



**COLABOR GROUP INC.**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION & ANALYSIS  
THIRD QUARTER OF THE 2013 FISCAL YEAR  
84-DAY PERIOD ENDED SEPTEMBER 7, 2013  
OCTOBER 10, 2013**

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**October 10, 2013**

## **1. Scope of MD&A and Notice to Investors**

This Management's Discussion & Analysis ("MD&A") of Colabor Group Inc. ("GCL", the "Company" or "Colabor"), formerly Colabor Income Fund (the "Fund"), discusses the comprehensive income, financial situation and cash flows for the third quarter of the fiscal year ending December 31, 2013. These financial statements are in Canadian dollars and have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS"). The financial statements have been published on SEDAR at the following sites: [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com) and [www.colabor.com](http://www.colabor.com).

Colabor's fiscal year comprises thirteen periods, the first three quarters comprise three periods each and the fourth quarter includes four periods. The Company's year-end is December 31. As a result, the Company's sales and earnings have been proportionately lower in the first quarter and higher in the fourth quarter because the fourth quarter generally has 33% more operating days than the other quarters of the year.

This report also contains information that is a non-IFRS measure of performance, such as the concept of earnings before financial expenses, depreciation and amortization and income taxes (EBITDA), presented in the financial statements under "Operating profit before depreciation and amortization". Since these concepts are not defined in IFRS, they may not be comparable with those of other companies.

## **2. Forward-looking Statements**

The MD&A is intended to assist shareholders in understanding the nature and extent of changes and trends, as well as risks and uncertainties. Consequently, actual results may differ significantly from information reported or inferred in these statements. The main factors that could result in a significant difference between Colabor's actual results and the projections or expectations set out in the forward-looking statements are described herein under *Risks and Uncertainties*.

## **3. General**

### **Corporate arrangement resulting in the creation of Colabor Group Inc.**

The Fund was an unincorporated, open-ended, limited purpose trust that was established under the laws of the Province of Quebec under a Declaration of Trust dated May 19, 2005. The Fund's units were traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol CLB.UN.

On July 8, 2009, the Fund had announced its intention to convert from an income trust structure to a corporation (the "Conversion"). In order to effect the Conversion, on that date, Colabor had entered into an arrangement agreement (the "Arrangement Agreement") with ConjuChem Biotechnologies Inc. ("ConjuChem"), in order to conclude the Conversion pursuant to a statutory plan of arrangement of ConjuChem (the "Plan of Arrangement") under Section 192 of the *Canada Business Corporations Act* ("CBCA"). The Conversion was completed on

August 25, 2009, further to the approval of the unitholders of the Fund, which was obtained at a special meeting held on August 19, 2009.

### **Additional information**

The shares of Colabor Group Inc. are traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol *GCL-T*, while its convertible debentures are traded under the symbol *GCL.DB.A*.

Additional information on GCL, and previously the Fund, may be found on SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com) and on its information site [www.colabor.com](http://www.colabor.com).

## **4. Corporate Profile**

### **Activities**

Colabor was founded in 1962 and is a wholesaler and master food distributor serving the foodservice (cafeterias, restaurants, hotels, restaurant chains) and the retail markets (small-sized grocery stores, convenience stores, etc.). It currently carries out its activities through two segments and three divisions: Ontario, Central Quebec and Eastern Quebec and Maritimes.

### ***Distribution Segment***

This Segment includes the following operating activities:

#### ***1. Summit Foodservice (Summit) (Ontario Division)***

Summit distributes more than 8,000 products from warehouses in Ottawa, London, Mississauga and Vaughan to more than 3,000 customers, including Cara (Swiss Chalet, Harvey's, Kelsey's Neighbourhood Bar and Grill, Montana's Cookhouse and Milestone's Grill and Bar), County Style, Extendicare, Mr Sub, Wild Wing, other foodservice chains and independent restaurants as well as to institutions, including hospitals, schools and government institutions. Summit's product line includes frozen products, dry staples, dairy products, meat, seafood, fruits and vegetables and sanitation products.

This division services primarily the Ontario market, but also distributes Cara restaurant products in Quebec.

This division, with about 600 employees, operates four distribution centres, including the London head office, where administrative services are located.

These warehouses cover about 550,000 square feet, allocated as follows:

Mississauga:	127,961 square feet
London:	113,595 square feet (could be expanded)
Ottawa:	103,460 square feet (could be expanded)
Vaughan:	205,000 square feet

## *2. Colabor Eastern Quebec and Maritimes Division*

Colabor Eastern Quebec and Maritimes Division is a major distributor to foodservice and retail customers in the Québec City, Saguenay, eastern Quebec and northern New Brunswick regions and part of the North Shore and the Lower North Shore regions. It employs approximately 600 people, distributes over 12,000 products from its two strategically located warehouses in Lévis, and Rimouski, totalling approximately 350,000 square feet. This division's customers consist primarily of restaurants, foodservice operators, specialty food stores, institutional accounts such as healthcare institutions, schools and universities, certain other retail customers, in all reaching approximately 4,000 customers. With a complete product offering, including frozen products, dry staples, dairy products, fresh meat, fish and seafood, fruits and vegetables, disposables and sanitation products. It therefore offers its customers a "one-stop-shop" solution.

## *3. Les Pêcheries Norref Québec Inc. (Norref) (Central Quebec Division)*

Norref is a fresh fish and seafood products importer and distributor in the province of Quebec and is recognized as the leading distributor of this type in Quebec.

Norref operates from a 40,000 square-foot warehouse in Montréal, and distributes a full range of fresh and frozen fish and seafood. Its diversified client base is comprised of supermarkets, restaurants, hotels, caterers and fish stores. It has about 200 employees and 50% of its sales are from medium-term contracts.

## *4. Skor Cash & Carry Division (Ontario Division):*

This division operates five "Cash & Carry" locations in southern Ontario and offers over 12,000 retail and food service products to convenience stores, small grocery stores, cafeterias and restaurants.

## *5. Lauzon Meats (Central Quebec Division)*

Lauzon is an important distributor of Cargill beef brands such as Angus Pride, Sterling Silver, preparing and processing high quality meat products throughout the provinces of Quebec and Ontario. As a well-known and established distributor in Quebec, it holds a reputation for excellent products and experienced, skilled employees providing effective and flexible service to the restaurant and hotel industries. Lauzon operates from a recently renovated 68,000 square-foot HACCP-certified and federally-approved plant located in Montréal.

### ***Wholesale Segment:***

#### *1. Boucherville Distribution Centre (Boucherville) (Central Quebec Division)*

Sales of the Boucherville Distribution Centre consist of food and non-food products that it supplies to wholesalers that, in turn, redistribute these products to over 25,000 customers operating in the foodservice and retail market segments in Quebec and the Atlantic provinces.

Products are sold either directly from its distribution centre ("warehouse sales") or through direct delivery from manufacturers and suppliers to the warehouses of wholesalers ("direct sales").

This Centre generally sells its products at the manufacturers' and suppliers' list price. Accordingly, it generates gross profit on sales as follows:

(a) From a profit on warehouse sales:

Through a mark-up of the cost price of its private brand-name products and by making purchases from manufacturers and suppliers before a price increase and subsequently selling such products at the manufacturer's new price.

(b) Primarily from rebates from suppliers:

These rebates consist of: (i) agreements with suppliers relating principally to distribution agreements, central billing, truck load allowance and other incentives, (ii) rebates received from suppliers based on buying volumes, (iii) cash discounts on purchases based on terms of sale, and (iv) net advertising funds received in connection with promotional activities.

The Centre, that employs about 125 people, operates a 371,120 square-foot distribution centre in Boucherville that could be expanded to 650,000 square feet.

## 2. *Viandes Décarie (Décarie)* (Central Quebec Division)

Décarie is a wholesaler and distributor in the meat and meat products market. It has a distribution centre of about 27,000 square feet located in Montréal. As a wholesaler, it distributes a wide range of fresh and frozen meat including beef, veal, lamb, pork and poultry. It has a diversified customer base of distributors, food retailers and specialty butchers. Décarie's facilities are HACCP-certified and hold a federal permit giving them the opportunity to sell their products across Canada.

## 5. Main Resources and Competencies:

### 5.1 Board of Directors

	<u>Role</u>	<u>Occupation</u>
Jacques Landreville	Chairman	Corporate Director
Robert Panet-Raymond	Chairman, Audit Committee	Corporate Director
Richard Lord, FCMA	Chairman, Human Resources and Corporate Governance Committee	President and Chief Executive Officer, Quincaillerie Richelieu Ltée
Stéphane Gonthier	Director	President and Chief Executive Officer, 99¢ Only Stores
Gilles C. Lachance	Director	Corporate Director
Paul Webb	Director	Executive Vice-President and General Manager, J.B. Cadrin Inc.

### 5.2 Management

Claude Gariépy	President and Chief Executive Officer	Colabor Group Inc.
Jean-François Neault CPA, CMA, MBA	Vice-President and Chief Financial Officer	Colabor Group Inc.
Marko Potvin	Vice-President Centralized Purchasing	Colabor Group Inc.
Michel Delisle	Vice-President Information Technology	Colabor Group Inc.
Denis Desaulniers, CRHA	Vice-President Human Resources and Communications	Colabor Group Inc.
Jack Battersby	President	Ontario Division
Geneviève Brouillette, CPA, CA	Vice-President and General Manager	Boucherville Division
Claude Saillant	Vice-President and General Manager	Eastern Quebec and Maritimes Division

## 6. Performance Analysis

### 6.1 Earnings

Earnings, and their comparison with the comparable period of 2012, should be read in conjunction with the *Current Economic Situation* section presented further on in this MD&A and the following facts:

- The Company's sales and profit margins in some of its divisions continue to be impacted by the economic situation prevailing in eastern Canada and particularly in Quebec.
- As a result of high fuel prices, commodity taxes and household debt, there is less disposable income for purchases of all non-essential products including eating out.
- On March 4, 2013, the Company concluded the acquisition of the assets of T. Lauzon. Lauzon's financial results are included in the Company's income from March 4, 2013 but not for the comparative 2012 quarter.

#### Consolidated Statements of Earnings

(unaudited, in thousands of dollars, except data per share)

	2013-09-07 (84 days)		2012-09-08 (84 days)		Variance	
	\$		\$		\$	
<b>Sales of goods</b>	<b>343,584</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>350,341</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>(6,757)</b>	<b>-1.93%</b>
Operating expenses, excluding costs not relating to current operations, depreciation and amortization	333,356	97.02%	339,319	96.85%	(5,963)	-1.76%
<b>Operating earnings before costs not relating to current operations, depreciation and amortization</b>	<b>10,228</b>	<b>2.98%</b>	<b>11,022</b>	<b>3.15%</b>	<b>(794)</b>	<b>-7.20%</b>
Costs not relating to current operations	8,123	2.36%	1,102	0.31%	7,021	637.11%
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	1,142	0.33%	935	0.27%	207	22.14%
Amortization of intangible assets	3,306	0.96%	3,324	0.95%	(18)	-0.54%
	12,571	3.65%	5,361	1.53%	7,210	134.49%
<b>Operating earnings</b>	<b>(2,343)</b>	<b>-0.67%</b>	<b>5,661</b>	<b>1.62%</b>	<b>(8,004)</b>	<b>-141.39%</b>
Finance costs	2,843	0.83%	2,151	0.61%	692	32.17%
<b>Earnings before tax</b>	<b>(5,186)</b>	<b>-1.50%</b>	<b>3,510</b>	<b>1.01%</b>	<b>(8,696)</b>	<b>-247.75%</b>
Income taxes						
Current						
Deferred	(1,303)	-0.38%	463	0.13%	(1,766)	-381.43%
	(1,303)	-0.38%	463	0.13%	(1,766)	-381.43%
<b>Earnings</b>	<b>(3,883)</b>	<b>-1.12%</b>	<b>3,047</b>	<b>0.88%</b>	<b>(6,930)</b>	<b>-227.44%</b>
<b>After-tax cash flows per share</b>	<b>\$0.26</b>		<b>\$0.33</b>			
<b>Basic and diluted earnings per share</b>	<b>\$(0.14)</b>		<b>\$0.13</b>			

**Consolidated Statements of Earnings**

(unaudited, in thousands of dollars, except data per share)

	2013-09-07 (250 days)		2012-09-08 (252 days)		Variance	
	\$		\$		\$	
<b>Sales of goods</b>	<b>982,981</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>1 002 568</b>	<b>100,00%</b>	<b>(19,587)</b>	<b>-1.95%</b>
Operating expenses, excluding costs not relating to current operations, depreciation and amortization	960,716	97.73%	975,439	97.29%	(14,723)	-1.51%
<b>Operating earnings before costs not relating to current operations, depreciation and amortization</b>	<b>22,265</b>	<b>2.27%</b>	<b>27,129</b>	<b>2.71%</b>	<b>(4,864)</b>	<b>-17.93%</b>
Costs not relating to current operations	8,370	0.85%	1,355	0.14%	7,015	517.71%
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	3,257	0.33%	2,883	0.29%	374	12.97%
Amortization of intangible assets	9,820	1.00%	9,924	0.99%	(104)	-1.05%
	21,447	2.18%	14,162	1.42%	7,285	51.44%
<b>Operating earnings</b>	<b>818</b>	<b>0.09%</b>	<b>12,967</b>	<b>1.29%</b>	<b>(12,149)</b>	<b>-93.69%</b>
Finance costs	7,312	0.74%	6,567	0.66%	745	11.34%
<b>Earnings before tax</b>	<b>(6,494)</b>	<b>-0.65%</b>	<b>6,400</b>	<b>0.63%</b>	<b>(12,894)</b>	<b>-201.47%</b>
Income taxes						
Current						
Deferred	(1,643)	-0.17%	1,186	0.12%	(2,829)	-238.53%
	(1,643)	-0.17%	1,186	0.12%	(2,829)	-238.53%
<b>Earnings</b>	<b>(4,851)</b>	<b>-0.48%</b>	<b>5,214</b>	<b>0.51%</b>	<b>(10,065)</b>	<b>-193.04%</b>
<b>After-tax cash flows per share</b>	<b>\$0.42</b>		<b>\$0.81</b>			
<b>Basic and diluted earnings per share</b>	<b>\$(0.19)</b>		<b>\$0.23</b>			

## Sales

Sales consist of:

For the Distribution Segment: Gross sales to customers from the London, Mississauga, Ottawa, Vaughan, Lévis, Rimouski and Montréal (Norref and Lauzon) warehouses and sales of Skor Cash & Carry less rebates, as provided in individual agreements with these customers.

For the Wholesale Segment: Adding gross sales from the Boucherville warehouse and direct sales to affiliated-wholesalers, less rebates of 3% of the affiliated-wholesalers' sales, as provided in the agreement between Colabor LP and the affiliated-wholesalers and sales to other customers, less rebates, as provided in individual agreements with these customers and sales from Décarie.

Inter-segment and inter-division sales are eliminated.

**Sales** (unaudited, in thousands of dollars)

	2013-09-07 (84 days)			2012-09-08 (84 days)								
	Total sales	Sales subsequent to acquisitions	Comparable sales	Total sales	Specific items	Sales of a disposed division	Comparable sales	Variance total sales	Variance comparable sales			
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	%	\$	%	
<b>Distribution Segment</b>	230,540	8,862	221,678	248,134	(24,640)	(2,122)	221,372	(17,594)	-7.1%	306	0.1%	
<b>Wholesale Segment</b>	113,044	14,573	98,471	102,207			102,207	10,837	10.6%	(3,736)	-3.7%	
	<u>343,584</u>	<u>23,435</u>	<u>320,149</u>	<u>350,341</u>	<u>(24,640)</u>	<u>(2,122)</u>	<u>323,579</u>	<u>(6,757)</u>	<u>-1.9%</u>	<u>(3,430)</u>	<u>-1.1%</u>	
	2013-09-07 (250 days)			2012-09-08 (252 days)								
Total sales	Sales subsequent to acquisitions	Comparable sales	Total sales	Specific items	Adjustment for two days	Sales of a disposed division	Comparable sales	Variance total sales	Variance comparable sales			
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	%	\$	%	
<b>Distribution Segment</b>	664,494	20,964	643,530	712,831	(58,033)	(5,113)	(4,432)	645,253	(48,337)	-6.8%	(1,723)	-0.3%
<b>Wholesale Segment</b>	318,487	32,908	285,579	289,737		(1,981)	287,756	28,750	9.9%	(2,177)	-0.8%	
	<u>982,981</u>	<u>53,872</u>	<u>929,109</u>	<u>1,002,568</u>	<u>(58,033)</u>	<u>(7,094)</u>	<u>(4,432)</u>	<u>933,009</u>	<u>(19,587)</u>	<u>-2.0%</u>	<u>(3,900)</u>	<u>-0.4%</u>

The *Current Economic Situation...* section presented further on in this MD&A provides an overview of the context in which the Company and its competitors operate.

Sales from acquisitions

Sales from acquisitions in the Distribution Segment are due to the acquisition of T. Lauzon Ltd., now rename Lauzon Meats, a division of Colabor.

Sales in the Wholesale Segment are attributed to the fact that Viandes Décarie took over a large portion of the clientele of G. Lauzon following the closure of its operations as a result of hiring its sales force and purchasing its inventories.

Specific items

Specific items include the loss of a major Ontario-based distribution contract on April 1, 2013 as well as Colabor's decision to considerably reduce its non-profitable tobacco product distribution activities since the beginning of 2013.

Sales adjustment

Considering that the nine-month period of the 2013 fiscal year only includes 250 days compared to 252 days during the previous fiscal year, sales for the 2012 fiscal year were reduced by two days to compare these figures to 2013 sale figures.

Decrease in sales

To be comparable, sales have been decreased from sales of the Skor Culinary Concepts Division which was sold during the last quarter of the 2012 fiscal year.

**Operating earnings before costs not relating to operations, depreciation and amortization (which corresponds to earnings before finance costs, depreciation, amortization and income tax expense (EBITDA))**

EBITDA is composed of the following:

*Gross Profit*

Gross profit is composed of the following items:

- Wholesale Segment:  
Boucherville: Profit on gross warehouse sales only, which consists primarily of a profit margin on private brand-name products and profit on inventory held. No profit margin is recognized on direct sales. Income is attributed on such sales for purposes of rebates from suppliers only.  
Décarie: Product acquisition costs plus a percentage negotiated according to current contracts or market rates.
- Distribution Segment: Product acquisition cost with a percentage mark-up that is market-driven or negotiated in current agreements.
- Rebates from suppliers  
A significant portion of Colabor's gross profit is derived from rebates from suppliers. These rebates consist of: (i) agreements with suppliers relating principally to distribution agreements, central billing, truck load allowance and other incentives, (ii) rebates received from suppliers based on buying volumes, (iii) cash discounts on purchases based on terms of sale, and (iv) net advertising funds received in connection with promotional activities.

*Operating expense*

The main expenses consist primarily of salaries and employee benefits, delivery costs for the Distribution Segment and occupancy costs relating to the Company's distribution centres. These expenses include a considerable portion of fixed costs which have a significant impact on operating earnings, particularly in the first quarter of the fiscal year.

EBITDA in the third quarter of 2013 is \$10,228K or 2.98% of sales compared with \$11,022K or 3.15% of sales in the previous-year's quarter. The 7.2% decline reflects the transition period during which acquisitions are being integrated and the challenging economic conditions in which the Company is operating.

The following factors explain this decrease in EBITDA:

- Loss of a major client in Ontario;
- Under-optimization of eastern Quebec operations;
- On-going integration of some acquisitions;
- A marked decrease in discretionary purchases due to a population that is increasingly in debt and job losses in Quebec ;
- Increased competition between corporations in the food distribution sector.

### *Measures announced and taken by the Company in 2013*

The Company's 2012 fourth quarter MD&A extensively described its 2012 measures and initiatives taken to reduce costs. These measures significantly decreased costs in 2013. However, the loss of a procurement contract of about \$85M in Ontario as of April 2013 has offset this increase with respect to EBITDA.

### *Continuation of the action plan in 2013 to reduce operating costs*

The Company is continuing to apply its action plan in 2013. Here are some actions it has taken:

#### **Integration of acquisitions:**

- Permanent closure of the Edmundston, New Brunswick distribution centre;
- Finalization of the recuperation of a large portion of G. Lauzon's customer base within the Viandes Décarie division;
- Transfer of meat-product purchasing from the Ontario Division and Eastern Quebec and New Brunswick to Lauzon.

#### **Cost reductions:**

- Repurposing of the Chicoutimi warehouse to optimize delivery logistics in that region;
- Review of operations of the Eastern Quebec and Maritimes Division, including equipment upgrades and warehouse logistics optimization.

#### **Revenue:**

- Launch of initiatives to stimulate organic growth and higher-margin sales;
- Continuation and completion of federal HACCP certification for the Norref distribution centre. Colabor expects to receive accreditation in the coming weeks which will open up more sales in Ontario;
- Review of supplier agreements and costs of goods.

In its fourth quarter MD&A, in relation to the measures taken in 2012, the Company assessed that its operating costs for the 2013 fiscal year will decrease by about \$3.5M, and it is on track to achieve this goal.

## Costs not relating to current operations

Note 6 to the financial statements provides a summary of costs not relating to current operations. This financial statement item in the statement of earnings includes aspects that are not recurrent with the Company's current operations. These costs include:

Accounting provision for retired warehouse leases	\$7,094,000
Severance pay and restructuring costs	\$1,029,000
Direct costs related to acquisitions	\$247,000
Dividends received from Colabor Investments Inc.	(\$2,342,000)

At the end of 2012, Colabor Investments sold a major asset and realized a major gain which was paid to its shareholders as dividends. The Colabor Group holds 18% of Colabor Investments' shares.

Impairment of the equity investment in Colabor Investments Inc.	\$2,342,000
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Considering that the investment in Colabor Investments is measured at fair value and that Colabor Investments has paid the gain realized on the sale of one of its assets as dividends, the Company recognized an impairment loss equivalent to the dividends received as this represents a permanent loss in value on this investment.

Total	<u>\$8,370,000</u>
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## Recovery of deferred taxes

The deferred tax recovery for the third quarter and current year results from the loss. The Company continues to use the method it has used since its conversion to a corporation in 2009.

With respect to the litigation with the Canada Revenue Agency concerning its use of the anti-avoidance law to refuse tax losses acquired during its conversion from an income trust to a corporation, the Company has sent its arguments to the Anti-avoidance Committee and is awaiting its decision.

## Earnings per share

In reviewing Colabor's financial statements, investors should consider that the statement of earnings includes significant depreciation and amortization expenses for property, plant and equipment and intangible assets resulting from Colabor's acquisitions in recent years, deferred tax expenses (described above) and a non-cash portion of the implicit interest on debentures included in finance costs. The depreciation, amortization and non-cash transactions have a major impact on the basic and diluted earnings per share calculation.

The following table indicates the cash flow per share and dividend ratio calculation for 2013 compared with the same periods of 2012. The table also shows the same calculation over a 365-day period. It is mainly this latter calculation that makes it possible for investors to analyze whether the Company's cash flows from current operations are sufficient and capable of supporting the dividend payment, since it is calculated on the basis of a complete period of activities, which eliminates seasonal variations. The first quarter is a perfect example.

**After-tax cash flows per share**

(unaudited, in thousands of dollars, except data per share)

	2013-09-07 (84 days)	2012-09-08 (84 days)	2013-09-07 (250 days)	2012-09-08 (252 days)	2013-09-07 (365 days)
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Cash flows from operating activities before income tax recovery (withholdings) and net change in working capital	8,848	9,949	20,664	26,063	29,336
Costs not relating to current operations impacting cash flows	1,029	1,102	1,276	1,355	6,560
Finance costs paid	(2,843)	(2,151)	(7,312)	(6,567)	(10,722)
Non-cash portion of effective interest on long-term debt and debentures included in finance costs	170	158	507	476	721
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment	(99)	(1,049)	(4,167)	(2,176)	(5,149)
Acquisition of intangible assets	(183)	(416)	(137)	(463)	(183)
	<u>7,105</u>	<u>7,593</u>	<u>10,831</u>	<u>18,688</u>	<u>20,563</u>
Weighted average number of shares outstanding	<u>27,062,315</u>	<u>23,088,315</u>	<u>26,076,763</u>	<u>23,075,153</u>	<u>25,987,961</u>
<b>After-tax cash flows per share</b>	<u><b>\$0.26</b></u>	<u><b>\$0.33</b></u>	<u><b>\$0.42</b></u>	<u><b>\$0.81</b></u>	<u><b>\$0.79</b></u>
Current period portion of annual dividend declared	<u>\$0.06</u>	<u>\$0.17</u>	<u>\$0.30</u>	<u>\$0.50</u>	<u>\$0.52</u>
<b>After-tax dividend payout ratio</b>	<u><b>21%</b></u>	<u><b>50%</b></u>	<u><b>72%</b></u>	<u><b>62%</b></u>	<u><b>65%</b></u>

Exceptionally, during the second quarter, items of property, plant and equipment were acquired for \$2.9M specifically to improve the Norref Division warehouse's working areas and make them compliant with HACCP standards. This improvement will clear the way for new contracts outside Quebec in addition to securing existing distribution contracts.

## 6.2 Financial Position

### Consolidated Statements of Financial Position

(in thousands of dollars)

	2013-09-07 (unaudited)	2012-09-08 (unaudited)	2012-12-31
	\$	\$	\$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current</b>			
Trade and other receivables	113,878	120,988	113,495
Recoverable tax assets	2,695	3,206	2,800
Inventory	81,515	78,752	85,167
Prepaid expenses	3,335	4,348	3,143
<i>Current assets</i>	<u>201,423</u>	<u>207,294</u>	<u>204,605</u>
<b>Non-current</b>			
Equity investment in Colabor Investments Inc.	4,831	11,290	9,932
Derivative financial instrument	374	21	
Property, plant and equipment	17,911	17,325	15,930
Intangible assets	134,306	147,719	142,358
Goodwill	115,065	115,065	115,065
<i>Non-current assets</i>	<u>272,487</u>	<u>291,420</u>	<u>283,285</u>
<b>Total assets</b>	<u><u>473,910</u></u>	<u><u>498,714</u></u>	<u><u>487,890</u></u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>			
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current</b>			
Bank overdraft	7,397	9,733	5,994
Trade and other payables	96,862	103,701	134,670
Dividends payable			4,161
Rebates payable	7,733	9,621	11,738
Balances of purchase price payable	12,316	11,877	10,735
Deferred revenue	1,352	1,720	477
Provisions	1,359		
<i>Current liabilities</i>	<u>127,019</u>	<u>136,652</u>	<u>167,775</u>
<b>Non-current</b>			
Bank borrowings	96,141	117,999	88,008
Derivative financial instrument			67
Balances of purchase price payable		404	404
Long-term debt	14,714	14,644	14,665
Convertible debentures	47,161	46,510	46,703
Pension obligation	1,176	2,173	2,399
Provisions	5,339		
Deferred income tax liabilities	6,517	9,325	8,412
<i>Non-current liabilities</i>	<u>171,048</u>	<u>191,055</u>	<u>160,658</u>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<u><u>298,067</u></u>	<u><u>327,707</u></u>	<u><u>328,433</u></u>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Share capital	208,634	179,652	179,652
Deficit	(32,233)	(11,203)	(21,639)
Other components of equity	(558)	2,558	1,444
<i>Total equity</i>	<u>175,843</u>	<u>171,007</u>	<u>159,457</u>
<b>Total liabilities and equity</b>	<u><u>473,910</u></u>	<u><u>498,714</u></u>	<u><u>487,890</u></u>

The main changes in the September 7, 2013 balance sheet, compared to the September 8, 2012 balance sheet, relate to the acquisition of assets and assumption of liabilities of Lauzon, acquired on March 4, 2013 and the issuance of shares, as described in Note 3 to the financial statements.

As at September 7, 2013, 27,089,321 common shares were issued and outstanding.

## 6.3 Cash Flows

### Consolidated Cash Flows

(unaudited, in thousands of dollars)

	2013-09-07 (84 days)	2012-09-08 (84 days)	2013-09-07 (250 days)	2012-09-08 (252 days)
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Operating activities</b>				
Earnings before income taxes	(5,186)	3,510	(6,494)	6,400
Write-off of property, plant and equipment following an internal restructuring of operations				253
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	1,142	935	3,257	2,883
Amortization of intangible assets	3,306	3,324	9,820	9,924
Change in provisions	6,698		6,698	
Finance costs	2,843	2,151	7,312	6,567
Stock-based compensation plan expenses	45	29	71	36
	<u>8,848</u>	<u>9,949</u>	<u>20,664</u>	<u>26,063</u>
Income tax recovery (withholdings)	269	1,225	105	(785)
Net changes in working capital	<u>(10,847)</u>	<u>(9,164)</u>	<u>(26,428)</u>	<u>(16,014)</u>
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>	<u>(1,730)</u>	<u>2,010</u>	<u>(5,659)</u>	<u>9,264</u>
<b>Investing activities</b>				
Business acquisitions, net of cash acquired			(10,000)	(6,069)
Dividends received from Colabor Investments Inc.			2,342	
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(99)	(1,049)	(4,167)	(2,176)
Purchase of intangible assets		(416)	(137)	(463)
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>	<u>(99)</u>	<u>(1,465)</u>	<u>(11,962)</u>	<u>(8,708)</u>
<b>Financing activities</b>				
Bank borrowings	10,695	9,252	8,010	21,882
Issuance of shares			28,627	
Dividends paid	(1,625)	(4,161)	(10,662)	(14,542)
Refund of advance received on dividends to be declared by Colabor Investments Inc.			(1,722)	
Payment of balance of purchase price	(949)	(1,250)	(1,353)	(1,337)
Finance costs paid	<u>(2,585)</u>	<u>(1,949)</u>	<u>(6,682)</u>	<u>(6,141)</u>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>	<u>5,536</u>	<u>1,892</u>	<u>16,218</u>	<u>(138)</u>
<b>Net change in bank overdraft</b>	3,707	2,437	(1,403)	418
Bank overdraft, beginning of period	<u>(11,104)</u>	<u>(12,170)</u>	<u>(5,994)</u>	<u>(10,151)</u>
<b>Bank overdraft, end of period</b>	<u>(7,397)</u>	<u>(9,733)</u>	<u>(7,397)</u>	<u>(9,733)</u>

### Credit Facilities

On September 30, 2013, the Company agreed with its lenders to amend certain terms of its credit facilities effective September 15, 2013. This agreement has the effect of eliminating the need to meet certain financial ratios, of authorizing available credit of \$130.0 million and of advancing the maturity date of the credit facilities to April 28, 2015.

Concurrently, the Company is examining opportunities to improve current financing flexibility and costs to better meet its needs. It is now considering the various alternatives and will put in place the ultimate solution during the coming quarter.

## Dividends

Dividends of \$4,161K and \$4,876K were paid on January 15, 2013 and April 15, 2013 based on a quarterly dividend of \$0.18 per share while a \$1,625K dividend was paid on August 15<sup>th</sup> on the basis of a \$0.06 per share quarterly dividend.

On June 17, 2013, the Company announced its decision to change its dividend policy in order to declare its dividends at the same time as the publication of its quarterly or annual financial results.

Accordingly, on October 10, 2013, the Company's Board of Directors declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.06 per common share payable on November 15<sup>th</sup> to shareholders of record as at October 31, 2013. On an annualized basis, this dividend represents approximately 28% of after-tax cash flows per share in the last 12 months.

## 7. Summary of Past Quarters

('000)	2013-09-07 <u>(84 days)</u>	2013-06-15 <u>(84 days)</u>	2013-03-23 <u>(82 days)</u>	2012-12-31 <u>(114 days)</u>	2012-08-09 <u>(84 days)</u>	2012-06-16 <u>(84 days)</u>	2012-03-24 <u>(84 days)</u>	2011-12-31 <u>(112 days)</u>
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Sales</b>	343,584	345,817	293,580	464,280	350,341	354,294	297,933	431,664
EBITDA	10,228	9,728	2,309	11,977	11,022	10,651	5,456	12,513
<b>Earnings</b>	(3,883)	2,390	(3,358)	(2,005)	3,047	2,903	(736)	2,002
Basic net earnings per share	\$(0.14)	\$0.09	\$(0.14)	\$(0.09)	\$0.13	\$0.13	\$(0.03)	\$0.09

## 8. Related Party Transactions

Following the initial public offering on June 28, 2005, the Fund had indirectly acquired a 53.2% interest in Colabor LP, with the remaining 46.8% interest in Colabor LP being held by Colabor Investments Inc. ("Investments") as exchangeable Colabor LP units.

Subsequent to the conversion to a corporation, the conversion of debentures and subsequent issuance of shares, Investments now holds an undiluted 18.8% in Colabor Group Inc.

However, following the acquisition of Bertrand, RTD and Edfrex, Colabor Group Inc. now holds 18.12% of Colabor Investments Inc., which has a 5,087,349 equity investment in Colabor Group Inc.

Related party transactions include the following:

- Rebates to affiliated and preferred wholesalers of Investments at the rate of 3% of their sales, as provided in the agreement in effect until 2015.
- The Company leased the building in which its head office and the Boucherville distribution centre are located from Investments. On October 17, 2012, Investments disposed of the building;

All of these transactions were concluded in the normal course of business and are measured at the exchange amount.

**Related party transactions**

(unaudited, in thousands of dollars)

	2013-09-07 (84 days)	2012-09-08 (84 days)	2013-09-07 (250 days)	2012-09-08 (252 days)
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Rebates	3,215	3,387	9,120	9,389
Rent		468		1,404

## 9. Off-balance Sheet Transactions

The Company does not have any off-balance sheet transaction obligations, other than about \$1,539,000 in bank letters of guarantee, of which the main one of \$1,014,000 supports one year of leasing of the Boucherville distribution centre.

## 10. Current Economic Situation, Development Strategies and Outlook

### Current Economic Situation

Colabor's activities are in Eastern Canada, principally in Quebec and Ontario. The economic situation in these regions has slowed down, particularly in Quebec, which is primarily due to fairly anaemic consumption, curbed by tax and tariff increases, household debt and of job losses in Québec. All of these aspects hinder discretionary household consumer spending.

Colabor has prepared its business plan, described below, and believes that the current situation could offer more business opportunities that it is prepared to analyse for their potential to provide added value for the shareholders.

### Development Strategies

The Company's management is firmly convinced that there are major channels which could be used to increase, when circumstances permits, its penetration of the food services market in Canada.

#### *Consolidation of food distribution services*

Food distribution services are still very fragmented in Eastern Canada, a situation that provides Colabor with opportunities to significantly increase its market share in regions where it is already present by undertaking highly synergetic acquisitions.

The Company could also acquire other affiliated-wholesalers' networks in Quebec and in the Atlantic Provinces. These acquisitions would make it possible to increase the density of its distribution network in Eastern Canada, thereby increasing operating profitability.

### *Affiliated-wholesalers network in Quebec and the Atlantic Provinces*

Despite the economic slowdown, the loyal, entrepreneurial, customer-service-driven independent affiliated-wholesalers continue to perform well in their respective regions.

### *Related sectors*

The Company's mission is to provide its customers with one-stop shopping in the food distribution services market.

In the future, the Company could add a fruit and vegetables, packaged goods, natural and organic products and ethnic products distribution network, as was the case in 2011 with the acquisition of Pêcheries Norref and more recently with the acquisition of the assets of Viandes Décarie and T. Lauzon Ltd.

### *Geographic expansion*

At this time, the Company is not present in Western Canada. Since this region was experiencing the fastest economic growth in the country in recent years, there is no doubt that expansion into this region could be beneficial.

## **Outlook**

Despite the economic downturn, in light of the Company's small market share in certain major regions in Canada, such as Toronto and Montréal, these acquisition opportunities would make it possible for the Company to significantly increase its sales, purchasing power and ability to generate cost savings in order to increase its net income.

## **11. Risks and Uncertainties**

The Company's activities are subject to numerous risks and uncertainties that are described in detail in its Annual Information Form. In addition to those risks, the Company wishes to emphasize the industry-related risks that could impact profitability and return on investments and that are beyond management's control.

### **Industry-related risks that could impact profitability and that are not fully under management's control:**

- *Dependence on affiliated-wholesalers*

Sales generated by affiliated-wholesalers account for a significant portion (about 25%) of the Company's sales. The loss of a significant number of these wholesalers could have a negative impact on Colabor's earnings.

This risk has been mitigated by the execution of agreements to amend the affiliate agreements to provide for an initial ten-year period, renewal provisions for two additional terms of five years and also provide for the granting of a right of first refusal by the affiliated-wholesalers to Colabor LP on their businesses. However, there is no assurance that Colabor LP would be able to finance the exercise of such right of first refusal. Moreover, incentives are built in the contractual relationships existing between the affiliated-wholesalers, Colabor LP and Colabor Investments Inc. to encourage the affiliated-wholesalers to increase their purchases from Colabor.

- *Absence of long-term agreements between affiliated-wholesalers and their customers*

In accordance with general industry practice, affiliated-wholesalers do not normally enter into long-term agreements with their customers. As a result, customers may, without notice or penalty, terminate their relationship with the affiliated-wholesalers. In addition, even if customers should decide to continue their relationship with the affiliated-wholesalers, there is no guarantee they will purchase the same volume of products as in the past or that they will pay the same price for those products as they have in the past. Any loss of customers by the affiliated-wholesalers, or decrease in the volume purchased or the price paid by them for products, could affect the Company's sales and have an adverse effect on its financial condition and results of operations. In the past, affiliated-wholesalers, relying on their knowledge of their respective markets, have been able to differentiate themselves from their competitors by providing personalized services to their customers, in particular flexible delivery schedules and a product line tailored to their customers' needs.

- *Customer choices*

Colabor's success also depends on the continuing interests of customers in its products. A change in customer choices could affect demand for Colabor's products.

- *Client indebtedness*

A challenging economic situation could limit client credit for purchases and discretionary products, which could lead to a decrease in sales in the food services distribution sector.

- *Dependence on Cara and other chains*

Subsequent to the Summit acquisition, sales to Cara (including franchisees of Cara) represented a significant portion of the Company's sales. The loss of Cara as a customer, a decrease in purchases by Cara or a decrease in Cara's market share in the foodservice industry could have a material and adverse effect on the Company's financial condition, operating results and liquidity. This risk has been mitigated by the execution of a ten-year distribution agreement, with a five-year renewal option with Cara.

- *Product recall*

Colabor could have to deal with product recalls due to sanitation issues encountered by certain manufacturers. Such recalls can trigger a decrease in sales of certain types of products for a period of time and cause a slump in sales figures. At this time, Colabor has the necessary mechanisms in place to quickly trace contaminated products, return them to the manufacturer and recover the cost of the contaminated products from these manufacturers.

- *Intensification of the competition in an economically challenging situation*

To retain their market share, competitors have the tendency to lower their profit margins.

## **Return on investment**

The return on an investment in Colabor Group Inc. is not comparable to the return on an investment in a fixed-income security. The return is based on many assumptions. Although the Company intends to pay quarterly dividends, such dividends may be reduced or suspended. The dividends paid will depend on numerous factors, in particular, the inherent industry risks described above and other risks described in the Company's Annual Information Form. Additionally, the market value of the shares could decline significantly if the Company is unable to respect its dividend payment objectives.

## **Climate change**

Colabor has very little world climate change risk exposure. However, the daily temperature affects the Company's quarterly economic performance.

## **12. Significant Accounting Estimates**

Some of the amounts in the financial statements are based on estimates made by management using its knowledge of current or anticipated events and actual economic conditions. Significant estimates relate exclusively to the allowance for excess or obsolete inventory, accounting for rebates from suppliers, goodwill and intangible assets.

### *Allowance for excess or obsolete inventory*

Inventory is valued at the lower of net realizable value or cost calculated using the first-in first-out method. The Company records an allowance for obsolescence that is calculated on the basis of assumptions relating to future demand for its products and conditions in the markets in which its products are sold. The allowance, which reduces inventory to the net realizable value, is then applied against inventory in the statement of financial position. Management has to make estimates and exercise judgement when determining these allowances. If actual market conditions are less favourable than management's assumptions, additional allowances may be required.

- *Accounting for rebates from suppliers*

Colabor negotiates procurement contracts with its suppliers providing for the payment of rebates based on volumes purchased. The procurement contracts with suppliers are reviewed periodically and rebates adjusted according to prevailing market conditions.

- *Goodwill and intangible assets*

Goodwill is the excess of the cost of an acquired enterprise over the net of the amounts assigned to assets acquired and liabilities assumed. Goodwill is not amortized. Each year, or more often if events or changes in circumstances indicate a decrease in fair value, it is tested for impairment. This impairment test consists of a comparison of the fair value of the Company's business with its carrying amount. If the carrying amount of the business exceeds its fair value, the Company compares the fair value of any goodwill relating to the business to its carrying amount. An impairment loss equal to the amount of the excess is charged to earnings. The fair value of the business is calculated using discounted cash flows.

Intangible assets include customer relationships and trademarks among others. Customer relationships are amortized on the straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives of

20 years for relationships with affiliated-wholesalers, 15 years for customer relationships with Cara and 2 to 10 years for relationships with other customers. Trademarks are not amortized.

### **13. Disclosure Controls and Procedures and Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

As indicated in the December 31, 2012 MD&A, available on SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com), management has designed and assessed disclosure controls and procedures (DC&P) and internal controls over financial reporting (ICFR) to provide reasonable assurance that the financial information presented by the Company is reliable and that its financial statements are prepared in accordance with IFRS. The President and CEO and the Vice-President and CFO assessed, in accordance with Regulation 52-109 respecting Certification of Disclosure in Issuers' Annual and Interim Filings, the design and operation of ICFR and DC&P as at December 31, 2012 and, on the basis of this assessment, they have concluded that the design and operation of ICFR and DC&P are efficient.

With respect to the acquisition of Lauzon (March 4, 2013), the Company has taken advantage of the provision NI 52-109 3.3(1)(b) to exclude the assessment of the design of DC&P for a maximum of 365 days.

Except with respect to this acquisition, the President and CEO and the Vice-President and CFO have concluded that no changes to internal controls over financial reporting affected materially, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, internal controls over financial reporting for the first quarter ended on September 7, 2013.

Here is the financial information related to this acquisition for the third quarter ended September 7, 2013.

Sales:	\$23.0M
Operating earnings before depreciation and amortization:	\$0.2M
Current assets:	\$8.5M
Non-current assets:	\$1.1M
Current liabilities:	\$2.8M
Non-current liabilities:	\$0.1M