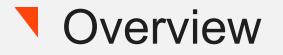
Innovate BC New Ventures Corporate and Legal Agreements May 1, 2019

FASKEN

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### About Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP

- A Canadian leader in the practice of business law and litigation representing clients nationally and internationally
- We offer customized legal advice in over 30 practice areas, our greatest value to any client is achieved through our commitment to understand their business, culture, and people.



#### There are two areas we will focus on:

- •Corporate Structure
- Legal Agreements



# Corporate Structure

- How and where to set up your company
- Equity ownership
- Attracting and retaining team members
- Attracting and closing financing

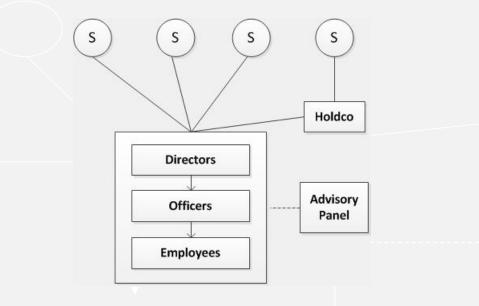
# Legal Agreements

- Documenting the foundation and development of your venture.
- Internally: Shareholders' Agreement, IP Assignment Agreements, Consulting Agreements, Employment Agreements, Reverse Vesting Agreements, etc.
- Externally: Term Sheet, Non-Disclosure Agreements, License Agreements, etc.

# Options for Association

- Proprietorships
- Partnerships
- Limited Partnerships
- Joint Ventures
- Companies
  - Provincial
  - Federal
  - International

### The Structure



## Shareholders

- Anybody can be a shareholder
  - individuals
  - companies
  - partnerships
- As many as you want
  - rules change at 50 "people"
  - rules on how you find your shareholders (ie: see a lawyer!)

# Shareholders (cont'd)

- No liability aside from the initial investment in the shares of the company
  - (unless a contract says otherwise ie: shareholders' agreement, guarantee)
- Variety of share classes, rights, restrictions
  - common, preferred
  - voting, non-voting
  - dividends
  - participating/non-participating
  - anti-dilution, down round protection

# Shareholders (cont'd)

- Exclusive right to elect directors
- Pre-emptive rights
- Relationship governed by Articles, Shareholders' Agreements, Subscription Agreement

### The Policy Setters

#### **Directors**

### Directors

- Elected by the shareholders
  - (but the directors can fill "vacancies" and increase number in certain circumstances)
- At least one
- If BC, no residency requirement
- Qualifications

# Directors (cont'd)

- Power to manage the affairs of the Company
  - (subject to articles, shareholders' agreements, etc.)
  - determine policy
- Duties to the Company and the "shareholders as a whole" to act fairly and diligently
- Potential personal liability
  - breaching duties
  - taxes, wages
- Appoint the Officers

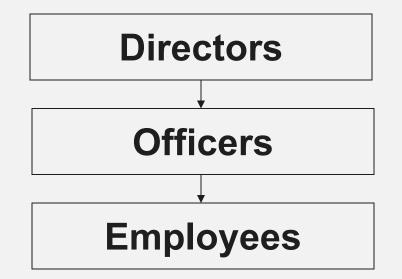
### The Instructors



### Officers

- Appointed by the Directors
- As many as you want, any titles at all:
  - President, Chairman, CEO, COO, CTO, VP, Secretary, etc.
- In charge of day-to-day affairs of the Company

### The Doers



# Employees

- Master-Servant Relationship
- Entitlements
- Indefinite vs. Fixed-term
- Statutory Obligations

# Employment Agreement

- Confidentiality
- Assignment of intellectual property
- Non-competition
- Non-solicitation

## Consultants

- Not employees not entitled to benefits or other statutory entitlements
- Generally allowed to contract with other companies at same time
- Use of own equipment
- Onus on consultant to withhold, collect and pay tax

# Consulting Agreement

- Confidentiality
- Assignment of intellectual property
- Non-competition
- Non-solicitation

## Tax implications

- Form of relationship determines how worker is taxed
  - Consultants run a business (expense deductions allowed, but no benefits)
  - Employees realize employment income (more restrictive, but statutory benefits and security)
- CRA will look at actual arrangement to determine type of relationship
  - Agreement still key in this analysis

## Compensation and Incentives

- Cash
- Shares
- Options

# Compensation and Incentives – Tax Considerations

- Various payment structures all have different tax effect
  - Cash salary
  - Dividends (for employee shareholders)
  - Stock options/shares
  - Deferred salary plans
- Generally, salary and dividends are equivalent in tax rate (integration)

# Compensation and Incentives – Stock Options

- Can be issued to founders or employees
- Align incentives of recipients with venture
- Advantageous tax treatment
- Typically full value of anything received from employer is fully taxable
  - Stock options are the key exception

# Compensation and Incentives – Stock Options - CCPCs

- No tax on grant of options or shares to employee
  - As long as there is agreement to issue
- No tax on exercise of options if resulting shares are held by employee for 2 years
- On sale of share, effectively get capital gains tax treatment (1/2 taxable)
- Different tax results if not CCPC

Compensation and Incentives – Stock Options – Non-CCPCs or Non-employees

- Different tax results if company not CCPC
  - End result -- ½ of benefit equal to FMV of share in year option exercised is included in income (if not paid for)
  - Capital gains inclusion at sale of resulting share

Compensation and Incentives – Stock Options – Non-CCPCs or Non-employees Cont'd

- Different tax results for consultants who receive options (from CCPC or not)
  - FMV of options in year of issue is income
  - Arguably no tax event on exercise

### Employees and Consultants– Nonresidents

- Employing or retaining non-residents can cause additional tax compliance issues
- Non-resident employees who work outside of Canada should be avoided
- Non-resident employees working in Canada, subj. to "reg 102" withholding
- Non-resident contractors subject to "reg 105" withholding requirement

#### The Advisors

#### **Advisory Panel**

# Advisory Panel

- Non-Director Experts
  - · focused on the field in question
- Advise the Board
- Option-based Compensation

## Other Issues

- Conflicts of Interest
  - within the structure ie: your role as Shareholder v. Director
  - within other companies ie: director of this Company and director of contracting company
  - between the Company and the educational institution
    ie: technology transfer/pricing/time
  - between investor and inventor
- Public v. Private

# Initial Corporate Structuring

#### Incorporation – U.S. v. Canada v. Offshore; Canada because:

- Financing Issues Investors don't like offshore companies.
- Government grants In most cases, only available to Canadian companies.
- Taxation and Employment issues Are simpler if you are building the company here.

#### B.C. (BCBCA) v. Federal (CBCA):

• Either BC Business Corporations Act (BCBCA) or Canada Business Corporations Act (CBCA) are fine and both are investor friendly.

# Initial Corporate Structuring – cont'd

#### **Create a structure with:**

- Unlimited number of common shares.
- Unlimited number of "blank-cheque" preferred shares.

#### Financiers dictate financing terms:

• Debt vs. equity, price, preferences, terms of SHAG, etc.

#### If you can, avoid:

- Issuing secured debt.
- Using shareholders' loans.
- Using multiple share classes.
- Incorporating offshore.

### Initial Corporate Structuring – Tax Considerations

- Different tax issues may arise for different forms of financing
- Issues:
  - Equity or debt?
  - Structure for delivery of equity to financier?
- Decisions depends on context
- Generally, best to start with simple but easily adaptable structure

#### Initial Corporate Structuring – Tax Considerations - "CCPC" status

- CCPC = Canadian controlled private corporation
- Important for many tax advantages:
  - Small business deduction
  - Capital gains exemption
  - SR&ED benefits
  - Stock option deferral/deduction

#### Initial Corporate Structuring – Tax Considerations - "CCPC" status

- Restricts who can receive equity
- Public corporations or non-residents cannot own more than 50% shares
- No public corporation or non-resident may control
- There is a VCC exception from the above which may be important for some start-ups

### Founders' Shares

#### What are Founders' Shares?:

- Large block of shares issued at a low price to position the Founders.
- To recognize their "sweat equity" contribution. What class of shares should they be?:
  - Common shares.
- At what price should they be issued?:
  - Nominal \$0.0001 to \$0.01 per share.

### Founders' Shares – cont'd

#### To whom should they be issued?

- Founders and senior officers.
- Not to employees or outside investors.

#### Common mistakes in allocating Founders' shares:

- Not setting aside enough Founders' shares at time of incorporation: 4.0M – 8.0M.
- Not considering future additions to the management team: 15% - 25%?
- Not vesting the Founders' shares: 2 4 years, or providing for "reverse-vesting".
- Issuing them to the wrong people.

# Preparing a Financing Plan

#### **Determine a "Road-Map" for financing:**

The company determines its developmental "milestones":

- What they are.
- By when they will be met.
- How much funding is needed to meet them.

The milestones are integrated with the budget and a timeline to determine how many tranches of financing will be needed and when.

This info is used to prepare a sample capital structure table - a "road map" for the financing trail (e.g. – to raise \$5.0M).

# Sources of Financing – Debt/Grants

Non-equity financing might come from:

- Government grants/credits/refunds:
  - NRC/IRAP, SRED.
  - Telefilm Canada and other industry specific organizations.
  - Environmental/"green" grants.
- Quasi-governmental organizations like:
  - BCIC, BDC

# Sources of Financing - Equity

#### Initial (equity) seed financing may come from:

- The "Founders".
- Their "Friends and Family".

#### Follow on rounds (pre-public) from:

- Angels.
- Venture Capitalists.
- Investment bankers (both private and institutional).
- Underwriters (i.e. brokers).
- Public financing Initial Public Offering.
- Strategic Partners.

### Sources of Equity Financing – Revisited

#### Categories of Financiers:

- Founders:
- Friends and Family:
- Angels:
- Venture Capitalists:
- Underwriters:
- Strategic Partners:

Variable \$50K - \$150K \$250K - \$500K \$1.0M - \$3.0M \$1.0M - \$5.0M Variable

Match potential investors with your Financing Plan to maximize chance to secure investment.

# BC Venture Capital Programs

- 30% refundable tax credit for BC resident investors
- Very popular, often drives the deal
- Company needs to register as an 'eligible business corporation' and request an allocation of tax credits
- They run out every year



# Securities Legislation

#### **Requirement**:

- If you distribute a security, you must:
  - File a prospectus
    OR
  - Rely on exemption from prospectus requirement

### Exemptions

- Family, Friends and Business Associates
- Accredited Investor
- Private Issuer
- \$150,000
- Start-Up Crowdfunding
- Offering Memorandum
- Employee, Director, Officer & Consultant Exemption

### Family, Friends & Business Associates Exemption

Can sell securities in any amount without any disclosure to:

- Director, senior officer or control person
- Family member of a director, senior officer or control person

### Family, Friends & Business Associates Exemption (cont'd)

- Close personal friend or close business associate of a director, senior officer or control person
- No limit on number of purchasers or amount that can be raised

#### "close personal friend" or "close business associate"

- Has known the director, senior officer or control person for a "sufficient period of time"
- Is in a position to assess the capabilities and trustworthiness of the director, senior officer or control person

### Accredited Investor Exemption

- "accredited investors" can purchase any securities in any amount at any time
- No limit on number of purchasers or amount that can be raised

### "Accredited Investor"

- Financial institutions
- Registered advisers or dealers
- Pension funds
- Mutual funds selling only under a prospectus or to accredited investors or persons buying at least \$150,000 of securities
- corporations, limited partnerships, trusts or estates having net assets of at least \$5 million

### "Accredited Investor" Cont'd

- Individuals who have at least \$1 million in financial assets before taxes. (In calculating an individual's financial assets, any outstanding loans incurred to acquire those assets must be deducted.)
- Individuals whose net income before taxes exceeds \$200,000 (or \$300,000 combined income with spouse) in each of the two most recent years and who reasonably expects to exceed that net income in the current year
- Individuals who have at least \$5 million in net assets

### Private Issuer Exemption

Can sell securities in any amount without any disclosure to:

•Directors, officers, employees or control persons of the issuer

•family members (spouse, parent, grandparent, sister, brother or child) of the directors, senior officers or control persons

•Close personal friends or close business associates of the directors, senior officers or control persons

•Current security holders

•Family members of the selling security holder

Accredited investors

### What is a Private Issuer?

- Is not a reporting issuer, mutual fund or pooled fund
- Has less than 50 security holders, excluding employees and former employees
- Has restrictions on the transfer of its securities in its articles, memorandum, bylaws or its shareholders agreement
- Has sold its securities only to the persons in the list in the last slide

### Loss of "Private Issuer" Status

- If you lose your Private Issuer status, you do not automatically "go public"
- You can still rely on the previously-mentioned exemptions
- Certain regulatory filings are now required

### **\$150,000** Exemption

 Under the \$150,000 exemption, a company can sell securities to non-individual investors without providing any disclosure to the purchaser, provided the purchaser buys at least \$150,000 worth of securities.

## Start-Up Crowdfunding Exemption

- Can raise up to \$250,000, twice a year
- Investors can invest up to \$1,500 each
- Need to publish an offering document online that sets out certain information
- Need to raise money within 90 days of publishing that document
- Need to hit minimum goal before any money is released from trust

# Offering Memorandum Exemption

Issuer can sell securities to anyone in B.C. in any amount if Issuer:

- Delivers an offering memorandum in the prescribed form
- Obtains a signed Risk Acknowledgement from the purchaser

## Risk Acknowledgement/Liability

- Clear, blunt statement of risks of investing in exempt market securities
- Issuer must give a copy of the signed Risk Acknowledgement to purchaser prior to making investment
- If the offering memorandum contains a misrepresentation, the purchaser has:
  - A right of action for rescission
  - A right of action for damages

#### Employee, Director, Officer & Consultant Exemption

- The sale cannot be based on a promise of continued employment, appointment or engagement.
- Narrow definition of consultant.

# Legal Agreements – Raising Money

- Non-Disclosure Agreement
- Term Sheet
- Subscription Agreement/ Convertible Debt/SAFE

### Non-Disclosure Agreement

- Mutual or One-Way
- All information designated confidential, or only what is marked confidential
- Length of time information must be kept confidential

### Term Sheet

- Type of security being offered (shares, units, convertible debt, SAFE, other)
- Valuation (pre-money and post-money, nondiluted vs. partially diluted vs. fully diluted)
- Use of proceeds
- Investors' rights
- Other

## Subscription Agreement

- Agreement setting out the terms and conditions upon which an investor buys securities – usually shares
- Representations and warranties about the company and the shares being purchased – may require that the company make certain disclosures about its affairs and existing liabilities in a disclosure schedule
- Indemnification

# Convertible Debt

- Debt investment that can be converted into equity, usually upon a future financing of at least a specific size
- Repayment requirement at end of term
- General security agreement
- Inter-lender agreement
- Usually not eligible for EBC tax credits

### SAFE

- Simple Agreement for Future Equity
- Not debt no interest, no maturity date
- Company does not have to settle on a valuation
- Eligible for EBC tax credits

### Stock Options

#### **Recall: What are stock options?:**

- The right to purchase a number of shares at a predetermined price.
- Used to incent the team building the Company.

#### How many should be issued?:

• 10% - 30% of issued share capital.

#### At what price should they be issued?:

• Last round of financing or higher.

### Stock Options – cont'd

Companies must plan for growth and make a notional allocation of their options.

#### Allocate stock options by category:

| ٠ | Senior Management:   | 35% - 50% | 0      |
|---|----------------------|-----------|--------|
| ٠ | Remaining Employees: | 25% - 35% | 0      |
| ٠ | Board of Directors:  | 13% - 20% | /<br>0 |
| ٠ | Board of Advisors:   | 2% - 5%   | /<br>0 |
| ٠ | Contingency:         | 10% - 15% | /<br>0 |
|   |                      |           |        |

#### **Companies should:**

- Integrate Stock Option Plan with their HR Plan.
- Vest all options over 2 4 years.

#### Capitalization Table Founders Organize Company

|                      | No. of Shares | Price    | Funds Raised |  |
|----------------------|---------------|----------|--------------|--|
| Founders (3)         | 6,000,000     | \$0.0001 | \$600        |  |
| Type of Investor (?) | ?             | ?        | ?            |  |
| Type of Investor (?) | ?             | ?        | ?            |  |
| Type of Investor (?) | ?             | ?        | ?            |  |
| Type of Investor (?) | ?             | ?        | ?            |  |
| Total:               | 6,000,000     |          | \$600        |  |
|                      |               |          |              |  |

FOUNDERS' OWNERSHIP INTEREST:

#### Capitalization Table \$400,000 Friends & Family Round

|                                       | No. of<br>Shares             | Price                            | Funds Raised          |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Founders                              | 6,000,000                    | \$0.0001                         | \$600                 |
| Family and Friends                    | 400,000                      | \$0.25                           | \$100,000             |
| Type of Investor (?)                  | ?                            | ?                                | ?                     |
| Type of Investor (?)                  | ?                            | ?                                | ?                     |
| Type of Investor (?)                  | ?                            | ?                                | ?                     |
| Total:                                | 6,400,000                    | -                                | \$100,600             |
| PRE-MONEY VALUE:<br>POST-MONEY VALUE: | \$ 1,500,000<br>\$ 1,600,000 | FOUNDERS' OWNERSHIP<br>INTEREST: | \$ 1,500,000 (93.75%) |

#### Capitalization Table Stock Option Plan Added

|                                       | No. of Shares                | Price  | Funds Raised          |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Founders                              | 6,000,000                    | \$0.0001   | \$600                 |
| Family and Friends                    | 400,000                      | \$0.25   | \$100,000             |
| Type of Investor (?)                  | ?                            | ?  | ?                     |
| Type of Investor (?)                  | ?                            | ?  | ?                     |
| Type of Investor (?)                  | ?                            | ?  | ?                     |
| Total:                                | 6,400,000                    | -  | \$100,600             |
| Option Plan                           | 1,500,000                    | n/a  | n/a                   |
| PRE-MONEY VALUE:<br>POST-MONEY VALUE: | \$ 1,600,000<br>\$ 1,600,000 | FOUNDERS' OWNERSHIP<br>INTEREST (NON-DILUTED BASIS): | \$ 1,500,000 (93.75%) |

#### Capitalization Table \$420,000 Angel Round

|                        | Price   | Funds Raised   |
|------------------------|---|--|
| 6,000,000              | \$0.0001  | \$600  |
| 400,000                | \$0.25  | \$100,000  |
| 1,200,000              | \$0.35  | \$420,000  |
| ?                      | ?   | ?  |
| ?                      | ?   | ?  |
| 7,600,000              |   | \$520,600  |
| 1,500,000              | n/a   | n/a  |
| 2,240,000<br>2,660,000 | FOUNDERS' OWNERSHIP<br>INTEREST (NON-DILUTED BASIS):                  | \$2,100,000 (79%)  |
|                        | 400,000<br>1,200,000<br>?<br>?<br>7,600,000<br>1,500,000<br>2,240,000 | 400,000    \$0.25      1,200,000    \$0.35      ?    ?      ?    ?      ?    ?      7,600,000    n/a      2,240,000    FOUNDERS' OWNERSHIP |

#### **Capitalization Table** \$1,500,000 Series A Round

|                                       | No. of Shares                | Price  | Funds Raised         |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| Founders                              | 6,000,000                    | \$0.0001   | \$600                |
| Family and Friends                    | 400,000                      | \$0.25   | \$100,000            |
| Angels                                | 1,200,000                    | \$0.35   | \$420,000            |
| Series A Round VC                     | 3,000,000                    | \$0.50   | \$1,500,000          |
| Type of Investor (?)                  | ?                            | ?  | ?                    |
| Subtotal:                             | 10,600,000                   | -  | \$2,020,600          |
| Option Plan                           | 1,500,000                    | n/a  | n/a                  |
| New Options                           | 500,000                      | n/a  | n/a                  |
| Total (Fully Diluted Basis):          | 12,600,000                   | n/a  | n/a                  |
| PRE-MONEY VALUE:<br>POST-MONEY VALUE: | \$ 4,800,000<br>\$ 6,300,000 | FOUNDERS' OWNERSHIP INTEREST<br>(FULLY DILUTED BASIS): | \$ 3,000,000 (47.6%) |

#### Capitalization Table \$5,000,000 Series B Round

|                                       | No. of Shares                  | Price  | Funds Raised         |  |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|----------------------|--|
| Founders                              | 6,000,000                      | \$0.0001   | \$600                |  |
| Family and Friends                    | 400,000                        | \$0.25   | \$100,000            |  |
| Angels                                | 1,200,000                      | \$0.35   | \$420,000            |  |
| Series A Round VC                     | 3,000,000                      | \$0.50   | \$1,500,000          |  |
| Series B Round VC                     | 5,000,000                      | \$1.00   | \$5,000,000          |  |
| Subtotal:                             | 15,600,000                     | n/a  | \$7,020,600          |  |
| Option Plan                           | 2,000,000                      | n/a  | n/a                  |  |
| Total (Fully Diluted Basis):          | 17,600,000                     | n/a  | n/a                  |  |
| PRE-MONEY VALUE:<br>POST-MONEY VALUE: | \$ 12,600,000<br>\$ 17,600,000 | FOUNDERS' OWNERSHIP INTEREST<br>(FULLY DILUTED BASIS): | \$ 6,000,000 (34.1%) |  |
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