

**SINO-FOREST CLASS ACTION
NATIONAL SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

Made as of March 20, 2012

Between

THE TRUSTEES OF THE LABOURERS' PENSION FUND OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN
CANADA, THE TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING
ENGINEERS LOCAL 793 PENSION PLAN FOR OPERATING ENGINEERS IN ONTARIO,
SJUNDE AP-FONDEN, DAVID GRANT, ROBERT WONG and GUINING LIU

and

PÖYRY (BEIJING) CONSULTING COMPANY LIMITED

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RECITALS

A. WHEREAS the Proceedings have been commenced by the Plaintiffs in Ontario and Quebec which allege that the Settling Defendant made misrepresentations regarding the assets, business and transactions of Sino-Forest contrary to the *OSA*, the *QSA*, the civil law of Quebec and the common law of the rest of Canada;

B. AND WHEREAS the Settling Defendant believes that it is not liable in respect of the claims as alleged in the Proceedings and the Settling Defendant believes that it has good and reasonable defences in respect of the merits in the Proceedings;

C. AND WHEREAS the Settling Defendant asserts that it would actively pursue its defences in respect of the merits during the course of certification, during the course of discovery and at trial if the Plaintiffs continued the Proceedings against it;

D. AND WHEREAS, despite the Settling Defendant's belief that it is not liable in respect of the claims as alleged in the Proceedings and its belief that it has good and reasonable defences in respect of the merits, the Settling Defendant has negotiated and entered into this Settlement Agreement to avoid further expense, inconvenience, and burden of this litigation and any other present or future litigation arising out of the facts that gave rise to this litigation and to achieve final resolutions of all claims asserted or which could have been asserted against the Settling Defendant by the Plaintiffs on their own behalf and on behalf of the classes they seek to represent, and to avoid the risks inherent in uncertain, complex and protracted litigation;

E. AND WHEREAS counsel for the Settling Defendant and counsel for the Plaintiffs have engaged in extensive arm's-length settlement discussions and negotiations in respect of this Settlement Agreement;

F. AND WHEREAS as a result of these settlement discussions and negotiations, the Settling Defendant and the Plaintiffs have entered into this Settlement Agreement, which embodies all of the terms and conditions of the settlement between the Plaintiffs and the Settling Defendant, both individually and on behalf of the Settlement Class, subject to approval of the Courts;

G. AND WHEREAS the Plaintiffs have agreed to accept this settlement, in part, because of the value of the cooperation the Settling Defendant has made and agrees to render or make available to the Plaintiffs and/or Class Counsel pursuant to this Settlement Agreement, as well as the attendant risks of litigation in light of the jurisdictional issues relating to the Settling Defendant, the potential defences that may be asserted by the Settling Defendant and the challenges of enforcement against the Settling Defendant in a foreign jurisdiction;

H. AND WHEREAS the Plaintiffs recognize the benefits of the Settling Defendant's early cooperation in respect of the Proceedings;

I. AND WHEREAS the Settling Defendant does not admit through the execution of this Settlement Agreement any allegation of unlawful conduct alleged in the Proceedings;

J. AND WHEREAS the Plaintiffs and Class Counsel have reviewed and fully understand the terms of this Settlement Agreement and, based on their analyses of the facts and law applicable to the Plaintiffs' claims, and having regard to the burdens and expense in prosecuting the Proceedings, including the risks and uncertainties associated with trials and appeals, the Plaintiffs and Class Counsel have concluded that this Settlement Agreement is fair, reasonable and in the best interests of the Plaintiffs and the classes they seek to represent;

K. AND WHEREAS the Plaintiffs, Class Counsel and the Settling Defendant agree that neither this Settlement Agreement nor any statement made in the negotiation thereof shall be deemed or construed to be an admission by or evidence against the Settling Defendant or evidence of the truth of any of the Plaintiffs' allegations against the Settling Defendant, which the Settling Defendant expressly denies;

L. AND WHEREAS the Settling Defendant is entering into this Settlement Agreement in order to achieve a final and nation-wide resolution of all claims asserted or which could have been asserted against it by the Plaintiffs in the Proceedings or claims which could in the future be brought on the basis of the same events, actions and omissions underlying the Proceedings, and to avoid further expense, inconvenience and the distraction of burdensome and protracted litigation;

M. AND WHEREAS the Parties therefore wish to, and hereby do, finally resolve on a national basis, without admission of liability, all of the Proceedings as against the Settling Defendant;

N. AND WHEREAS for the purposes of settlement only and contingent on approvals by the Courts as provided for in this Settlement Agreement, the Parties have consented to certification of the Ontario Proceeding and authorization of the Quebec Proceedings as class proceedings and have consented to a Settlement Class and a Common Issue in each of the Proceedings;

O. AND WHEREAS for the purposes of settlement only and contingent on approvals by the Courts as provided for in this Settlement Agreement, the Plaintiffs have consented to a dismissal of each of the Proceedings as against the Settling Defendant;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the covenants, agreements and releases set forth herein and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, it is agreed by the Parties that the Proceedings be settled and dismissed with prejudice as to the Settling Defendant only, without costs as to the Plaintiffs, the classes they seek to represent or the Settling Defendant, subject to the approval of the Courts, on the following terms and conditions:

SECTION 1 - DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Settlement Agreement (as hereinafter defined):

- (1) *Affiliates* means, in respect of any Person, any other Person or group of Persons that, directly or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, control, are controlled by, or are under common control with, such Person first mentioned, and for the purposes of this definition, "control" means the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of a Person whether through the ownership of voting securities, by contract or otherwise.
- (2) *Approval Hearings* means the hearings to approve the motions brought by Ontario Counsel before the Ontario Court and Quebec Counsel before the Quebec Court, for such Courts' respective approval of the settlement provided for in this Settlement Agreement.
- (3) *Auditors* means, collectively, Ernst & Young LLP and BDO Limited (formerly known as BDO McCabe Lo Limited).

- (4) ***Class Counsel*** means, collectively, Ontario Counsel and Quebec Counsel.
- (5) ***Class Period*** means March 19, 2007 to June 2, 2011.
- (6) ***Common Issue*** in each of the Ontario Proceeding and Quebec Proceeding means: Did the Settling Defendant make misrepresentations as alleged in this Proceeding during the Class Period concerning the assets, business or transactions of Sino-Forest? If so, what damages, if any, did Settlement Class Members suffer?
- (7) ***Courts*** means, collectively, the Ontario Court and the Quebec Court.
- (8) ***Defendants*** means, collectively, the Persons named as defendants in the Proceedings as set out in Schedule A and any other Person who is added as a defendant in the Proceedings in the future.
- (9) ***Effective Date*** means the date when the Final Order has been received from the last of the Ontario Court and the Quebec Court to issue the Final Order.
- (10) ***Excluded Person*** means the Defendants, their past and present subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, directors, senior employees, partners, legal representatives, heirs, predecessors successors and assigns, and any individual who is a member of the immediate family of an individual Defendant.
- (11) ***Final Order*** means a final judgment entered by the Ontario Court or the Quebec Court in respect of both: (i) the certification or authorization of the Ontario Proceeding or the Quebec Proceeding, respectively, as a class proceeding; and (ii) the approval of this Settlement Agreement; but only once the time to appeal such judgment has expired without any appeal being taken, if an appeal lies or, once there has been affirmation of the certification or authorization of a Proceeding as a class proceeding and the approval of this Settlement Agreement, upon a final disposition of all appeals therefrom.
- (12) ***Non-Settling Defendant*** means a Defendant that is not the Settling Defendant.
- (13) ***Notice of Certification/Authorization and Approval Hearings*** means the form or forms of notice, agreed to by the Plaintiffs and the Settling Defendant, or such other form or forms as may be approved by the Courts, which informs the Settlement Class of: (i) the certification of the

Ontario Proceeding or authorization of the Quebec Proceeding solely for the purposes of this Settlement; (ii) the dates and locations of each of the Approval Hearings; (iii) the principal terms of this Settlement Agreement; (iv) the process by which Settlement Class Members can opt out of each of the Proceedings; and (v) the Opt Out Deadline in respect of each of the Proceedings.

- (14) **Ontario Proceeding** means Ontario Court File No. CV-11-431153-00CP (Toronto).
- (15) **Ontario Counsel** means Siskinds LLP and Koskie Minsky LLP.
- (16) **Ontario Court** means the Ontario Superior Court of Justice.
- (17) **Opt-Out Administrator** means the Person appointed by the Courts to receive and report on Opt Outs.
- (18) **Opt-Out Deadline** means the date which is sixty (60) days after the date on which the Notice of Certification/Authorization and Approval Hearings is first published.
- (19) **OSA** means the *Securities Act*, RSO 1990, c S.5.
- (20) **Other Actions** means, without limitation, actions, suits, proceedings or arbitration, civil, criminal, regulatory or otherwise, at law or in equity, other than the Proceedings, relating to Released Claims commenced by a Settlement Class Member either before or after the Effective Date.
- (21) **Parties** means, collectively, the Plaintiffs, Settlement Class Members and the Settling Defendant.
- (22) **Person** means an individual, corporation, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability company, association, estate, legal representative, trust, trustee, executor, beneficiary, unincorporated association, government or any political subdivision or agency thereof, and any other business or legal entity and their heirs, predecessors, successors, representatives, or assignees.
- (23) **Plaintiffs** means the Persons named as plaintiffs in the Proceedings as set out in Schedule A, and any other Person who may in the future be added as plaintiff to either of the Proceedings.
- (24) **PRC** means the People's Republic of China.

- (25) ***Proceedings*** means, collectively, the Ontario Proceeding and the Quebec Proceeding.
- (26) ***Proportionate Liability*** means that proportion of any judgment that, had they not settled, the Ontario Court would have apportioned to the Releasees.
- (27) ***QSA*** means the *Quebec Securities Act*, R.S.Q., c. V-1.1
- (28) ***Quebec Class Members*** means all natural persons, as well as all legal persons established for a private interest, partnerships and associations having no more than fifty (50) persons bound to it by contract of employment under its direction or control during the twelve (12) month period preceding the motion for authorization domiciled in Quebec (other than the Defendants, their past and present subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, directors, senior employees, partners, legal representatives, heirs, predecessors, successors and assigns, and any individual who is an immediate member of the families of the individual named defendants) who purchased or otherwise acquired, whether in the secondary market, or under a prospectus or other offering document in the primary market, equity, debt or other securities of or relating to Sino-Forest Corporation, from and including August 12, 2008 to and including June 2, 2011.
- (29) ***Quebec Counsel*** means Siskinds Desmeules s.e.n.c.r.l.
- (30) ***Quebec Court*** means the Superior Court of Quebec.
- (31) ***Quebec Proceeding*** means Quebec Court (District of Quebec) Court file No. 200-06-000132-111.
- (32) ***Released Claims*** means any and all manner of claims, demands, actions, suits, causes of action, whether class, individual or otherwise in nature, whether personal or subrogated, for damages whenever incurred, obligations, liabilities of any nature whatsoever including, without limitation, interest, costs, expenses, class administration expenses, penalties, and lawyers' fees (including Class Counsel's fees), known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, in law, under statute or in equity, that the Releasers, or any of them, whether directly, indirectly, derivatively, or in any other capacity, ever had, now have, or hereafter can, shall or may have, relating in any way to any conduct anywhere, from the beginning of time to the date hereof, or in respect of any misrepresentations (including, without limitation, any verbal statements made or not made by the Settling Defendant's agents) directly or indirectly relating to Sino-Forest, its Subsidiaries

(including, without limitation, Greenheart Group Limited) and other Affiliates and their respective assets, business and transactions, whether contained in or arising from valuations or reports prepared by the Settling Defendant or any Releasee for Sino-Forest, its Subsidiaries (including, without limitation, Greenheart Group Limited) and other Affiliates or elsewhere, or relating to any conduct alleged (or which could have been alleged or could in the future be alleged on the basis of the same events, actions and omissions) in the Proceedings including, without limitation, any such claims which have been asserted, could have been asserted, or could in the future be asserted on the basis of the same events, actions and omissions underlying the Proceedings, directly or indirectly, whether in Canada or elsewhere, as a result of or in connection with the events discussed in the reports of Sino-Forest's Independent Committee and the June 2, 2011 report issued by Muddy Waters LLC in respect of Sino-Forest, its Subsidiaries (including, without limitation, Greenheart Group Limited) and other Affiliates;

(33) **Releasees** means, jointly and severally, individually and collectively, the Settling Defendant, its past and present, direct and indirect, Subsidiaries and other Affiliates, and their respective divisions, partners, insurers (solely in respect of any insurance policy applicable to the acts or omissions of the Settling Defendant, its past and present, direct and indirect, Subsidiaries and other Affiliates), consultants, sub-consultants, attorneys, agents and all other Persons that are Affiliates of any of the foregoing, and all of their respective past, present and future officers, directors, employees, agents, partners, shareholders, attorneys, trustees, servants and representatives and the predecessors, successors, purchasers, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns of each of the foregoing, excluding always the Non-Settling Defendants and any of their respective current or former Subsidiaries and other Affiliates, officers, directors, executives, employees, shareholders, joint venturers and/or partners.

(34) **Releasors** means, jointly and severally, individually and collectively, the Plaintiffs and the Settlement Class Members and their respective Subsidiaries and other Affiliates, and their respective divisions, partners, insurers, consultants, sub-consultants and all other Persons that are Affiliates of any of the foregoing, and all of their respective past, present and future officers, directors, employees, agents, partners, shareholders, attorneys, trustees, servants and representatives and the predecessors, successors, heirs, executors, administrators, representatives, insurers and assigns.

- (35) *Settlement Agreement* means this agreement including the recitals and schedules.
- (36) *Settlement Class* means, in respect of each of the Ontario Proceeding and the Quebec Proceeding, the settlement class defined in Schedule A.
- (37) *Settlement Class Member* means a member of a Settlement Class who does not validly opt-out of that Settlement Class in accordance with section 4.1 and any orders of the Courts.
- (38) *Settling Defendant* means Pöyry (Beijing) Consulting Company Limited.
- (39) *Sino-Forest* means Sino-Forest Corporation.
- (40) *Subsidiary* has the meaning ascribed to it in the *Canada Business Corporations Act*.
- (41) *Underwriters* means Credit Suisse Securities (Canada), Inc., TD Securities Inc., Dundee Securities Corporation, RBC Dominion Securities Inc., Scotia Capital Inc., CIBC World Markets Inc., Merrill Lynch Canada Inc., Canaccord Financial Ltd., Maison Placements Canada Inc., Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC, and Banc of America Securities LLC, including, without limitation, their respective Subsidiaries and other Affiliates and their respective personnel.

SECTION 2 - SETTLEMENT APPROVAL

2.1 Best Efforts

The Parties shall use their best efforts to effectuate this settlement and to secure the prompt, complete and final dismissal with prejudice of the Proceedings and without further recourse as against the Settling Defendant.

2.2 Motions for Approval

- (1) Each of the Ontario Plaintiffs and Quebec Plaintiffs shall promptly bring motions before the Ontario Court and the Quebec Court, respectively, for orders approving the notices described in section 10 herein, certifying the Ontario Proceeding and authorizing the Quebec Proceeding as a class proceeding for settlement purposes only and approving this Settlement Agreement.
- (2) The motions for approval of this Settlement Agreement referred to in section 2.2(1) shall not be returnable until the Opt Out Deadline has passed.

(3) The Ontario order certifying the Ontario Proceeding referred to in section 2.2(1) shall be substantially in the form attached hereto as Schedule B-1. The Quebec order authorizing the Quebec Proceeding referred to in section 2.2(1) shall be substantially in the form attached hereto as Schedule B-2.

(4) The Ontario order approving the Settlement Agreement referred to in section 2.2(1) shall be substantially in the form attached hereto as Schedule C-1. The Quebec order approving the Settlement Agreement referred to in section 2.2(1) shall be substantially in the form attached hereto as Schedule C-2.

(5) The form and content of the orders approving the Settlement Agreement contemplated in this section 2.2 shall be considered a material term of this Settlement Agreement and the failure of any Court to approve the orders substantially in the form contemplated herein and attached as schedules hereto shall constitute a Non-Approval of Settlement Agreement pursuant to section 5.1 of this Settlement Agreement.

2.3 Pre-Motion Confidentiality

(1) Until the first of the motions required by section 2.2 is brought, the Parties shall keep all of the terms of this Settlement Agreement, and any information or documents related thereto, confidential and shall not disclose them without the prior written consent of counsel for the Settling Defendant and Class Counsel, as the case may be, except as required for the purposes of financial reporting or the preparation of financial records (including, without limitation, tax returns and financial statements) or as otherwise required by law, in which case the Party seeking to disclose shall provide at least fifteen (15) days written notice to the other Parties of the proposed disclosure and the basis for the proposed disclosure.

(2) Any disclosure of the terms of this Settlement Agreement, and any information or documents related thereto, contemplated in subsection 2.3(1) or otherwise shall be for the sole and exclusive purpose of seeking approval of this Settlement Agreement by the Courts and facilitating the settlement of the Proceedings and release of the Released Claims pursuant to the terms of this Settlement Agreement.

SECTION 3 - SETTLEMENT BENEFITS

3.1 Cooperation – No Disclosure of Privileged Communications

Nothing in this Settlement Agreement shall require, or shall be construed to require, the Settling Defendant to disclose or produce any documents or information prepared by or for counsel for the Settling Defendant, or to disclose or produce any document or information in breach of any order, regulatory directive, regulatory policy, regulatory agreement or law of any jurisdiction, or subject to solicitor-client privilege, litigation privilege, attorney-client privilege, work product doctrine, common interest privilege, joint defence privilege or any other privilege.

3.2 Cooperation – No Disclosure of Documents or Information Contrary to Privacy and State Secrets Protection Laws

Nothing in this Settlement Agreement shall require, or shall be construed to require, the Settling Defendant to disclose or produce any documents or information, where production of such documents or information would potentially result, in the reasonable judgment of the Settling Defendant and its counsel, in a breach or violation of any federal, provincial, state or local privacy law, or any law of a foreign jurisdiction, including, without limitation, PRC privacy and state secrets protection laws.

3.3 Cooperation – No Disclosure of Confidential Information

Nothing in this Settlement Agreement shall require, or shall be construed to require, the Settling Defendant to disclose or produce any confidential documents or information that the Settling Defendant holds under commercial arrangements where such disclosure or production would potentially result, in the reasonable judgment of the Settling Defendant and its counsel, in a breach of contract.

3.4 Cooperation

(1) It is understood and agreed that all documents and information provided by the Settling Defendant or Releasees to Plaintiffs and Class Counsel under this Settlement Agreement shall be used only in connection with the prosecution of the claims in the Proceedings, and shall not be used directly or indirectly for any other purpose. Plaintiffs and Class Counsel agree that they will not publicize the documents and information provided by the Settling Defendant beyond

what is reasonably necessary for the prosecution of the Proceedings or as otherwise required by law.

(2) Within thirty (30) days of the Date of Execution or at a time mutually agreed upon by the Parties, the Settling Defendant shall provide, through a meeting between counsel for the Settling Defendant and Class Counsel, an evidentiary proffer, which will include verbal information relating to the allegations in the Proceedings including, without limitation, a summary of the Settling Defendant's material interactions and involvement with Sino-Forest, the Auditors and the Underwriters; the Settling Defendant's understanding of Sino-Forest's business model as it pertains to timber plantation, purchased forests and forestry management; and the Settling Defendant's knowledge and understanding of Sino-Forest's actual or purported revenues and/or assets during the Class Period.

(3) Within thirty (30) days of the Effective Date, or at a time mutually agreed upon by the Parties, the Settling Defendant shall provide copies of the following categories of documents being within the possession, custody or control of the Settling Defendant and the Releasees:

- (a) documents relating to Sino-Forest, the Auditors or the Underwriters, or any of them, as well as the dates, locations, subject matter, and participants in any meetings with or about Sino-Forest, the Auditors or the Underwriters, or any of them;
- (b) documents provided by the Settling Defendant or any Releasee to any state, federal or international government or administrative agency, without geographic limitation, concerning the allegations raised in the Proceedings, excluding documents created for the purpose of being so provided; and
- (c) documents provided by the Settling Defendant or any Releasee to Sino-Forest's Independent Committee or the ad hoc committee of noteholders.

(4) The obligation to produce documents pursuant to this section 3.4 shall be a continuing obligation to the extent that material documents are identified following the initial productions. The Settling Defendant and Releasees make no representation that they have a complete set of documents within any of the categories of information or documents described herein.

(5) To the extent that any document includes technical information within the expertise of the Settling Defendant, Class Counsel may request, and the Settling Defendant shall provide, an explanation sufficient for Class Counsel to understand the document; however, in no event will any liability or further obligation attach to such explanation.

(6) Following the Effective Date, the Settling Defendant and Releasees shall, at the request of Class Counsel, upon reasonable notice, and subject to any legal restrictions, make reasonable efforts to make available at a mutually convenient time, at a mutually agreed upon location in North America, up to three (3) current or former employees of the Settling Defendant and Releasees who have knowledge of the allegations raised in the Proceedings to provide information regarding the allegations raised in the Proceedings in a personal interview with Class Counsel and/or experts retained by Class Counsel in the presence of, and assisted by, counsel for the Settling Defendant, provided that none of the employee(s) or former employee(s) are required to travel to North America pursuant to this subsection 3.4(6) more than two (2) times each. Costs incurred by, and the expenses of, the employees of the Settling Defendant and Releasees in relation to such interviews shall be the responsibility of the Settling Defendant. If the employee(s) or former employee(s) contemplated in this subsection 3.4(6) refuse to provide information, or otherwise cooperate, the Settling Defendant shall use reasonable efforts to make him/her available for an interview with Class Counsel and/or experts retained by Class Counsel as aforesaid. The failure of the employee(s) or former employee(s) contemplated in this subsection 3.4(6) to agree to make him or herself available, or to otherwise cooperate with the Plaintiffs shall not constitute a breach or other violation of this Settlement Agreement, and shall not provide any basis for the termination of this Settlement Agreement, provided that the Settling Defendant has made reasonable efforts to cause such cooperation.

(7) Subject to the rules of evidence and the other provisions of this Settlement Agreement, the Settling Defendant agrees to use reasonable efforts to produce at trial and/or discovery or through affidavits acceptable to Class Counsel or other testimony, (i) a current representative as Class Counsel and the Settling Defendant, acting reasonably, agree would be qualified to establish for admission into evidence the Settling Defendant and Releasees' involvement with Sino-Forest, the Auditors and the Underwriters; and (ii) current representatives as Class Counsel and the Settling Defendant, acting reasonably, agree would be necessary to support the submission into evidence of any information and/or documents provided by the Settling

Defendant or any Releasee in accordance with this Settlement Agreement that Class Counsel and the Settling Defendant, acting reasonably, agree might be reasonably necessary for the prosecution of the Proceedings, including, without limitation, for the purpose of any motion where such evidence is reasonably necessary.

(8) In connection with its provision of information, testimony and documents, the Settling Defendant and the Releasees shall have the right to assert solicitor-client privilege, litigation privilege and/or any other privilege, or to assert a right to refuse production on the basis of privacy law, state secrets law, contractual confidentiality obligations or other rule of law of this or any other jurisdiction. To the extent that Class Counsel requests particular documents, information or other materials from the Settling Defendant and the Settling Defendant does not produce the requested documents, information or other materials on the basis of this provision, or any other provision herein: (i) counsel for the Settling Defendant shall provide Class Counsel with a description of any such documents, information or other materials and a description of the basis on which the Settling Defendant is not prepared to produce said document, information or other material sufficient for Class Counsel to assess the nature of that basis and the document, information or other material, except where providing such descriptions would, in the reasonable judgment of counsel for the Settling Defendant, be contrary to privacy law, state secrets law, contractual confidentiality obligations or other rule of law of this or any other jurisdiction, in which case counsel for the Settling Defendant will so advise; and (ii) Class Counsel or counsel for the Settling Defendant may seek to resolve any dispute arising from this subsection 3.4(8) pursuant to the procedures set out in section 11.7 of this Settlement Agreement.

(9) The Settling Defendant and Releasees waive any and all privilege relating to any specific document that the Settling Defendant has agreed to produce in response to this section 3.4. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing in this Settlement Agreement shall require, or shall be construed to require, the Settling Defendant or any Releasee to disclose or produce any documents or information prepared by or for counsel for the Settling Defendant during the course of any of the Proceedings.

(10) If any of the types of documents referenced in sections 3.1, 3.2 or 3.3 are accidentally or inadvertently produced, such documents shall be promptly returned to counsel for the Settling Defendant and the documents and the information contained therein shall not be disclosed or

used directly or indirectly, except with the express written permission of the Settling Defendant, and the production of such documents shall in no way be construed to have waived in any manner any privilege or protection attached to such documents.

(11) It is understood and agreed that the Plaintiffs, the Settlement Class Members and Class Counsel shall not, without the express written consent of the Settling Defendant and its counsel, directly or indirectly use any information or documents provided by the Settling Defendant or any Releasee, or received from the Settling Defendant or any Releasee in connection with this Settlement Agreement, for any purpose other than the prosecution of the claims in the Proceedings, nor disclose or share with any other Persons (including, without limitation, any regulator, agency or organization of this or any other jurisdiction), any information or documents obtained from the Settling Defendant in connection with this Settlement Agreement or any information conveyed by counsel for the Settling Defendant or any Releasee, except in the event that a court in Canada expressly orders such information or documents to be disclosed. In no circumstances, however, may the Plaintiffs, the Settlement Class Members and/or Class Counsel apply for or consent to such an order, and promptly, upon becoming aware of an application or motion for such an order, Class Counsel shall immediately notify the Settling Defendant of the application or motion in order that the Settling Defendant may intervene in such proceedings. The disclosure restrictions set forth in this subsection do not apply to otherwise publicly available documents and information.

(12) The Settling Defendant and Releasees' obligations to cooperate as particularized in this section 3.4 shall not be affected by the release provisions contained in section 6 of this Settlement Agreement. The Settling Defendant and Releasees' obligations to cooperate shall cease at the date of final judgment or order in the Proceedings against all Defendants, including, without limitation, an order approving a settlement between the Plaintiffs and the Non-Settling Defendants and/or an order dismissing the Proceedings. In the event the Settling Defendant or any Releasee materially breaches this section 3.4, Class Counsel may move before the Courts to enforce the terms of this Settlement Agreement.

(13) The provisions set forth in this section 3.4 shall constitute the exclusive means by which the Plaintiffs, the Settlement Class Members and Class Counsel may obtain discovery from the Settling Defendant, its current and former directors, officers or employees and the Releasees, and

the Plaintiffs, the Settlement Class Members and Class Counsel shall pursue no other means of discovery against the Settling Defendant, its current and former directors, officers or employees and the Releasees, whether under the laws or rules of any jurisdiction.

(14) A material factor influencing the Settling Defendant's decision to execute this Settlement Agreement is its desire to limit the burden and expense of this litigation. Accordingly, Class Counsel agree to exercise good faith in seeking cooperation from the Settling Defendant and any Releasee and to avoid seeking information that is unnecessary, cumulative or duplicative and agree otherwise to avoid imposing undue or unreasonable burden or expense on the Settling Defendant or Releasees.

SECTION 4 - OPTING-OUT

4.1 Procedure

(1) A Person may opt-out of the Proceedings by sending a written election to opt-out, signed by the Person or the Person's designee, by pre-paid mail, courier, fax, or email to the Opt-Out Administrator at an address to be identified in the Notice of Certification/Authorization and Approval Hearings. Residents of Quebec must also send the written election to opt-out by pre-paid mail or courier to the Quebec Court at an address to be identified in the Notice of Certification/Authorization and Approval Hearings.

(2) An election to opt-out will only be effective if it is actually received by the Opt-Out Administrator on or before the Opt-Out Deadline.

(3) The written election to opt-out must contain the following information in order to be effective:

- (a) the Person's full name, current address and telephone number;
- (b) the name and number of Sino-Forest securities purchased during the Class Period and the date and price of each such transaction;
- (c) a statement to the effect that the Person wishes to be excluded from the Proceedings; and
- (d) the reasons for opting out.

(4) Quebec Class Members who have commenced proceedings or commence proceedings against any of the Defendants with respect to the matters at issue in the Quebec Proceeding and fail to discontinue such proceedings by the Opt-Out Deadline shall be deemed to have opted out of the Quebec Proceeding. Quebec Counsel warrant and represent that, to the best of their knowledge, no such action has been commenced as of the date this Settlement Agreement was executed by it.

4.2 Opt-Out Report

Within fifteen (15) days of the Opt-Out Deadline, the Opt-Out Administrator shall provide to the Settling Defendant a report containing the following information in respect of each Person, if any, who has validly and timely opted out of the Proceedings:

- (a) the Person's full name, current address and telephone number;
- (b) the reasons for opting out, if given; and
- (c) a copy of all information provided in the opt-out process by the Person electing to opt-out.

SECTION 5 – NON-APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

5.1 Effect of Non-Approval of Settlement Agreement

In the event of non-approval of the Settlement Agreement by either of the Ontario Court or the Quebec Court:

- (a) any order certifying or authorizing a Proceeding as a class action on the basis of the Settlement Agreement or approving this Settlement Agreement shall be set aside and declared null and void and of no force or effect, and anyone shall be estopped from asserting otherwise;
- (b) to the extent that any Court is resistant to setting aside any order certifying or authorizing the Proceeding as a class action solely for settlement purposes, Class Counsel undertakes to, on a best efforts basis, assist the Settling Defendant in having such an order set aside and shall, if requested by the Settling Defendant, bring a

motion on behalf of the Plaintiffs to set aside any order certifying or authorizing the Proceeding as a class action solely for settlement purposes;

- (c) any prior certification or authorization of a Proceeding as a class proceeding, including, without limitation, the definitions of the Settlement Class and the Common Issue, shall be without prejudice to any position that any of the Parties may later take on any issue in the Proceedings or any other litigation;
- (d) within ten (10) days of such non-approval having occurred, Class Counsel shall destroy: (i) all documents and other materials provided by the Settling Defendant or any Releasee; and (ii) all documents and other materials containing or reflecting information derived from any documents or other materials provided by the Settling Defendant or any Releasee or conveyed by counsel for the Settling Defendant, through the evidentiary proffer process described in subsection 3.4(2) herein or otherwise.
- (e) To the extent Class Counsel or the Plaintiffs have disclosed any documents or other materials provided by the Settling Defendant or any Releasee to any other Person, Class Counsel shall, within ten (10) days, recover and destroy such documents and other materials and shall provide the Settling Defendant and Releasees with a written certification by Class Counsel of such destruction.
- (f) Nothing contained in this section 5.1 shall be construed to require Class Counsel to destroy any of their work product; and
- (g) subject to section 5.2 herein, all obligations pursuant to this Settlement Agreement shall cease immediately.

5.2 Survival of Provisions After Non-Approval of Settlement Agreement

If this Settlement Agreement is not approved by the Courts, the provisions of sections 5, 8.1, and 8.2, and the definitions and Schedules applicable thereto shall survive the non-approval and continue in full force and effect. The definitions and Schedules shall survive only for the limited purpose of the interpretation of sections 5, 8.1, and 8.2 within the meaning of this Settlement Agreement, but for no other purposes. All other provisions of this Settlement

Agreement and all other obligations pursuant to this Settlement Agreement shall cease immediately.

5.3 Reservation of Rights in the Event of Non-Approval of Settlement Agreement

Except as may be set forth in this Settlement Agreement, the Settling Defendant and Plaintiffs expressly reserve all of their respective rights if this Settlement Agreement does not become effective or is not approved by the Courts and the Plaintiffs hereby expressly acknowledge that they will not, in any way whatsoever, use the fact or existence of this Settlement Agreement or related documents and information as any form of admission, whether of liability, process, wrongdoing, or otherwise, of the Settling Defendant.

SECTION 6 - RELEASES AND DISMISSALS

6.1 Release of Releasees

(1) Upon the Effective Date, and in consideration of the cooperation of the Settling Defendant and the Releasees pursuant to this Settlement Agreement, and for other valuable consideration set forth in the Settlement Agreement, the Releasors forever and absolutely release the Releasees from the Released Claims.

(2) The Releasors are aware that they may hereafter discover claims or facts in addition to or different from those they now know or believe to be true with respect to the matters giving rise to the Released Claims. Nevertheless, it is the intention of each of the Releasors to fully, finally and forever settle and release the Released Claims. In furtherance of such intention, the release given herein shall be and remain in effect as a full and complete release of all Released Claims, notwithstanding the discovery or existence of any additional or different claims or facts relative thereto.

6.2 Covenant Not To Sue

Notwithstanding section 6.1, for any Settlement Class Members resident in any province or territory where the release of one tortfeasor is a release of all other tortfeasors, upon the Effective Date, the Releasors do not release the Releasees but instead covenant and undertake not to make any claim in any way or to threaten, commence, participate in or continue any proceeding in any jurisdiction against the Releasees in respect of or in relation to the Released Claims.

6.3 No Further Claims

The Releasors shall not now or hereafter institute, continue, maintain or assert, or otherwise join, assist, aid or act in concert in any manner whatsoever, either directly or indirectly, whether in Canada or elsewhere, on their own behalf or on behalf of any class or any other Person, any action, suit, proceedings, arbitration, cause of action, claim or demand, whether civil, criminal, regulatory or otherwise, against any Releasee or any other Person who may claim contribution or indemnity from any Releasee arising from, in respect of or in connection with any of the matters giving rise to any Released Claim or any matter related thereto, except for the continuation of the Proceedings against the Non-Settling Defendants.

6.4 Dismissal of the Proceedings

Upon the Effective Date, each of the Ontario Proceeding and the Quebec Proceeding shall be dismissed with prejudice and without costs as against the Settling Defendant.

6.5 Dismissal of Other Actions

(1) Upon the Effective Date, each Settlement Class Member shall be deemed to consent to the dismissal, without costs or further recourses and with prejudice, of his, her or its Other Actions against the Releasees.

(2) Upon the Effective Date, all Other Actions in each of the Courts' respective jurisdictions commenced by any Settlement Class Member shall be dismissed against the Releasees, without costs or further recourses and with prejudice.

SECTION 7 - BAR ORDER AND OTHER CLAIMS

7.1 Ontario Bar Order

(1) The Plaintiffs in the Ontario Proceeding shall seek a bar order from the Ontario Court providing for the following:

- (a) All claims for contribution, indemnity or other claims over, including, without limitation, potential third party claims, at common law, equity or pursuant to the *OSA* or other statute, whether asserted, unasserted or asserted in a representative capacity, inclusive of interest, taxes and costs, relating to the Released Claims, which were or could have been brought in the Proceedings or otherwise, or could in the

future be brought on the basis of the same events, actions and omissions underlying the Proceedings or otherwise, by any Non-Settling Defendant or any Party or other Releasor against a Releasee are barred, prohibited and enjoined in accordance with the terms of this section 7.1.

- (b) If the Court determines that there is a right of contribution and indemnity or other claims over, whether in equity or in law, pursuant to the *OSA* or other statute, or otherwise:
- i. the Ontario Settlement Class Members shall not be entitled to claim or recover from the Non-Settling Defendants that portion of any damages (including punitive damages, if any), restitutionary award, disgorgement of profits, interest and costs that corresponds to the Proportionate Liability of the Releasees proven at trial or otherwise; and
 - ii. this Court shall have full authority to determine the Proportionate Liability of the Releasees at the trial or other disposition of this action, whether or not the Releasees appear at the trial or other disposition and the Proportionate Liability of the Releasees shall be determined as if the Releasees are parties to this action and any determination by this Court in respect of the Proportionate Liability of the Releasees shall only apply in this action and shall not be binding on the Releasees in any other proceedings.
- (c) After the Ontario Proceeding has been certified as a class action and all appeals or times to appeal from such certification have been exhausted, a Non-Settling Defendant may make a motion to the Court on at least twenty (20) days notice, and to be determined as if the Settling Defendant is party to this action, seeking orders for the following:
- i. documentary discovery and an affidavit of documents in accordance with the *Rules of Civil Procedure*, O.Reg. 194 from the Settling Defendant;
 - ii. oral discovery of a representative of the Settling Defendant, the transcripts of which may be read in at trial;
 - iii. leave to serve a request to admit on the Settling Defendant in respect of factual matters; and/or
 - iv. the production of a representative of the Settling Defendant to testify at trial, with such witness or witnesses to be subject to cross-examination by counsel for the Non-Settling Defendants.

- (d) The Settling Defendant retains all rights to oppose such motion(s) brought under subsection 7.1(1)(c).
- (e) A Non-Settling Defendant may effect service of the motion(s) referred to in subsection 7.1(1)(c) on the Settling Defendant by service on counsel of record for the Settling Defendant in the Ontario Proceeding.
- (f) To the extent that an order is granted pursuant to subsection 7.1(1)(c) and discovery is provided to a Non-Settling Defendant, a copy of all discovery provided, whether oral or documentary in nature, shall promptly be provided by counsel for the Settling Defendant to Class Counsel on behalf of the Plaintiffs.

7.2 Quebec Bar Order

- (1) The Plaintiffs in the Quebec Proceeding shall seek a bar order from the Quebec Court providing for the following:
 - (a) the Plaintiffs and the Settlement Class Members in the Quebec Proceeding expressly waive the benefit of solidarity against the Non-Settling Defendants with respect to the facts, deeds and omissions of the Settling Defendant;
 - (b) the Plaintiffs and the Settlement Class Members in the Quebec Proceeding shall henceforth only be able to claim and recover damages, including punitive damages, attributable to the conduct of the Non-Settling Defendants;
 - (c) any action in warranty or other joinder of parties to obtain any contribution or indemnity from the Settling Defendant or relating to the Released Claims shall be inadmissible and void in the context of the Quebec Proceeding; and
 - (d) the Quebec Court retains an ongoing supervisory role for the purposes of executing this section 7.2, as well as all procedural aspects of the Quebec Proceeding, and all issues regarding this section 7.2 or any other procedural issues shall be resolved under special case management and according to the *Quebec Code of Civil Procedure*, and the Settling Defendant shall acknowledge the jurisdiction of the Quebec Court for such purposes.

7.3 Claims Against Other Persons Reserved

Except as provided herein, this Settlement Agreement does not settle, compromise, release or limit in any way whatsoever any claim by Settlement Class Members against any Person other than the Settling Defendant and the Releasees.

7.4 Material Term

The form and content of the bar orders contemplated in this section 7 shall be considered a material term of this Settlement Agreement and the failure of any Court to approve the bar orders contemplated herein shall constitute a Non-Approval of Settlement Agreement pursuant to section 5.1 of this Settlement Agreement.

SECTION 8 - EFFECT OF SETTLEMENT

8.1 No Admission of Liability

Whether or not this Settlement Agreement is approved by the Courts:

- (i) this Settlement Agreement and anything contained herein,
- (ii) any and all negotiations, documents, discussions and proceedings associated with this Settlement Agreement, and
- (iii) any action taken to carry out this Settlement Agreement,

shall not be deemed, construed or interpreted to be an admission of any violation of any statute or law, or of any wrongdoing or liability by the Settling Defendant or by any Releasee, or of the truth of any of the claims or allegations contained in the Proceedings or any other pleading filed by the Plaintiffs or any other Settlement Class Member.

8.2 Agreement Not Evidence

The Parties agree that, whether or not approved by the Courts:

- (i) this Settlement Agreement and anything contained herein,
- (ii) any and all negotiations, documents, discussions and proceedings associated with this Settlement Agreement, and

(iii) any action taken to carry out this Settlement Agreement,

shall not be referred to, offered as evidence or received in evidence in any pending or future civil, criminal or administrative action or proceeding, except in a proceeding to approve and/or enforce this Settlement Agreement, or to defend against the assertion of Released Claims, or as otherwise required by law.

8.3 No Further Litigation

No Class Counsel, nor anyone currently or hereafter employed by, associated with, or a partner with Class Counsel, may directly or indirectly participate or be involved in or in any way assist with respect to any claim made or action commenced by any Person which relates to or arises from the Released Claims, except in relation to the continued prosecution of the Proceedings against any Non-Settling Defendant. Moreover, these Persons may not divulge to anyone for any purpose any information obtained in the course of the Proceedings or the negotiation and preparation of this Settlement Agreement, except to the extent such information is otherwise publicly available or unless ordered to do so by a court.

SECTION 9 - CERTIFICATION OR AUTHORIZATION FOR SETTLEMENT ONLY

(1) The Parties agree that the Ontario Proceeding shall be certified, and the Quebec Proceeding shall be authorized, as class proceedings solely for purposes of settlement of the Proceedings and the approval of this Settlement Agreement by the Courts.

(2) The Plaintiffs agree that, in the motions for certification of the Ontario Proceeding and for authorization of the Quebec Proceeding as class proceedings and for the approval of this Settlement Agreement, the only common issue that they will seek to define is the Common Issue and the only classes that they will assert are the Settlement Classes.

SECTION 10 - NOTICE TO SETTLEMENT CLASSES

10.1 Required Notice

The proposed Settlement Classes shall be given Notice of Certification/Authorization and Approval Hearings.

10.2 Form and Distribution of Notices

- (1) The form of notice referred to in section 10.1 and the manner and extent of publication and distribution of the notice shall be as agreed to by the Plaintiffs and the Settling Defendant and approved by each of the Courts.
- (2) The Settling Defendant shall pay the costs of the notice required in section 10.1 and the cost of the Opt-Out Administrator, provided that such costs shall not exceed \$100,000 CAD (exclusive of all applicable taxes). Any costs in excess of \$100,000 CAD (exclusive of all applicable taxes), shall be borne equally by the Settling Defendant and the Plaintiffs.

SECTION 11 - MISCELLANEOUS

11.1 Motions for Directions

- (1) Class Counsel or the Settling Defendant may apply to the Courts for directions in respect of the interpretation, implementation and administration of this Settlement Agreement. Unless the Courts order otherwise, motions for directions that do not relate specifically to the Quebec Proceeding shall be determined by the Ontario Court.
- (2) All motions contemplated by this Settlement Agreement shall be on notice to the Plaintiffs and Settling Defendant, as appropriate.

11.2 Class Counsel to Advise Settling Defendant of Status of Proceedings

Class Counsel agrees to provide information as to the status of the Proceedings in response to reasonable requests made by the Settling Defendant from time to time as to the status of the Proceedings. Upon reasonable request, Class Counsel will promptly provide counsel for the Settling Defendant with electronic copies of all affidavit material and facta exchanged in the Proceedings, unless precluded from doing so by court order.

11.3 Headings, etc.

In this Settlement Agreement:

- (a) the division of the Settlement Agreement into sections and the insertion of headings are for convenience of reference only and shall not affect the construction or interpretation of this Settlement Agreement;

- (b) words in the singular include the plural and vice-versa and words in one gender include all genders; and
- (c) the terms “this Settlement Agreement”, “hereof”, “hereunder”, “herein”, and similar expressions refer to this Settlement Agreement and not to any particular section or other portion of this Settlement Agreement.

11.4 Computation of Time

In the computation of time in this Settlement Agreement, except where a contrary intention appears,

- (a) where there is a reference to a number of days between two events, the number of days shall be counted by excluding the day on which the first event happens and including the day on which the second event happens, including all calendar days; and
- (b) only in the case where the time for doing an act expires on a holiday, the act may be done on the next day that is not a holiday.

11.5 Ongoing Jurisdiction

- (1) Each of the Courts shall retain exclusive jurisdiction over each Proceeding commenced in its jurisdiction, and over the Parties thereto.
- (2) No Party shall ask a Court to make any order or give any direction in respect of any matter of shared jurisdiction unless that order or direction is conditional upon a complimentary order or direction being made or given by the other Court(s) with which it shares jurisdiction over that matter.
- (3) The Plaintiffs and the Non-Settling Defendant may apply to the Ontario Court for direction in respect of the implementation, administration and enforcement of this Settlement Agreement.

11.6 Governing Law

This Settlement Agreement shall be governed by and construed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the Province of Ontario, save for matters relating exclusively to the

Quebec Class Members, which matters shall be governed by and construed and interpreted in accordance with the Laws of the Province of Quebec shall apply.

11.7 Disputes

(1) Subject to subsection 11.7(2) herein, if there is a dispute regarding the applicability of any provision or term of this Settlement Agreement which cannot be resolved through reasonable discussions and negotiations as between Class Counsel and counsel for the Settling Defendant, such dispute(s) shall be submitted to the Ontario Court for resolution, save for dispute(s) relating exclusively to the Quebec Class Members, which dispute(s) shall be submitted to the Quebec Court for resolution. The costs of any such dispute shall be shared by the parties to the dispute according to the degree to which they do or do not prevail on their respective claims (i.e., with the losing party bearing the greater share), as determined by the Ontario Court or the Quebec Court, as the case may be. To the extent that any dispute contemplated in this subsection 11.7(1) involves or requires a determination as to whether any documents or other materials shall be required to be disclosed pursuant to this Settlement Agreement, Class Counsel and counsel for the Settling Defendant agree to seek, on a consent basis, a sealing order or other appropriate relief such as to ensure that any such documents or other materials shall remain confidential and shall not form part of the public Ontario Court record or the Quebec Court record, as the case may be.

(2) To the extent that any dispute contemplated in this section 11.7 involves or requires a determination as to whether any documents, information or other materials are prohibited from being disclosed by the Settling Defendant pursuant to any foreign privacy law, foreign state secrets law or other law of a foreign jurisdiction, Class Counsel and counsel for the Settling Defendant agree to seek, on a joint and reasonable efforts basis, the requisite approval for the disclosure or export of such documents or other materials from the relevant authorities of the applicable foreign jurisdiction.

11.8 Joint and Severable / Indivisible

All of the obligations of the Plaintiffs and the Releasors in this Settlement Agreement are joint and several (in Quebec, solidary) amongst them and are indivisible under the laws of Quebec. All of the obligations of the Settling Defendant and the Releasees in this Settlement

Agreement are joint and several (in Quebec, solidary) amongst them and are indivisible under the laws of Quebec.

11.9 Entire Agreement

This Settlement Agreement constitutes the entire agreement among the Parties, and supersedes all prior and contemporaneous understandings, undertakings, negotiations, representations, promises, agreements, agreements in principle and memoranda of understanding in connection herewith. None of the Parties will be bound by any prior obligations, conditions or representations with respect to the subject matter of this Settlement Agreement, unless expressly incorporated herein.

11.10 Amendments

This Settlement Agreement may not be modified or amended except in writing and on consent of all Parties hereto and any such modification or amendment must be approved by the Courts with jurisdiction over the matter to which the amendment relates.

11.11 Binding Effect

This Settlement Agreement shall be binding upon, and enure to the benefit of, the Plaintiffs, the Settling Defendant, the Releasees, the Settlement Class Members, the Releasors and all of their successors and assigns unless and until this Settlement Agreement is not approved by the Courts, in which case only those sections referenced in section 5.2 of this Settlement Agreement shall continue to be binding in the manner contemplated in this section 11.11. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, each and every covenant, condition, release and agreement made herein by the Plaintiffs shall be binding upon all Releasors and each and every covenant, condition, release and agreement made herein by the Settling Defendant shall be binding upon all of the Releasees unless and until this Settlement Agreement is not approved by the Courts, in which case only those sections referenced in section 5.2 of this Settlement Agreement shall continue to be binding in the manner contemplated in this section 11.11.

11.12 General Obligation

Without limiting the generality of any other provisions of this Settlement Agreement, until such time as either of the Courts have refused to approve this Settlement Agreement and the

delay for appeal from which shall have expired without any appeal having been lodged: (i) none of the Plaintiffs, the Releasors and Class Counsel shall take any action or omit to take any action that is inconsistent with the purposes and scope of this Settlement Agreement; and (ii) none of the Settling Defendant, the Releasees and their respective counsel that are party hereto shall take any action or omit to take any action that is inconsistent with the purposes and scope of this Settlement Agreement.

11.13 No Assignment

None of the Plaintiffs and the Releasors has heretofore assigned, transferred or granted, or purported to assign, transfer or grant, any of the claims, demands and causes of action disposed of by this Settlement Agreement including, without limitation, any of the Released Claims.

11.14 Third Party Beneficiaries

The Plaintiffs acknowledge and agree, on their behalf and on behalf of all Releasors, that the Releasees other than the Settling Defendant are third party beneficiaries of this Settlement Agreement, and that the obligations and agreements of the Plaintiffs and the Releasors under this Settlement Agreement are expressly intended to benefit all Releasees despite not being signatories to this Settlement Agreement.

11.15 Counterparts

This Settlement Agreement may be executed in counterparts, all of which taken together will be deemed to constitute one and the same agreement, and a facsimile signature shall be deemed an original signature for purposes of executing this Settlement Agreement.

11.16 Negotiated Agreement

This Settlement Agreement has been the subject of negotiations and discussions among the undersigned, each of which has been represented and advised by competent counsel, so that any statute, case law, or rule of interpretation or construction that would or might cause any provision to be construed against the drafter of this Settlement Agreement shall have no force and effect. The Parties further agree that the language contained in or not contained in previous drafts of this Settlement Agreement, or any agreement in principle, shall have no bearing upon the proper interpretation of this Settlement Agreement.

11.17 Language

The Parties acknowledge that they have required and consented that this Settlement Agreement and all related documents be prepared in English; les parties reconnaissent avoir exigé que la présente convention et tous les documents connexes soient rédigés en anglais. If a French translation is made, the English version will have precedence.

11.18 Transaction

This Settlement Agreement constitutes a transaction in accordance with Articles 2631 and following of the *Civil Code of Quebec*, and the Parties are hereby renouncing to any errors of fact, of law and/or of calculation.

11.19 Recitals

The recitals to this Settlement Agreement are true and form an integral part of the Settlement Agreement.

11.20 Schedules

The Schedules annexed hereto form an integral part of this Settlement Agreement.

11.21 Acknowledgements

Each of the Parties hereby affirms and acknowledges that:

- (a) he, she or a representative of the Party with the authority to bind the Party with respect to the matters set forth herein has read and understands the Settlement Agreement;
- (b) the terms of this Settlement Agreement and the effects thereof have been fully explained to him, her or the Party's representative by his, her or its counsel;
- (c) he, she or the Party's representative fully understands each term of the Settlement Agreement and its effect; and
- (d) no Party has relied upon any statement, representation or inducement (whether material, false, negligently made or otherwise) of any other Party with respect to the first Party's decision to execute this Settlement Agreement.

11.22 Authorized Signatures

Each of the undersigned represents that he or she is fully authorized to enter into the terms and conditions of, and to execute, this Settlement Agreement.

11.23 Notice

Where this Settlement Agreement requires a Party to provide notice or any other communication or document to another, such notice, communication or document shall be provided by email, facsimile or letter by overnight delivery to the representatives for the Party to whom notice is being provided, as identified below:

For Plaintiffs in the Ontario Proceedings and for Ontario Counsel:

Charles M. Wright

Kirk M. Baert

**Siskinds LLP
Barristers and Solicitors
680 Waterloo Street
London, ON N6A 3V8**

**Koskie Minsky LLP
Barristers and Solicitors
20 Queen Street West, Suite 900, Box 52
Toronto, ON M5H 3R3**

Telephone: 519-660-7753
Facsimile: 519-660-7754
Email: charles.wright@siskinds.com

Tel: 416.595.2117
Fax: 416.204.2889
Email: kbaert@kmlaw.ca

For Plaintiffs in the Quebec Proceedings and for Quebec Counsel

Simon Hébert

**Siskinds Desmeules s.e.n.c.r.l.
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Quebec City, QC G1R 4A2**

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Facsimile: 418-694-0281
Email: simon.hebert@siskindsdesmeules.com

For Settling Defendant
in the Ontario Proceeding:

John J. Pirie

**Baker & McKenzie LLP
Barristers & Solicitors
Brookfield Place
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Toronto, Ontario M5J 2T3
Canada**

Telephone: 416.865.2325
Fax: 416.863.6275
Email: john.pirie@bakermckenzie.com

For Settling Defendant
in the Quebec Proceeding


Bernard Gravel

**Lapointe Rosenstein Marchand Melançon,
LLP
1250 René-Lévesque Blvd. West, Suite 1400
Montreal, Quebec, H3B 5E9
Canada**


Telephone: 514.925.6382
Fax: 514.925.5082
Email: bernard.gravel@lrmm.com

11.24 Date of Execution


The Parties have executed this Settlement Agreement as of the date on the cover page.

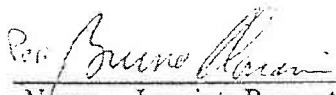
By: 
Name: Siskinds LLP
Title: Ontario Counsel

By: 
Name: Koskie Minsky LLP
Title: Ontario Counsel

By: 
Name: Siskinds Desmeules s.e.n.c.r.l
Title: Québec Counsel

PÖYRY (BEIJING) CONSULTING
COMPANY LIMITED

By: 
Name: Baker & McKenzie LLP
Title: Counsel for the Settling
Defendant in Ontario

By: 
Name: Lapointe Rosenstein Marchand
Melançon, LLP
Title: Counsel for the Settling
Defendant in Quebec

SCHEDULE A – PROCEEDINGS

Proceeding	Plaintiffs	Defendants	Settlement Class
Ontario Superior Court of Justice Court File No. CV-11-431153-00CP (the “Ontario Proceeding”)	The Trustees of the Labourers’ Pension Fund of Central And Eastern Canada, the Trustees of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 793 Pension Plan for Operating Engineers in Ontario, Sjunde Ap-Fonden, David Grant and Robert Wong	Sino-Forest Corporation, Ernst & Young LLP, BDO Limited (formerly known as BDO McCabe Lo Limited), Allen T.Y. Chan, W. Judson Martin, Kai Kit Poon, David J. Horsley, William E. Ardell, James P. Bowland, James M.E. Hyde, Edmund Mak, Simon Murray, Peter Wang, Garry J. West, Pöyry (Beijing) Consulting Company Limited, Credit Suisse Securities (Canada), Inc., TD Securities Inc., Dundee Securities Corporation, RBC Dominion Securities Inc., Scotia Capital Inc., CIBC World Markets Inc., Merrill Lynch Canada Inc., Canaccord Financial Ltd., Maison Placements Canada Inc., Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC and Banc Of America Securities LLC	All persons and entities, wherever they may reside who acquired Sino Forest’s Securities during the Class Period by distribution in Canada or on the Toronto Stock Exchange or other secondary market in Canada, which includes securities acquired over-the-counter, and all persons and entities who acquired Sino Forest’s Securities during the Class Period who are resident of Canada or were resident of Canada at the time of acquisition, except the Excluded Persons.
Superior Court of Quebec (District of Québec), File No. 200-06-000132-111 (the “Quebec Proceeding”)	Guining Liu	Sino-Forest Corporation, Ernst & Young LLP, Allen T.Y. Chan, W. Judson Martin, Kai Kit Poon, David J. Horsley, William E. Ardell, James P. Bowland, James M.E. Hyde, Edmund Mak, Simon Murray, Peter Wang, Garry J. West and Pöyry (Beijing) Consulting Company Limited	All natural persons, as well as all legal persons established for a private interest, partnerships and associations having no more than fifty (50) persons bound to it by contract of employment under its direction or control during the twelve (12) month period preceding the motion for authorization domiciled in Quebec

Proceeding	Plaintiffs	Defendants	Settlement Class
			(other than the Defendants, their past and present subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, directors, senior employees, partners, legal representatives, heirs, predecessors, successors and assigns, and any individual who is an immediate member of the families of the individual named defendants) who purchased or otherwise acquired, whether in the secondary market, or under a prospectus or other offering document in the primary market, equity, debt or other securities of or relating to Sino-Forest Corporation, from and including August 12, 2008 to and including June 2, 2011.