) **“Purchaser”** means a Person that acquires Divestiture Assets pursuant to this Agreement and a Divestiture Agreement;
- (hh) **“Records”** means records within the meaning of subsection 2(1) of the Act;
- (ii) **“Second Reference Date”** shall have the meaning set out in Paragraph 22(e) of this Agreement;
- (jj) **“Shared Services”** means human resources, payroll, finance & accounting, legal and information technology, as provided to the Divested Business prior to Closing;

- (kk) **“Shared Services Employees”** means those employees who are providing the Shared Services to the Divested Business who have executed a confidentiality undertaking in a form satisfactory to the Commissioner;
- (ll) **“Third Party”** means any Person other than the Commissioner, Béton Provincial or a Purchaser;
- (mm) **“Transaction”** means the transaction described in the first recital to this Agreement;
- (nn) **“Transaction Agreement”** means the asset purchase agreement dated December 19, 2023 between Béton Provincial and CRH Canada; and
- (oo) **“Tribunal”** means the Competition Tribunal established by the *Competition Tribunal Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c.19 (2nd Supp.).

II. OBLIGATION TO COMPLETE DIVESTITURE

- [2] Béton Provincial shall use commercially reasonable efforts to complete the Divestiture.
- [3] During the Initial Sale Period, Béton Provincial shall use commercially reasonable efforts to complete the Divestiture in accordance with the provisions of this Part and Confidential Schedule A and subject to Part IV.
- [4] During the Initial Sale Period, Béton Provincial shall provide to the Commissioner and to the Monitor every 30 days a written report describing the progress of its efforts to effect the Divestiture. The report shall include a description of contacts, negotiations, due diligence and offers regarding the Divestiture Assets, the name, address and phone number of all parties contacted and of prospective Purchasers who have come forward. Béton Provincial shall, within 3 Business Days, respond to any request by the Commissioner for additional information regarding the status of Béton Provincial’s efforts to complete the Divestiture. An officer or other duly authorized representative of Béton Provincial shall certify that the information provided in any such response has been examined and is, to the best of that individual’s knowledge and belief, correct and complete in all material respects.

III. DIVESTITURE TRUSTEE SALE PROCESS

- [5] In the event that Béton Provincial fails to complete the Divestiture during the Initial Sale Period, the Commissioner shall appoint a Divestiture Trustee to complete the Divestiture in accordance with this Agreement. Such appointment may be made at any time prior to the expiry of the Initial Sale Period or on such later date as the Commissioner determines.
- [6] Within 5 Business Days after the appointment of the Divestiture Trustee, Béton Provincial shall submit to the Commissioner for approval the terms of a proposed Divestiture Process Agreement with the Divestiture Trustee and the Commissioner

that confers on the Divestiture Trustee all rights and powers necessary to permit the Divestiture Trustee to effect the Divestiture.

- [7] Within 5 Business Days after receipt of the proposed Divestiture Process Agreement referred to in Section 6, the Commissioner shall advise Béton Provincial whether or not the Commissioner approves the terms of the proposed Divestiture Process Agreement. If the Commissioner does not approve the terms of the proposed Divestiture Process Agreement, the Commissioner shall prescribe alternative terms that Béton Provincial shall incorporate into a final Divestiture Process Agreement with the Divestiture Trustee and the Commissioner.
- [8] Without limiting the Commissioner's discretion to require additional terms, Béton Provincial consents to the following terms and conditions regarding the Divestiture Trustee's rights, powers and duties, and shall include such terms in the Divestiture Process Agreement:
- (a) The Divestiture Trustee shall complete the Divestiture as expeditiously as possible, and in any event prior to expiry of the Divestiture Trustee Sale Period.
 - (b) The Divestiture Trustee shall use reasonable efforts to negotiate terms and conditions for the Divestiture that are as favourable to Béton Provincial as are reasonably available at that time; however, the Divestiture shall not be subject to any minimum price. The Divestiture Trustee's opinion of what constitutes favourable terms and conditions and what constitutes reasonably available terms and conditions, is subject to review and approval by the Commissioner.
 - (c) Subject to oversight and approval by the Commissioner, the Divestiture Trustee shall have full and exclusive authority during the Divestiture Trustee Sale Period:
 - (i) to complete the Divestiture in accordance with the provisions of this Part;
 - (ii) to solicit interest in a possible Divestiture by whatever process or procedure the Divestiture Trustee believes is suitable to allow a fair opportunity for one or more prospective good faith Purchasers to offer to acquire the Divestiture Assets, and for greater certainty, in determining whether to pursue negotiations with a prospective Purchaser, may have regard to the approval criteria in Section 23;
 - (iii) to enter into a Divestiture Agreement with a Purchaser that will be legally binding on Béton Provincial;
 - (iv) to negotiate reasonable commercial covenants, representations, warranties and indemnities to be included in a Divestiture Agreement; and

- (v) to employ, at the expense of Béton Provincial, such consultants, accountants, legal counsel, investment bankers, business brokers, appraisers, and other representatives and assistants as the Divestiture Trustee believes are necessary to carry out the Divestiture Trustee's duties and responsibilities.
- (d) Where any Person makes a good faith inquiry respecting a possible purchase of Divestiture Assets, the Divestiture Trustee shall notify such Person that the Divestiture is being made and shall provide to such Person a copy of this Agreement, with the exception of the provisions hereof that are confidential pursuant to Section 66 of this Agreement.
- (e) Where, in the opinion of the Divestiture Trustee, a Person has a good faith interest in purchasing Divestiture Assets and has executed a confidentiality agreement, in a form satisfactory to the Commissioner, with the Divestiture Trustee protecting any Confidential Information that such Person may receive in the course of its due diligence review of the Divestiture Assets, the Divestiture Trustee shall:
 - (i) promptly provide to such Person all information respecting the Divestiture Assets that is determined by the Divestiture Trustee to be relevant and appropriate;
 - (ii) permit such Person to make reasonable inspection of the Divestiture Assets and of all financial, operational or other non-privileged Records and information, including Confidential Information, that may be relevant to the Divestiture; and
 - (iii) give such Person as full and complete access as is reasonable in the circumstances to the personnel involved in managing the Divestiture Assets.
- (f) The Divestiture Trustee shall have no obligation or authority to operate or maintain the Divestiture Assets.
- (g) The Divestiture Trustee shall provide to the Commissioner and to the Monitor, within 30 days after the later of the Divestiture Trustee's appointment and the commencement of the Divestiture Trustee Sale Period and thereafter every 30 days, a written report describing the progress of the Divestiture Trustee's efforts to complete the Divestiture. The report shall include a description of contacts, negotiations, due diligence and offers regarding the Divestiture Assets, the name, address and phone number of all parties contacted and of prospective Purchasers who have come forward. The Divestiture Trustee shall, within 3 Business Days, respond to any request by the Commissioner for additional information regarding the status of the Divestiture Trustee's efforts to complete the Divestiture.

- (h) The Divestiture Trustee shall notify Béton Provincial and the Commissioner immediately upon the signing of any letter of intent or agreement in principle relating to the Divestiture Assets, and shall provide to Béton Provincial a copy of any executed Divestiture Agreement upon receipt of the Commissioner's approval of the Divestiture contemplated in such Divestiture Agreement.
- [9] Béton Provincial shall not be involved in the Divestiture process during the Divestiture Trustee Sale Period or in any negotiations with prospective Purchasers undertaken by the Divestiture Trustee, nor will Béton Provincial have contact with prospective Purchasers during the Divestiture Trustee Sale Period.
- [10] Subject to any legally recognized privilege, Béton Provincial and the Hold Separate Manager shall provide to the Divestiture Trustee full and complete access to all personnel, Records, information (including Confidential Information) and facilities relating to the Divestiture Assets, to enable the Divestiture Trustee to conduct its own investigation of the Divestiture Assets and to provide access and information to prospective Purchasers.
- [11] Béton Provincial shall take no action that interferes with or impedes, directly or indirectly, the Divestiture Trustee's efforts to complete the Divestiture.
- [12] Béton Provincial and the Hold Separate Manager shall fully and promptly respond to all requests from the Divestiture Trustee and shall provide all information the Divestiture Trustee may request. Béton Provincial shall identify an individual who shall have primary responsibility for fully and promptly responding to such requests from the Divestiture Trustee on behalf of Béton Provincial.
- [13] Béton Provincial will do all such acts and execute all such documents, and will cause the doing of all such acts and the execution of all such documents as are within its power to cause the doing or execution of, as may be reasonably necessary to ensure that the Divestiture Assets are divested in the Divestiture Trustee Sale Period and that agreements entered into by the Divestiture Trustee are binding upon and enforceable against Béton Provincial.
- [14] Béton Provincial shall be responsible for all reasonable fees and expenses properly charged or incurred by the Divestiture Trustee in the course of carrying out the Divestiture Trustee's duties and responsibilities under this Agreement. The Divestiture Trustee shall serve without bond or security, and shall account for all fees and expenses incurred. Béton Provincial shall pay all reasonable invoices submitted by the Divestiture Trustee within 30 days after receipt and, without limiting this obligation, Béton Provincial shall comply with any agreement it reaches with the Divestiture Trustee regarding interest on late payments. In the event of any dispute: (i) such invoice shall be subject to the approval of the Commissioner; and (ii) Béton Provincial shall promptly pay any invoice approved by the Commissioner. Any outstanding monies owed to the Divestiture Trustee by Béton Provincial shall be paid out of the proceeds of the Divestiture.

- [15] Béton Provincial shall indemnify the Divestiture Trustee and hold the Divestiture Trustee harmless against any losses, claims, damages, liabilities or expenses arising out of, or in connection with, the performance of the Divestiture Trustee's duties, including all reasonable fees of counsel and other expenses incurred in connection with the preparation or defence of any claim, whether or not resulting in any liability, except to the extent that such losses, claims, damages, liabilities, or expenses result from malfeasance, gross negligence or bad faith by the Divestiture Trustee.
- [16] Béton Provincial shall indemnify the Commissioner and hold the Commissioner harmless against any losses, claims, damages, liabilities or expenses arising out of, or in connection with, the performance of the Divestiture Trustee's duties, including all reasonable fees of counsel and other expenses incurred in connection with the preparation or defence of any claim, whether or not resulting in any liability.
- [17] If the Commissioner determines that the Divestiture Trustee has ceased to act or has failed to act diligently, the Commissioner may remove the Divestiture Trustee and appoint a substitute Divestiture Trustee. The provisions of this Agreement respecting the Divestiture Trustee shall apply in the same manner to any substitute Divestiture Trustee.
- [18] Béton Provincial may require the Divestiture Trustee and each of the Divestiture Trustee's consultants, accountants, legal counsel, investment bankers, business brokers, appraisers, and other representatives and assistants to sign an appropriate confidentiality agreement in a form satisfactory to the Commissioner; provided, however, that such agreement shall not restrict the Divestiture Trustee from providing any information to the Commissioner.
- [19] The Commissioner may require the Divestiture Trustee and each of the Divestiture Trustee's consultants, accountants, legal counsel, investment bankers, business brokers, appraisers, and other representatives and assistants to sign an appropriate confidentiality agreement relating to materials and information the Divestiture Trustee may receive from the Commissioner in connection with the performance of the Divestiture Trustee's duties.
- [20] Notwithstanding any term of this Agreement, the rights, powers and duties of the Divestiture Trustee under this Agreement shall not expire until the Divestiture is completed.

IV. COMMISSIONER APPROVAL OF DIVESTITURE

- [21] The Divestiture shall be made to a single Purchaser and may proceed only with the prior approval of the Commissioner in accordance with this Part. For greater certainty, if a Divestiture is a notifiable transaction nothing in this Agreement affects the operation of Part IX of the Act.

- [22] The Divestiture Applicant shall comply with the following process for seeking and obtaining a decision of the Commissioner regarding approval of a proposed Divestiture:
- (a) The Divestiture Applicant shall promptly:
 - (i) inform the Commissioner of any negotiations with a prospective Purchaser that may lead to a Divestiture; and
 - (ii) forward to the Commissioner copies of any agreement that is signed with a prospective Purchaser, including non-binding expressions of interest.
 - (b) The Divestiture Applicant shall immediately notify the Commissioner that it intends to enter a Divestiture Agreement with a prospective Purchaser, or has entered into an agreement that, if approved by the Commissioner, will be a Divestiture Agreement within the meaning of this Agreement. If the Divestiture Applicant has entered into or intends to enter into more than one agreement in respect of the same Divestiture Assets, the Divestiture Applicant shall identify the agreement in respect of which it seeks the Commissioner's approval and the remainder of this Part shall apply only to that agreement unless the Divestiture Applicant designates a substitute agreement.
 - (c) The notice described in Paragraph 22(b) shall be in writing and shall include: the identity of the proposed Purchaser; the details of the proposed Divestiture Agreement and any related agreements; and information concerning whether and how the proposed Purchaser would, in the view of the Divestiture Applicant, likely satisfy the terms of this Agreement.
 - (d) Within 14 days following receipt of the notice described in Paragraph 22(b), the Commissioner may request additional information concerning the proposed Divestiture from any or all of Béton Provincial, the Monitor, the Hold Separate Manager, the prospective Purchaser and, in the Divestiture Trustee Sale Period, the Divestiture Trustee. These Persons shall each provide any additional information requested from them. When they have provided a complete response to the Commissioner's request, these Persons shall comply with the following procedures:
 - (i) the Divestiture Trustee shall provide written confirmation to the Commissioner that the Divestiture Trustee has provided to the Commissioner all additional information requested from the Divestiture Trustee;
 - (ii) the Monitor shall provide written confirmation to the Commissioner that the Monitor has provided to the Commissioner all additional information requested from the Monitor;

- (iii) an officer or other duly authorized representative of Béton Provincial shall certify that the additional information provided by Béton Provincial in response to the Commissioner's request has been examined and is, to the best of that individual's knowledge and belief, correct and complete in all material respects;
- (iv) an officer or other duly authorized representative of the Hold Separate Manager shall certify that the additional information provided by the Hold Separate Manager in response to the Commissioner's request has been examined and is, to the best of that individual's knowledge and belief, correct and complete in all material respects; and
- (v) an officer or other duly authorized representative of the prospective Purchaser shall certify that the additional information provided by the prospective Purchaser in response to the Commissioner's request has been examined and is, to the best of that individual's knowledge and belief, correct and complete in all material respects.

The date on which the last of the Divestiture Trustee, Béton Provincial, the Monitor, the Hold Separate Manager and the prospective Purchaser provides to the Commissioner a confirmation or certification required under this Paragraph is the **"First Reference Date"**.

- (e) Within 7 days after the First Reference Date, the Commissioner may request further additional information concerning the proposed Divestiture from any or all of the Persons identified in Paragraph 22(d). These Persons shall each provide any further additional information requested from them. When they have provided a complete response to the Commissioner's request, if any, these Persons shall comply with the procedures outlined in Paragraph 22(d) in regard to the further additional information provided. The date on which the last of the Divestiture Trustee, Béton Provincial, the Monitor, the Hold Separate Manager and the prospective Purchaser provides to the Commissioner a confirmation or certification required under this Paragraph is the **"Second Reference Date"**.
- (f) The Commissioner shall notify the Divestiture Applicant of the approval of, or the objection to, the proposed Divestiture as soon as possible, and in any event within 14 days after the date on which the Commissioner receives the notice described in Paragraph 22(b) or, if the Commissioner requests any additional information under Paragraph 22(d) or further additional information under Paragraph 22(e), within 14 days after the later of:
 - (i) the First Reference Date; and
 - (ii) the Second Reference Date, if any.

- (g) The Commissioner's determination as to whether to approve a proposed Divestiture shall be in writing.

[23] In exercising discretion to determine whether to approve a proposed Divestiture, the Commissioner shall take into account the likely impact of the Divestiture on competition, and may consider any other factor the Commissioner considers relevant. Prior to granting approval, the Commissioner must also be satisfied that:

- (a) the proposed Purchaser is fully independent of and operates at arm's length from Béton Provincial;
- (b) Béton Provincial will have no direct or indirect interest in the Divestiture Assets following the Divestiture;
- (c) the proposed Purchaser is committed to carrying on the Divested Business;
- (d) the proposed Purchaser has the managerial, operational and financial capability to compete effectively in the production and supply of ready-mix concrete in the area between Mont-Tremblant and Piedmont in the Laurentians area of the province of Québec; and
- (e) the proposed Purchaser will (i) if the Commissioner grants approval during the Initial Sale Period, complete the Divestiture prior to the expiry of the Initial Sale Period; or (ii) if the Commissioner grants approval during the Divestiture Trustee Sale Period, complete the Divestiture during the Divestiture Trustee Sale Period.

V. HOLD SEPARATE

[24] During the Hold Separate Period, Béton Provincial shall:

- (a) hold the Divestiture Assets separate, apart and independent of Béton Provincial and its affiliates and shall confer on the Hold Separate Manager all rights and powers necessary to conduct the business of the Divestiture Assets;
- (b) not exercise direction or control over, or influence directly or indirectly, the Divestiture Assets or the Hold Separate Manager; and
- (c) take no action that interferes with or impedes, directly or indirectly, the Hold Separate Manager's duties and responsibilities.

[25] Prior to or at Closing, the Commissioner shall appoint a Hold Separate Manager, responsible for managing and operating the Divestiture Assets independently of Béton Provincial during the Hold Separate Period.

[26] Within 5 Business Days after the appointment of the Hold Separate Manager, Béton Provincial shall submit to the Commissioner for approval the terms of a proposed

Management Agreement with the Hold Separate Manager and the Commissioner that confers on the Hold Separate Manager all rights and powers necessary to permit the Hold Separate Manager to manage and operate the Divestiture Assets independently of Béton Provincial during the Hold Separate Period in accordance with this Agreement.

[27] Within 5 Business Days after receipt of the proposed Management Agreement referred to in Section 26, the Commissioner shall advise Béton Provincial whether or not the Commissioner approves the terms of the proposed Management Agreement. If the Commissioner does not approve the terms of the proposed Management Agreement, the Commissioner shall prescribe alternative terms for the Management Agreement that Béton Provincial shall incorporate into a final Management Agreement with the Hold Separate Manager and the Commissioner.

[28] Without limiting the Commissioner's discretion to require additional terms, Béton Provincial consents to the following terms and conditions regarding the Hold Separate Manager's rights, powers and duties, and shall include such terms in the Management Agreement:

- (a) The Hold Separate Manager shall report solely and exclusively to the Monitor.
- (b) The Hold Separate Manager shall not have any involvement with, or receive any Confidential Information respecting, the businesses or assets of Béton Provincial other than in respect of the Divestiture Assets.
- (c) Subject to the oversight of the Monitor, the Hold Separate Manager shall manage and maintain the operation of the Divestiture Assets independently and separately from Béton Provincial, in the regular and ordinary course of business and in accordance with past practice, and shall use commercially reasonable efforts to ensure the ongoing economic viability, marketability and competitiveness of the Divestiture Assets.
- (d) Without limiting the generality of Paragraph 28(c) above, the Hold Separate Manager shall:
 - (i) maintain and hold the Divestiture Assets in good condition and repair, normal wear and tear excepted, and to standards at least equal to those that existed prior to the date of this Agreement;
 - (ii) take all commercially reasonable steps to honour all customer contracts and to maintain quality and service standards for customers of the Divestiture Assets at least equal to those that existed prior to the date of this Agreement;
 - (iii) not knowingly take or allow to be taken any action that adversely affects the competitiveness, operations, financial status or value of the Divestiture Assets;

- (iv) not alter or cause to be altered, to any material extent, the management of the Divestiture Assets as it existed prior to the date of this Agreement, except with the prior approval of the Monitor;
 - (v) not terminate or alter any employment, salary or benefit agreements, as they existed at the date of this Agreement, for Persons employed in connection with the Divestiture Assets, except with the prior approval of the Monitor;
 - (vi) ensure that the Divestiture Assets are staffed with sufficient employees to ensure their viability and competitiveness, including by replacing any departing employees with other qualified employees subject to the prior approval of the Monitor; and
 - (vii) maintain inventory levels and payment terms consistent with the practices of CRH Canada that existed, with respect to the Divestiture Assets, prior to the date of this Agreement.
- (e) Béton Provincial shall provide sufficient financial resources, including general funds, capital funds, working capital and reimbursement for any operating, capital or other losses, to permit the Hold Separate Manager to comply with its obligations under this Section. The Hold Separate Manager, subject to the prior approval of the Monitor, may request funds at any time, and Béton Provincial shall comply with any such request. If the Monitor believes that Béton Provincial has not provided, is not providing or will not provide sufficient financial and other resources under this Paragraph, the Monitor shall forthwith refer the matter to the Commissioner, who shall make a final determination respecting the financial and other resources that Béton Provincial must provide. Béton Provincial shall comply with any determination made by the Commissioner on this issue.
- (f) The Hold Separate Manager shall have no financial interests affected by Béton Provincial's revenues, profits or profit margins, except that Béton Provincial shall provide to the Hold Separate Manager reasonable incentives to undertake this position. The Monitor shall determine the type and value of such incentives, which shall include continuation of all employee benefits, and such additional incentives as the Monitor determines may be necessary to assure the continuation and prevent any diminution of the viability, marketability and competitiveness of the Divestiture Assets.
- (g) In addition to those Persons employed in connection with the Divestiture Assets on the Closing Date, the Hold Separate Manager may employ such other Persons as the Monitor believes are necessary to assist the Hold Separate Manager in managing and operating the Divestiture Assets.

- (h) Subject to any legally recognized privilege, the Hold Separate Manager shall provide to the Monitor full and complete access to all personnel, Records, information (including Confidential Information) and facilities relevant to monitoring Béton Provincial's compliance with this Agreement.
 - (i) The Hold Separate Manager shall fully and promptly respond to all requests from the Monitor and, subject to any legally recognized privilege, shall provide all information the Monitor may request.
- [29] Béton Provincial shall be responsible for all reasonable fees and expenses properly charged or incurred by the Hold Separate Manager in the course of carrying out the Hold Separate Manager's duties under this Agreement. The Hold Separate Manager shall serve without bond or security, and shall account for all fees and expenses incurred. Béton Provincial shall pay all reasonable invoices submitted by the Hold Separate Manager within 30 days after receipt and, without limiting this obligation, Béton Provincial shall comply with any agreement it reaches with the Hold Separate Manager regarding interest on late payments. In the event of any dispute: (i) such invoice shall be subject to the approval of the Commissioner; and (ii) Béton Provincial shall promptly pay any invoice approved by the Commissioner.
- [30] Béton Provincial shall indemnify the Hold Separate Manager and hold the Hold Separate Manager harmless against any losses, claims, damages, liabilities or expenses arising out of, or in connection with, the performance of the Hold Separate Manager's duties, including all reasonable fees of counsel and other expenses incurred in connection with the preparation or defence of any claim, whether or not resulting in any liability, except to the extent that such losses, claims, damages, liabilities, or expenses result from malfeasance, gross negligence or bad faith by the Hold Separate Manager.
- [31] If the Commissioner determines that the Hold Separate Manager has ceased to act or has failed to act diligently, the Commissioner may remove the Hold Separate Manager and appoint a substitute Hold Separate Manager. The provisions of this Agreement respecting the Hold Separate Manager shall apply in the same manner to any substitute Hold Separate Manager.
- [32] Béton Provincial and the Hold Separate Manager shall jointly implement, and at all times during the Hold Separate Period maintain in operation, a system, as approved by the Monitor in consultation with the Commissioner of access and data controls to prevent unauthorized access to or dissemination of Confidential Information. The system shall include the following protocols:
 - (a) The Monitor shall approve all proposed communications between the Hold Separate Manager and Béton Provincial before such communications occur.
 - (b) Béton Provincial's Continuing Employees shall not receive, have access to or use any Confidential Information respecting the Divestiture Assets. If any of Béton Provincial's Continuing Employees possesses Confidential

Information respecting the Divestiture Assets as of the date of this Agreement, such Person shall, within 5 Business Days following appointment of the Hold Separate Manager, (i) deliver any Records containing such Confidential Information to the Hold Separate Manager (or, at the Hold Separate Manager's option, destroy such Records) and a signed statement confirming that the Person is no longer in possession of any Records containing Confidential Information respecting the Divestiture Assets; and (ii) submit to the Monitor a signed statement confirming that the Person undertakes not to share any Confidential Information respecting the Divestiture Assets with any of Béton Provincial's Continuing Employees.

- (c) Notwithstanding Paragraph 32(b), Designated Personnel of Béton Provincial may receive aggregate financial and operational information relating to the Divestiture Assets only to the extent necessary to comply with securities laws, prepare financial and regulatory reports, tax returns, administer employee benefits, defend litigation and comply with this Agreement. Any such information shall be: (i) reviewed by the Monitor prior to its receipt by any Designated Personnel; (ii) maintained in a separate confidential file that is accessible only to the Designated Personnel; and (iii) used only for the purposes set forth in this Section.
- (d) Notwithstanding Paragraphs 32(a) and (b), at the request and direction of the Hold Separate Manager and subject to the oversight of the Monitor, the Shared Services Employees shall provide the Divested Business with the Shared Services in a manner that is, in the view of the Hold Separate Manager and Monitor, reasonably consistent in nature, scope and magnitude with past practices and generally accepted industry practices, and in compliance with all applicable laws.
- (e) Neither the Hold Separate Manager nor any Hold Separate Employee shall receive, have access to or use any Confidential Information relating to Béton Provincial's businesses other than the Divestiture Assets.

VI. THIRD PARTY CONSENTS

- [33] It shall be a condition in any Divestiture Agreement (whether negotiated by Béton Provincial or by the Divestiture Trustee) that Béton Provincial shall, as a condition of closing, obtain any consents and waivers from Third Parties that are necessary to permit the assignment to, and assumption by, a Purchaser of all material contracts, approvals and authorizations relating to the Divestiture Assets; provided, however, that Béton Provincial may satisfy this requirement by certifying that the Purchaser has executed agreements directly with one or more Third Parties which make such assignment and assumption unnecessary.

VII. TRANSITIONAL SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS

[34] Béton Provincial, or the Divestiture Trustee on behalf of Béton Provincial, shall enter into agreements to supply such transitional services requested by the Purchaser and approved by the Commissioner as are reasonably necessary to ensure the effectiveness of the Divested Business for up to one year following the completion of the Divestiture.

VIII. EMPLOYEES

[35] Béton Provincial (during the Initial Sale Period), the Divestiture Trustee (during the Divestiture Trustee Sale Period) and the Hold Separate Manager (for the Hold Separate Employees) shall provide to any prospective Purchaser, the Commissioner and the Monitor information relating to the employees whose responsibilities involve the operation of the Divestiture Assets, to enable such Purchaser to make decisions regarding offers of employment to such employees. The Monitor shall review the information provided to ensure that it is sufficient to enable the Purchaser to make such decisions.

[36] Béton Provincial shall:

- (a) not interfere, directly or indirectly, with any negotiations by a Purchaser to employ any employees whose responsibilities involve the operation of the Divestiture Assets;
- (b) not offer any incentive to such employees to decline employment with the Purchaser or to accept other employment with Béton Provincial;
- (c) remove any impediment that may deter such employees from accepting employment with the Purchaser;
- (d) waive any non-compete or confidentiality provisions of employment or other contracts that could impair the ability of such employees to be employed by the Purchaser; and
- (e) pay or transfer to or maintain for the employees subsequently employed by the Purchaser all current and accrued bonuses, pensions and other current and accrued benefits to which such employees would otherwise have been entitled had they remained in the employment of Béton Provincial.

[37] For a period of one year following completion of the Divestiture, Béton Provincial shall not, without the prior written consent of the Commissioner, directly or indirectly solicit or employ any Persons employed in connection with the Divestiture Assets who has accepted an offer of employment with the Purchaser unless such Person's employment has been terminated by the Purchaser. Nothing in this Agreement shall restrict the solicitation or employment by Béton Provincial of any Person who is solicited by advertising placed in a newspaper, trade journal,

through a web site or via other media of general circulation which is not directed at or focused on Persons employed in connection with the Divestiture Assets.

IX. FAILURE OF DIVESTITURE TRUSTEE SALE

[38] If, by the end of the Divestiture Trustee Sale Period, the Divestiture has not been completed, or if the Commissioner is of the opinion that the Divestiture likely will not be completed prior to the end of the Divestiture Trustee Sale Period, the Commissioner may apply to the Tribunal, at the Commissioner's election, for either (i) such order as is necessary to complete the Divestiture; or (ii) such order as is necessary to ensure that the Transaction is not likely to prevent or lessen competition substantially.

X. MONITOR

[39] The Commissioner shall appoint a Monitor, responsible for monitoring compliance by Béton Provincial with this Agreement. Such appointment may occur at any time following registration of this Agreement. A reference in this Agreement to specific monitoring functions or tasks that are to be undertaken by the Monitor shall in no way detract from the Monitor's general right, power and duty to monitor all aspects of Béton Provincial's compliance with this Agreement.

[40] Within 5 Business Days after the appointment of the Monitor, Béton Provincial shall submit to the Commissioner for approval the terms of a proposed Monitor Agreement with the Monitor and the Commissioner that confers on the Monitor all rights and powers necessary to permit the Monitor to monitor compliance by Béton Provincial with this Agreement.

[41] Within 5 Business Days after receipt of the proposed Monitor Agreement referred to in Section 40, the Commissioner shall advise Béton Provincial whether or not the Commissioner approves the terms of the proposed Monitor Agreement. If the Commissioner does not approve the terms of the proposed Monitor Agreement, the Commissioner shall prescribe alternative terms for the Monitor Agreement that Béton Provincial shall incorporate into a final Monitor Agreement with the Monitor and the Commissioner.

[42] Béton Provincial consents to the following terms and conditions regarding the Monitor's rights, powers and duties, and shall include such terms in the Monitor Agreement:

- (a) The Monitor shall have the power and authority to monitor Béton Provincial's compliance with this Agreement, and shall exercise such power and authority and carry out the duties and responsibilities of the Monitor in a manner consistent with the purposes of this Agreement and in consultation with the Commissioner.

- (b) The Monitor shall have the authority to employ, at the expense of Béton Provincial, such consultants, accountants, legal counsel and other representatives and assistants as the Monitor believes are necessary to carry out the Monitor's duties and responsibilities.
 - (c) The Monitor shall have no obligation or authority to operate or maintain the Divestiture Assets.
 - (d) The Monitor shall act for the sole benefit of the Commissioner, maintain all confidences and avoid any conflict of interest.
 - (e) The Monitor shall have no duties of good faith (except as required by law), of a fiduciary nature, or otherwise, to Béton Provincial.
 - (f) The Monitor shall provide to the Commissioner every 30 days after the date of the Monitor's appointment until the Divestiture is complete and thereafter annually on or before the anniversary of the Divestiture, a written report concerning performance by Béton Provincial of its obligations under this Agreement. The Monitor shall, within 3 Business Days, respond to any request by the Commissioner for additional information regarding Béton Provincial's compliance.
- [43] Subject to any legally recognized privilege, Béton Provincial shall provide to the Monitor full and complete access to all personnel, Records, information (including Confidential Information) and facilities relevant to monitoring Béton Provincial's compliance with this Agreement.
- [44] Béton Provincial shall take no action that interferes with or impedes, directly or indirectly, the Monitor's efforts to monitor Béton Provincial's compliance with this Agreement.
- [45] Béton Provincial shall fully and promptly respond to all requests from the Monitor and, subject to any legally recognized privilege, shall provide all information the Monitor may request. Béton Provincial shall identify an individual who shall have primary responsibility for fully and promptly responding to such requests from the Monitor on behalf of Béton Provincial.
- [46] Béton Provincial may require the Monitor and each of the Monitor's consultants, accountants, legal counsel and other representatives and assistants to sign an appropriate confidentiality agreement in a form satisfactory to the Commissioner; provided, however, that such agreement shall not restrict the Monitor from providing any information to the Commissioner.
- [47] The Commissioner may require the Monitor and each of the Monitor's consultants, accountants, legal counsel and other representatives and assistants to sign an appropriate confidentiality agreement relating to materials and information the Monitor may receive from the Commissioner in connection with the performance of the Monitor's duties.

- [48] Béton Provincial shall be responsible for all reasonable fees and expenses properly charged or incurred by the Monitor in the course of carrying out the Monitor's duties under this Agreement. The Monitor shall serve without bond or security, and shall account for all fees and expenses incurred. Béton Provincial shall pay all reasonable invoices submitted by the Monitor within 30 days after receipt and, without limiting this obligation, Béton Provincial shall comply with any agreement it reaches with the Monitor regarding interest on late payments. In the event of any dispute: (i) such invoice shall be subject to the approval of the Commissioner; and (ii) Béton Provincial shall promptly pay any invoice approved by the Commissioner. Any outstanding monies owed to the Monitor by Béton Provincial shall be paid out of the proceeds of the Divestiture.
- [49] Béton Provincial shall indemnify the Monitor and hold the Monitor harmless against any losses, claims, damages, liabilities or expenses arising out of, or in connection with, the performance of the Monitor's duties, including all reasonable fees of counsel and other expenses incurred in connection with the preparation or defence of any claim, whether or not resulting in any liability, except to the extent that such losses, claims, damages, liabilities, or expenses result from malfeasance, gross negligence or bad faith by the Monitor.
- [50] If the Commissioner determines that the Monitor has ceased to act or has failed to act diligently, the Commissioner may remove the Monitor and appoint a substitute Monitor. The provisions of this Agreement respecting the Monitor shall apply in the same manner to any substitute Monitor.
- [51] The Monitor shall serve for such time as is necessary to monitor Béton Provincial's compliance with this Agreement.

XI. COMPLIANCE

- [52] Within 5 Business Days after the Closing Date, Béton Provincial shall provide written confirmation to the Commissioner of the date on which the Transaction was completed.
- [53] Béton Provincial shall provide a copy of this Agreement to each of its own and its Affiliates' directors, officers, employees and agents having managerial responsibility for any obligations under this Agreement, within 3 Business Days after the date of registration of this Agreement. Béton Provincial shall ensure that its directors, officers, employees and agents with responsibility for any obligations under this Agreement receive sufficient training respecting Béton Provincial's responsibilities and duties under this Agreement, and the steps that such individuals must take in order to comply with this Agreement.
- [54] Béton Provincial shall not, for a period of 10 years after the date when the Divestiture is completed, directly or indirectly acquire any interest in the Divestiture Assets, without the prior written approval of the Commissioner.

[55] For a period of 2 years after the date when the Divestiture is completed, Béton Provincial shall not, without providing advance written notification to the Commissioner in the manner described in this Section, directly or indirectly:

- (a) acquire any assets or shares of, or any other interest in, any business that produces and supplies ready-mix concrete to customers in the area between Mont-Tremblant and Piedmont in the Laurentians area of the province of Québec; or
- (b) consummate any merger or other combination relating to the production and supply of ready-mix concrete business in the area between Mont-Tremblant and Piedmont in the Laurentians area of the province of Québec.

If a transaction described in (a) or (b) is one for which notice is not required under section 114 of the Act, Béton Provincial shall supply to the Commissioner the information described in section 16 of the *Notifiable Transactions Regulations* at least 30 days before completing such transaction (or such shorter period as the Commissioner may agree). Béton Provincial shall certify such information in the same manner as would be required if section 118 of the Act applied. The Commissioner may accept a competitive impact brief from Béton Provincial instead of such information. The Commissioner may, within 30 days after receiving the information described in this Section, request that Béton Provincial supply additional information that is relevant to the Commissioner's assessment of the transaction. In the event that the Commissioner issues such a request for additional information, Béton Provincial shall supply information to the Commissioner in the form specified by the Commissioner and shall not complete such transaction until at least 30 days (or such shorter period as the Commissioner may agree) after Béton Provincial has supplied all such requested information in the form specified by the Commissioner.

[56] 1 year after the date of registration of this Agreement and annually for the next 5 years on, or within 10 days before, the six month anniversary of the date of registration, and at such other times as the Commissioner may require, Béton Provincial shall file an affidavit or certificate, substantially in the form of Schedule B to this Agreement, certifying its compliance with Parts VII, VIII and XI of this Agreement and setting out the following information in detail:

- (a) the steps taken to ensure compliance;
- (b) the controls in place to verify compliance; and
- (c) the names and titles of employees who have oversight of compliance.

[57] If any of Béton Provincial, the Hold Separate Manager, the Divestiture Trustee or the Monitor becomes aware that there has been a breach or possible breach of any of the terms of this Agreement, such Person shall, within 5 Business Days after becoming aware of the breach or possible breach, notify the Commissioner thereof, and shall provide details sufficient to describe the nature, date and effect (actual and

anticipated) of the breach or possible breach, provided that notification of a possible breach is not required if such Person determines within those 5 Business Days that it could not reasonably be considered a breach of any of the terms of this Agreement. Béton Provincial shall provide confirmation of its compliance with this provision in all affidavits and certificates of compliance filed with the Commissioner pursuant to Section 54 of this Agreement.

- [58]** Béton Provincial shall notify the Commissioner at least 30 days prior to:
- (a) any proposed dissolution of Béton Provincial; or
 - (b) any other change in Béton Provincial if such change may affect compliance obligations arising out of this Agreement including, but not limited to, a reorganization, material acquisition, disposition or transfer of assets, or any fundamental change for purposes of Béton Provincial's incorporating statute.
- [59]** For the purposes of determining or securing compliance with this Agreement, and subject to any legally recognized privilege, Béton Provincial shall, upon written request given at least 5 Business Days in advance to Béton Provincial, permit any authorized representative(s) of the Commissioner, without restraint or interference:
- (a) to access, during regular office hours of Béton Provincial on any Business Day(s), all facilities and to inspect and copy all Records in the possession or control of Béton Provincial related to compliance with this Agreement, which copying services shall be provided by Béton Provincial at its expense; and
 - (b) to interview such officers, directors or employees of Béton Provincial as the Commissioner requests regarding such matters.

XII. DURATION

- [60]** This Agreement shall become effective on the date when it is registered, and shall remain in effect for 10 years following the Divestiture, except that:
- (a) Parts II, III, IV, V and VI of this Agreement shall be effective only until the Divestiture is completed;
 - (b) Part VII of this Agreement shall be effective only until the transitional supply agreement is terminated; and
 - (c) Sections 66 shall survive the expiry of this Agreement.

XIII. NOTICES

[61] A notice or other communication required or permitted to be given under this Agreement is valid if it is:

- (a) in writing and delivered by personal delivery, registered mail, courier service, facsimile or electronic mail; and
- (b) addressed to the receiving party at the address(es) listed below, or to any other address designated by the receiving party in accordance with this Section.

if to the Commissioner:

Commissioner of Competition
Competition Bureau Canada
Place du Portage, 21st Floor
50 Victoria Street, Phase I
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0C9

Attention: Commissioner of Competition
Fax: (819) 953-5013
Email address: ic.avisdefusionmergnotification.ic@canada.ca and
avisdefusionmergnotification@cb-bc.gc.ca

with a copy to:

Executive Director and Senior General Counsel
Competition Bureau Legal Services
Department of Justice
Place du Portage, 22nd Floor
50 Victoria Street, Phase I
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0C9
Fax: (819) 953-9267
Email address: ic.cb_lsu_senior_general_counsel-
 avocat_general_principal_usj_bc.ic@canada.ca and
cb_lsu_senior_general_counsel-avocat_general_principal_usj_bc@ised-
isde.gc.ca

if to Béton Provincial:

Louis Thibault-Germain, Vice-Président, Affaires juridiques
Béton Provincial Ltée
8090, rue Boyer
Québec QC G2K 1S9
Email address: l.germain@betonprovincial.com

with a copy to:

Michelle Lally, Partner
Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP
100 King Street West
1 First Canadian Place
Suite 6200, P.O. Box 50
Toronto ON M5X 1B8
Email address: MLally@osler.com

- [62] A notice or other communication under this Agreement is effective on the day that it is received by the receiving party and is deemed to have been received as follows:
- (a) if it is delivered in person, by registered mail or by courier, upon receipt as indicated by the date on the signed receipt;
 - (b) if it is delivered by facsimile, upon receipt as indicated by the time and date on the facsimile confirmation slip; or
 - (c) if it is delivered by electronic mail, when the recipient, by an email sent to the email address for the sender stated in this Section or by a notice delivered by another method in accordance with this Section, acknowledges having received that email, with an automatic “read receipt” not constituting acknowledgment of an email for purposes of this Section.

If a notice or other communication is received after 5:00 p.m. local time, or on a day that is not a Business Day, it shall be deemed to have been received on the next Business Day.

- [63] Notwithstanding Sections 61 and 62, a notice or other communication that is not communicated in accordance with Sections 61 and 62 is valid if a representative of the party to this Agreement that is the recipient of such communication confirms the receipt of such communication and does not, at the time of such confirmation, request that it be delivered differently.

XIV. GENERAL

- [64] In this Agreement:
- (a) **Number and Gender** – Unless the context otherwise requires, words importing the singular include the plural and vice versa and words importing gender include all genders.
 - (b) **Time Periods** – Computation of time periods shall be in accordance with the *Interpretation Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. I-21, and the definition of “holiday” in the *Interpretation Act* shall include Saturday.

- [65] The Commissioner shall file this Agreement with the Tribunal for registration in accordance with section 105 of the Act. Béton Provincial hereby consents to such registration. Following the filing of this Agreement, the Commissioner shall promptly issue a letter to Béton Provincial indicating that, subject to the implementation of this Agreement, the Commissioner does not intend to make an application under section 92 of the Act in respect of the Transaction.
- [66] Information in Confidential Schedule A shall be made public upon the expiry of the Initial Sale Period. Confidential Information in Confidential Schedule C shall remain confidential at all times and shall survive the termination of this Agreement; provided, however, the Commissioner may communicate or allow to be communicated such information for the purposes of the administration or enforcement of the Act.
- [67] The Commissioner may, after informing Béton Provincial, extend any of the time periods contemplated by this Agreement other than Sections 54, 55 and 60. If any time period is extended, the Commissioner shall promptly notify Béton Provincial of the revised time period.
- [68] Nothing in this Agreement precludes Béton Provincial or the Commissioner from bringing an application under section 106 of the Act. Béton Provincial will not, for the purposes of this Agreement, including execution, registration, enforcement, variation or rescission, contest the Commissioner's conclusions that: (i) the Transaction is likely to result in a substantial lessening and of competition in the production and supply of ready-mix concrete in the area between Mont-Tremblant and Piedmont in the Laurentians area of the province of Québec; and (ii) the implementation of this Agreement is necessary to ensure that any substantial lessening and of competition will not result from the Transaction.
- [69] Béton Provincial attorns to the jurisdiction of the Tribunal for the purposes of this Agreement and any proceeding initiated by the Commissioner relating to this Agreement.
- [70] Until Closing, Béton Provincial shall make reasonable efforts to ensure that CRH Canada preserves the Divestiture Assets in a manner consistent with Part V of this Agreement.
- [71] This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the Commissioner and Béton Provincial, and supersedes all prior agreements, understandings, negotiations and discussions, whether written or oral, with respect to the subject matter hereof.
- [72] This Agreement shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of Ontario and the laws of Canada applicable therein, without applying any otherwise applicable conflict of law rules.
- [73] In the event of a dispute regarding compliance with or the interpretation, implementation or application of this Agreement, the Commissioner or Béton Provincial may apply to the Tribunal for directions or an order. In the event of any

discrepancy between the English language version of this Agreement and the French language version of this Agreement, the English language version of this Agreement shall prevail. In no event shall any dispute suspend the Initial Sale Period or the Divestiture Trustee Sale Period.

[74] This Agreement may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which shall be an original instrument, but all of which shall constitute one and the same Agreement.

The undersigned hereby agree to the filing of this Agreement with the Tribunal for registration.

DATED this 21st day of March, 2024

COMMISSIONER OF COMPETITION

[Original signed by Matthew Boswell]

Name: Matthew Boswell

Title: Commissioner of Competition

BÉTON PROVINCIAL LTÉE

[Original signed by Alain Bisson]

I/We have authority to bind the corporation

Name: Alain Bisson

Title: Chief Financial Officer

CONFIDENTIAL SCHEDULE A
INITIAL SALE PERIOD

[CONFIDENTIAL]

SCHEDULE B

FORM OF COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATION/AFFIDAVIT

I, **[name]**, of **[place]**, hereby certify¹ in accordance with the terms of the Registered Consent Agreement dated ● between Béton Provincial Ltée (“Béton Provincial”) and the Commissioner of Competition, that:

1. I am the **[title]** of Béton Provincial, and have personal knowledge of the matters deposed to herein, unless they are stated to be on information and belief, in which cases I state the source of such information and believe it to be true.
2. On **[date]**, Béton Provincial entered into a Consent Agreement (the “Consent Agreement”) with the Commissioner of Competition (the “Commissioner”) in connection with the proposed acquisition of the Quebec based cement, aggregate and ready-mix concrete operations of CRH Canada and its affiliates (the “Transaction”).
3. The Transaction closed on **[date]** (the “Closing Date”).²
4. The Divestiture (as defined in the Consent Agreement) to **[Purchaser]** was completed on **[date]**.
5. Pursuant to Section 56 of the Consent Agreement, Béton Provincial is required to file annual reports/reports when requested by the Commissioner certifying its compliance with Parts VII, VIII and XI of the Consent Agreement.

Oversight of Compliance

6. **[Names/titles]** have primary responsibility for overseeing compliance with this Agreement.

Closing Date

7. Pursuant to Section 52 of the Consent Agreement, Béton Provincial is required to provide written confirmation to the Commissioner of the date on which the Transaction was completed. Such notice was provided on **[date]**.

Circulation of Consent Agreement

8. Pursuant to Section 53 of the Consent Agreement, Béton Provincial is required to provide a copy of the Consent Agreement to each of its own and its Affiliates’ directors, officers, employees and agents having managerial responsibility for any

¹ If this is drafted as an affidavit, the words “hereby certify” should be removed and should be replaced with “make oath and say”. An affidavit should be sworn under oath. A certification should be certified by a Commissioner for taking affidavits.

² Paragraphs **3, 4, 7 and 8** need only be included in the first certification/affidavit.

obligations under the Consent Agreement, within 3 Business Days after the date of registration of the Consent Agreement. The Consent Agreement was circulated by [whom] to [provide list] on [dates].

9. Pursuant to Section 53 of the Consent Agreement, Béton Provincial is required to ensure that its directors, officers, employees and agents with responsibility for any obligations under the Consent Agreement receive sufficient training respecting Béton Provincial's responsibilities and duties under the Consent Agreement. The following training has been provided: **[provide list of who was trained and by whom as well as a general statement of the content of the training]**

Transitional Support Arrangements

10. Pursuant to Section 34 of the Consent Agreement, Béton Provincial is required to provide transitional services to the Purchasers. **[Describe any compliance obligations arising from the Béton Provincial's transitional support commitments, and confirm compliance with each – to be tailored to specific terms of consent agreement.]**

Employees

11. Sections 35 and 36 of the Consent Agreement require Béton Provincial to take various steps in regard to its employees whose responsibilities involved the operation of the Divestiture Assets. Béton Provincial has fully complied with the terms of those Sections and, more particularly: **[Describe steps taken to facilitate employee transfer to Purchaser, having regard to the terms of Sections 35 and 36; provide data on the # of employees who have transferred to the Purchaser.]**

Acquisition, Reacquisition and Corporate Change

12. Section 54 of the Consent Agreement prohibits reacquisition of the Divestiture Assets for a period of 10 years after the Divestiture is completed without prior written approval of the Commissioner. Section 55 of the Consent Agreement prohibits certain mergers and acquisitions for a period of 2 years without prior notice to the Commissioner. Béton Provincial has fully complied with the terms of those Sections and, more particularly: **[Describe steps taken to ensure commitments have been complied with.]**
13. Section 58 of the Consent Agreement requires notice to the Commissioner of certain corporate changes or other changes to Béton Provincial that may affect compliance with the Consent Agreement. Béton Provincial has complied with this provision and, more particularly: **[Describe steps taken to ensure this commitment has been complied with.]**

Notification of Breach

14. Based on my personal knowledge and my inquiries of **[provide names]**, I am not aware of any breach or possible breach of any of the terms of the Consent Agreement within the meaning of Section 57 of the Consent Agreement.

DATED ●.

Commissioner of Oaths

Name and Title of Certifying Officer

**CONFIDENTIAL SCHEDULE C
LIST OF DESIGNATED PERSONNEL**

Béton Provincial Designated Personnel	
Name	Title
[CONFIDENTIAL]	Finance and Accounting
	Finance and Accounting
	Finance and Accounting
	Finance and Accounting
	Legal
	Information Technology
	Human Resources
	Payables
	Payables
	Payroll
	Payroll

CRH Canada Designated Personnel (by function)
Invoicing department
Credit / Collection department