

# ANDREW PELLER

— LIMITED —

## MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION & ANALYSIS For the three months and year ended March 31, 2022

The following management's discussion and analysis ("MD&A") provides a review of corporate developments, results of operations, and financial position for the three months and year ended March 31, 2022, in comparison with those for the three months and year ended March 31, 2021, for Andrew Peller Limited (the "Company" or "APL"). This discussion is prepared as of June 15, 2022 and should be read in conjunction with the audited consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes contained therein for the years ended March 31, 2022 and 2021. Additional information relating to the Company, including the audited annual consolidated financial statements and Annual Information Form for the years ended March 31, 2022, and March 31, 2021, is available on [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com). The financial years ending March 31, 2023, March 31, 2022, and March 31, 2021 are referred to as "fiscal 2023", "fiscal 2022" and "fiscal 2021" respectively. All dollar amounts are expressed in Canadian dollars unless otherwise indicated.

### FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION

Certain statements in this MD&A may contain "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of applicable securities laws including the "safe harbour provisions" of the Securities Act (Ontario) with respect to APL and its subsidiaries. Such statements include, but are not limited to, statements about the growth of the business; its launch of new premium wines and craft beverage alcohol products; sales trends in foreign markets; its supply of domestically grown grapes; and current economic conditions. These statements are subject to certain risks, assumptions, and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those included in the forward-looking statements. The words "believe", "plan", "intend", "estimate", "expect", or "anticipate", and similar expressions, as well as future or conditional verbs such as "will", "should", "would", "could", and similar verbs often identify forward-looking statements. We have based these forward-looking statements on our current views with respect to future events and financial performance. With respect to forward-looking statements contained in this MD&A, the Company has made assumptions and applied certain factors regarding, among other things: future grape, glass bottle, and wine and spirit prices; its ability to obtain grapes, imported wine, glass, and other raw materials; fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates; its ability to market products successfully to its anticipated customers; the trade balance within the domestic Canadian and international wine markets; market trends; reliance on key personnel; protection of its intellectual property rights; the economic environment; the regulatory requirements regarding producing, marketing, advertising, and labelling of its products; the regulation of liquor distribution and retailing in Ontario; the application of federal and provincial environmental laws; and the impact of increasing competition.

These forward-looking statements are also subject to the risks and uncertainties discussed in the "Risks and Uncertainties" section and elsewhere in this MD&A and other risks detailed from time to time in the publicly filed disclosure documents of the Company which are available at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com). Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and involve risks, uncertainties, and assumptions which could cause actual results to differ materially from the conclusions, forecasts, or projections anticipated in these forward-looking statements. Because of these risks, uncertainties, and assumptions, you should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. The Company's forward-looking statements are made only as of the date of this MD&A, and except as required by applicable law, Andrew Peller Limited undertakes no obligation to update or revise these forward-looking statements to reflect new information, future events, or circumstances.

### Overview

The Company is a leading producer and marketer of quality wines and craft beverage alcohol products in Canada. With wineries in British Columbia, Ontario, and Nova Scotia, the Company markets wines produced from grapes grown in Ontario's Niagara Peninsula, British Columbia's Okanagan and Similkameen Valleys, and from vineyards around the world. The Company's award-winning premium and ultra-premium Vintners' Quality Alliance ("VQA") brands include *Peller Estates*, *Trius*, *Thirty Bench*, *Wayne Gretzky*, *Sandhill*, *Red Rooster*, *Black Hills Estate Winery*, *Tinhorn Creek Vineyards*, *Gray Monk Estate Winery*, *Raven Conspiracy* and *Conviction*. Complementing these premium brands are a number of popularly priced varietal brands including *Peller Family Vineyards*, *Copper Moon*, *Black Cellar* and *XOXO*. *Hochtaler*, *Domaine D'Or*, *Schloss Laderheim*, *Royal*, and *Sommet* are the Company's key value priced brands. The

Company imports wines from major wine regions around the world to blend with domestic wine to craft these quality and value priced brands. The Company also produces craft beverage alcohol products, including *No Boats on Sunday* ciders and seltzers, and various beer, spirits and cream whisky products under the *Wayne Gretzky No. 99* brand. With a focus on serving the needs of all wine consumers, the Company produces and markets premium personal winemaking products through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Global Vintners Inc. (“GVI”), the recognized leader in personal winemaking products. GVI distributes products through over 200 authorized retailers and more than 400 independent retailers across Canada, with additional distributors in the United States, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Australia, and China. GVI’s award-winning premium and ultra-premium winemaking brands include *Winexpert*, *Vine Co.*, *Apres*, *LE*, *Passport Series*, *On the House*, *Wild Grapes*, *DIY My Wine Co.*, *Island Mist* and *Niagara Mist*. The Company owns and operates 101 well-positioned independent retail locations in Ontario under The Wine Shop, Wine Country Vintners, and Wine Country Merchants store names. The Company also operates Andrew Peller Import Agency and The Small Winemaker’s Collection Inc., importers and marketing agents for premium wines from around the world.

The Company’s vision is to *Pour Extraordinary into Everyday Life*. The Company believes it achieves this objective by delivering to its customers and consumers the highest quality branded wines, spirits, refreshments, beer and experiences at the best possible value. To meet this goal, the Company invests in improvements in the quality of grapes, wines, and other raw materials, its winemaking and distillation capabilities, sales and marketing initiatives, tourism and hospitality experiences, and its quality management programs.

The Company is focused on initiatives to reduce costs and enhance its production efficiencies through a continual review of its operations and cost structure with a view to enhancing profitability. The Company continues to expand and strengthen its distribution to all customers and consumers through its extensive distribution network, which is supported by enhanced sales, marketing, and promotional programs. From time to time the Company also evaluates the potential for acquisitions and partnerships, both in Canada and internationally, to further complement its product portfolio and market presence.

#### **Recent Events**

On June 15, 2022, the Company’s Board of Directors approved a common share dividend with no increase from fiscal 2022. The annual dividend on Class A Shares is \$0.246 per share and the dividend on Class B Shares is \$0.214. The Company has consistently paid common share dividends since 1979. APL currently designates all dividends paid as “eligible dividends” for purposes of the Income Tax Act (Canada) unless indicated otherwise.

On June 8, 2022, the Company announced the appointment of Paul Dubkowski as Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice-President of Information Services effective July 11, 2022. Steve Attridge, current CFO and EVP, IT, will remain with the Company to transition with Paul and continue to lead the Company’s digital and business process transformation.

On September 28, 2021, the Company completed the sale of its Port Coquitlam, British Columbia property and related assets for total proceeds of approximately \$8.8 million, net of transaction costs, and generated a realized gain on sale of \$7.5 million or \$0.21 per Class A share.

On March 4, 2021, the Company announced its notice of intention to make a normal course issuer bid had been approved by the Toronto Stock Exchange. Under the issuer bid the Company can purchase for cancellation up to 1,773,896 of its outstanding Class A non-voting shares, representing 5% of the Class A shares outstanding at the time, during the 12-month period from March 8, 2021 to March 7, 2022. As of March 7, 2022, the Company had purchased 598,600 Class A non-voting common shares, at a weighted average price of \$8.70 per Class A non-voting common share, for a total cash consideration of \$5.2 million.

## Results of Operations

For the years ended March 31, (in \$000, except per share amounts)	2022	2021	2020
Sales	\$ 373,944	\$ 393,036	\$ 382,306
Gross margin <sup>(1)</sup>	138,992	156,518	166,250
Gross margin (% of sales)	37.2%	39.8%	43.5%
Selling and administrative expenses	99,804	93,472	104,749
EBITA <sup>(1)</sup>	39,188	63,046	61,501
Interest	9,337	8,108	8,107
Net unrealized (gain) loss on derivative financial instruments	(2,269)	(135)	1,406
Gain on sale of assets held for sale	(7,518)	-	-
Gain on debt modification and financing fees	-	(2,312)	-
Other expenses	1,210	1,770	1,769
Adjusted earnings <sup>(1)</sup>	5,143	26,986	27,575
Net earnings	12,468	27,786	23,494
Earnings per share – basic and diluted - Class A	\$0.29	\$0.65	\$0.55
Earnings per share – basic and diluted - Class B	\$0.26	\$0.57	\$0.48
Dividend per share – Class A (annual)	\$0.246	\$0.218	\$ 0.215
Dividend per share – Class B (annual)	\$0.214	\$0.190	\$ 0.187

<sup>(1)</sup> See “Non-IFRS Measures” section of this MD&A

Sales for the year ended March 31, 2022 were \$374.0 million, down 4.9% from the prior year. When the pandemic was announced in March 2020 the Company saw an increase in sales in fiscal 2021 as a result of changes in consumer purchasing patterns and uncertainty around trade channels for alcoholic beverages remaining open. Additionally, provincial liquor stores in Ontario were closed on Mondays for the majority of fiscal 2021, resulting in an increase in sales at the Company’s retail locations. As pandemic restrictions ease, sales in these channels have normalized when compared to prior year. Government-mandated closures of restaurants and hospitality businesses were lifted in June 2021, however restrictions on capacity remained in place throughout fiscal 2022. As a result, the recovery in the restaurant and hospitality industries lagged during the first half of fiscal 2022 when compared to the retail industry. Sales in restaurants, estate wineries and hospitality locations have begun to increase as the pandemic eases and consumers return to pre-pandemic activities, and management expects this to continue.

The Company defines gross margin (see “Non-IFRS Measures” section of this MD&A) as gross profit excluding amortization. Gross margin as a percentage of sales was 37.2% for the year ended March 31, 2022 compared to 39.8% in the prior year. Gross margin has declined throughout fiscal 2022 due to higher imported wine and raw material costs and increased co-packing costs related to the Company’s refreshment beverage categories. The cost of raw materials such as import wine, glass bottles and other packaging materials have increased due to inflationary pressures. Gross margin is also being suppressed due to an increase in global supply chain costs such as international freight and associated shipping charges.

Selling and administrative expenses increased in fiscal 2022 as the Company increased staffing and marketing expenses in preparation for more normal markets returning as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic eases. During the first six months of fiscal 2021, the Company laid off a significant part of its workforce due to government-mandated closures and reduced advertising and promotional spending to conserve cash in response to the pandemic. In addition, certain start-up costs were incurred in fiscal 2022 related to the acquisition of the Riverbend Inn and Vineyard, which opened on June 19, 2021. As a percentage of sales, selling and administrative expenses were 26.7% in fiscal 2022 compared to 23.8% in the prior year. As activity in the hospitality, licensee and export channels increases, the Company expects selling and administrative expenses will trend to pre-pandemic levels as a percentage of sales.

Earnings before interest, amortization, gain on sale of assets held for sale, net unrealized gains and losses on derivative financial instruments, other (income) expenses, gain on debt modification net of financing fees, and income taxes (“EBITA”) (see “Non-IFRS Measures” section of this MD&A) were \$39.2 million for the year ended March 31, 2022 compared to \$63.0 million in the prior year. The decline in EBITA in fiscal 2022 is due to lower sales, higher cost of goods sold and higher selling and administrative expenses compared to the prior year.

Interest expense in fiscal 2022 increased compared to the prior year due higher debt levels resulting primarily from capital investments in the Company’s operations and properties and higher overall interest rates.

The Company recorded a net unrealized non-cash gain in fiscal 2022 of \$2.3 million related to mark-to-market adjustments on interest rate swaps and foreign exchange contracts compared to an unrealized gain of \$0.1 million in the prior year. The change is largely due to a gain on the interest rate swap as Canadian interest rates increase. The Company has elected not to apply hedge accounting and accordingly the change in fair value of these financial instruments is reflected in the Company’s consolidated statement of earnings each reporting period. These instruments are considered to be effective economic hedges and are expected to mitigate the short-term volatility of changing foreign exchange and interest rates.

On September 28, 2021 the Company recorded a realized gain of \$7.5 million on the sale of its Port Coquitlam, British Columbia property and related assets.

The Company amended and restated its debt facilities on December 8, 2020. Management assessed the amendments and determined that these amendments constituted a modification of long-term debt resulting in a gain on modification of \$2.9 million for the year ended March 31, 2021, offset by financing costs of \$0.6 million.

Net earnings for the year ended March 31, 2022 were \$12.5 million or \$0.29 per Class A Share compared to \$27.8 million or \$0.65 per Class A Share in the prior year.

## Quarterly Performance

The following table outlines key quarterly highlights.

(in \$000, except per share amounts)	Q4 22	Q3 22	Q2 22	Q1 22	Q4 21	Q3 21	Q2 21	Q1 21
Sales	78,838	103,485	99,224	92,397	79,126	111,060	104,410	98,440
Gross margin <sup>(1)</sup>	23,029	36,294	42,408	37,261	28,089	41,537	44,165	42,727
Gross margin (% of sales)	29.2%	35.1%	42.7%	40.3%	35.5%	37.4%	42.3%	43.4%
EBITA <sup>(1)</sup>	(630)	12,084	15,821	11,913	1,815	16,223	22,438	22,570
Interest	2,162	2,424	2,478	2,273	2,619	1,637	1,813	2,039
Gain on debt modification and financing fees	-	-	-	-	-	(2,312)	-	-
Net unrealized (gain) loss on financial instruments	(485)	(359)	(1,037)	(388)	(495)	170	(540)	730
Gain on sale of assets held for sale	-	-	(7,518)	-	-	-	-	-
Other expenses (income)	946	(103)	26	341	742	148	195	685
Adjusted earnings (loss) <sup>(1)</sup>	(6,678)	2,765	5,801	3,255	(6,145)	8,159	12,419	12,553
Net earnings (loss)	(7,019)	3,107	13,090	3,290	(6,328)	10,236	12,674	11,204
E.P.S. – Class A basic	\$(0.17)	\$0.07	\$0.31	\$0.08	\$(0.15)	\$0.24	\$0.30	\$0.26
E.P.S. – Class B basic	\$(0.14)	\$0.06	\$0.27	\$0.07	\$(0.13)	\$0.21	\$0.26	\$0.23

<sup>(1)</sup> See “Non-IFRS Measures” section of this MD&A

The second and third quarters of the Company’s fiscal year are historically the largest due to increased activity at the Company’s estate properties and increased consumer purchasing of the Company’s products during the holiday season.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic has, and may continue to cause fluctuations in the Company's results and consequently, quarterly results may not follow historical trends.

Sales for the three months ended March 31, 2022 were consistent with the prior year's fourth quarter. The recovery in restaurant, estate winery and hospitality sales has offset the normalization of retail sales. Gross margin (see "Non-IFRS Measures" section of this MD&A) was 29.2% in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2022, compared to 35.5% for the fourth quarter of fiscal 2021 as raw material and supply chain costs have increased significantly when compared to prior year as described above. Selling and administrative expenses decreased as a percentage of sales for the three months ended March 31, 2022 compared to the prior year's fourth quarter as activity in the restaurant and hospitality channels has increased as the pandemic eases. The Company incurred a net loss for the three months ended March 31, 2022 of \$7.0 million or a loss of \$0.17 per Class A Share compared to a net loss of \$6.3 million or \$0.15 per Class A Share in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2021. The Company incurred an adjusted loss (see "Non-IFRS Measures" section of this MD&A) of \$6.7 million for the three months ended March 31, 2022 compared to an adjusted loss of \$6.1 million in the prior year.

### Liquidity and Capital Resources

As at (in \$000)	March 31, 2022	March 31, 2021	March 31, 2020
Current assets	\$ 236,213	\$ 225,302	\$ 214,114
Property, plant, and equipment	209,015	206,920	203,549
Right-of-use assets	15,215	17,011	17,551
Intangible assets	43,990	39,650	25,067
Goodwill	53,638	53,638	53,638
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 558,071</b>	<b>\$ 542,521</b>	<b>\$ 513,919</b>
Current liabilities	\$ 54,381	\$ 54,618	\$ 130,460
Long-term debt	192,065	174,544	95,515
Long-term derivative financial instruments	-	717	1,932
Lease obligations	12,193	13,987	14,802
Post-employment benefit obligations	1,605	3,316	3,649
Deferred income taxes	32,426	29,765	22,038
Shareholders' equity	265,401	265,574	245,523
<b>Total liabilities and shareholders' equity</b>	<b>\$ 558,071</b>	<b>\$ 542,521</b>	<b>\$ 513,919</b>

The change in current assets as at March 31, 2022 compared to March 31, 2021 reflects a decrease in accounts receivable due offset by higher levels of inventory due to lower sales in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2022 compared to fiscal 2021. Inventory is dependent on domestically grown grapes that are used in the sale of premium and ultra-premium wines that are held for a longer period than imported wine. These wines are typically aged for one to three years before they are sold. The cost of producing wine from domestically grown grapes is also significantly higher than wine purchased on international markets.

Accounts receivable are predominantly with provincial liquor boards and, to a lesser extent, licensed establishments and independent retailers of personal winemaking products. The Company had \$15.3 million of accounts receivable with provincial liquor boards at March 31, 2022, all of which is expected to be collectible. The balance represents amounts due from licensees, export customers, and independent retailers of personal winemaking products. The amount of accounts receivable that was 30 days past due was \$1.4 million at March 31, 2022. Against these amounts an expected credit loss of \$0.3 million has been provided which the Company has determined based on a reasonable estimate of lifetime expected credit losses for trade receivable.

Property, plant and equipment at March 31, 2022 increased by \$2.1 million compared to March 31, 2021. This is due to \$15.6 million of additions in the Company's properties and operations, offset by \$13.5 million in depreciation. Intangible assets at March 31, 2022 increased by \$4.3 million, attributed to \$7.8 million of software additions, offset by \$3.5 million of amortization.

Right-of-use assets decreased from \$17.0 million as at March 31, 2021 to \$15.2 million as at March 31, 2022. The decrease of \$1.8 million was primarily due to lease additions and modifications of \$2.6 million, offset by depreciation of \$4.4 million.

Current liabilities were \$54.4 million as at March 31, 2022, consistent with March 31, 2021. Accounts payable and accrued liabilities increased by \$0.9 million due to the timing of payments at year-end. This increase was offset by a decrease of \$1.6 million in derivative financial instruments as a result of fair value changes.

Long-term debt increased to \$192.1 million at March 31, 2022 from \$174.5 million at March 31, 2021, due to a reduction in cash from operations and increased investment in the Company's properties and operations. The Company's debt to equity ratio was 0.72:1 at March 31, 2022 compared to 0.66:1 at March 31, 2021. At March 31, 2022, the Company had unutilized debt capacity in the amount of \$157.6 million on its credit facility.

On November 10, 2021, the Company amended and restated its debt facility to revise its interest charge coverage ratio financial covenant for the three-month period ended December 31, 2021. On December 22, 2021, the Company obtained a waiver from its lenders in connection with the financial covenants of its credit agreement for the fiscal quarter ended December 31, 2021. Furthermore, on February 9, 2022, the Company amended its credit agreement to amend financial covenants for reporting periods from March 31, 2022 to the end of the term of the credit facility. The financial covenants for the reporting periods from June 30, 2022 to the end of the term of the credit facility were further amended on June 15, 2022. This amendment also contains post-closing covenants which require the Company to provide additional first ranking security in favour of the lenders on real property with a certain fair market value by a specified date.

Management expects to generate sufficient cash flow from operations to meet its debt servicing and working capital requirements over the short-term through strong management of working capital and prioritization of capital expenditures. The Company regularly reviews all of its assets to ensure appropriate returns on investment are being achieved and that they fit with the Company's long-term strategic objectives.

For the year ended March 31, 2022, the Company generated cash from operating activities, after changes in non-cash working capital items, of \$15.6 million compared to \$41.1 million in the prior year. The reduction in cash provided by operating activities is primarily due to impact of COVID-19 on the operations of the Company during 2021 compared to 2022, compounded by higher raw materials costs and global supply chain costs due to inflationary pressures.

Cash used in investing activities decreased by \$22.4 million. This is primarily due to the sale of the Port Coquitlam property resulting in net proceeds of \$8.8 million, as well as a reduction in additions for both property, plant and equipment and intangible assets.

Financing activities for the year ended March 31, 2022 include the payment of dividends, principal repayment of lease obligations and the purchase of Class A shares under the Company's approved issuer bid.

Working capital at March 31, 2022 was \$181.8 million compared to \$170.7 million at March 31, 2021. Shareholders' equity at March 31, 2022 was \$265.4 million or \$6.15 per common share compared to \$265.6 million or \$6.08 per common share at March 31, 2021.

The following table outlines the Company's contractual obligations as at March 31, 2022:

(in \$000)	< 1 Year	2 - 3 Years	4 - 5 Years	> 5 Years	Total
Long-term debt	-	192,132	-	-	192,132
Leases and royalties	6,027	8,451	5,074	18,960	38,512
Service agreements	2,293	2,281	260	-	4,834
Grape, bulk wine and whisky purchase contracts	101,407	95,824	63,745	76,456	337,432
Packaging purchase contracts	41,094	15,485	-	-	56,579
	150,821	314,173	69,079	95,416	629,489
Interest rate swap	904	-	-	-	904
Foreign exchange forwards	22,948	-	-	-	22,948
Total contractual obligations	174,673	314,173	69,079	95,416	653,341

The Company's obligations under its interest rate swaps and foreign exchange forward contracts are stated above on a gross basis rather than net of the corresponding contractual benefits.

### Common Shares Outstanding

The Company is authorized to issue an unlimited number of Class A and Class B Shares. Class A Shares are non-voting and are entitled to a dividend in an amount equal to 115% of any dividend paid or declared on Class B Shares. Class B Shares are voting and convertible into Class A Shares on a one-for-one basis.

Shares outstanding	March 31, 2022	March 31, 2021	March 31, 2020
Class A Shares	34,978,011	35,525,639	35,403,767
Class B Shares	8,144,183	8,144,183	8,191,883
Total	43,122,194	43,669,822	43,595,650

On March 4, 2021 the Company announced its notice of intention to make a normal course issuer bid had been approved by the Toronto Stock Exchange. Under the bid the Company can purchase for cancellation up to 1,773,896 of its outstanding Class A non-voting shares, representing 5% of the Class A shares outstanding, during the 12-month period from March 8, 2021 to March 7, 2022. As of March 7, 2022, the Company had purchased 598,600 Class A shares at a weighted average price of \$8.70 per share for a total of \$5.2 million.

### Strategic Outlook and Direction

Andrew Peller Limited is committed to a strategy of growth that focuses on the expansion of its core business as a producer and marketer of quality wines and wine related products through concentrating on and developing leading brands that meet the needs of consumers and customers. Over the long term the Company believes higher-priced premium wine and spirits sales will continue to grow in Canada, generating higher margins and increased profitability compared to its lower-priced products. The Company has also entered the spirits and craft beer categories, through its strategic alliance with Wayne Gretzky, and has introduced ciders and seltzers through its own brand labels.

The Company has focused its product development and sales and marketing initiatives by capitalizing on alcohol consumption trends and expects to see continuing sales growth as markets continue to normalize after COVID-19. The Company will continue to closely monitor its costs and will react to changes to risks and opportunities in the marketplace.

The Company will continue to expand product offerings outside the traditional table wine segment into other alcoholic beverages where it is able to leverage its detailed knowledge of growth opportunities and operational advantages in the Canadian market. The Company will also make packaging design changes that are more appealing to its target markets and are consistent with its initiative to be more environmentally friendly. Increased focus will be made on coordination between the Company's business-to-consumer trade channels to provide customers with a more intimate awareness of its broad product portfolio. New product launches and key brands through all of the Company's distribution channels will continue to receive increased marketing and sales support.

From time to time the Company evaluates investment opportunities, including acquisitions, which support its strategic direction.

The Company believes that sales will grow over the long term due to strong positioning of key brands, the continued launch of new and innovative products in both its core wine business and in new product categories, as well as overall growth in the Canadian beverage alcohol market. The Company expects to continue to invest in capital expenditures to improve efficiencies, increase capacity, support its ongoing commitment to producing the highest-quality wines and spirits, and improve productivity.

### **Risks and Uncertainties**

The Company's sales of wine and craft beverage alcohol products are affected by general economic conditions and social trends such as changes in discretionary consumer spending and consumer confidence, future economic conditions, changes to inter-provincial trade laws, tax laws, the prices of its products and health trends. For the year ended March 31, 2022, the COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact consumer purchasing patterns resulting in fluctuations in the Company's results, however, the Company continues to generate operating cash flows to meet short-term working capital needs. The Company is also experiencing uncertainty with respect to raw materials and import wine costs due to inflation, and component shortages because of the global supply chain crisis. The impact on the financial results of the Company will depend on management's ability to successfully mitigate against these risks. In the first quarter of fiscal 2023, the Company has implemented price increases that are expected to partially offset inflationary pressures on margin and is also exploring opportunities to implement further increases should inflation continue to rise. The Company is also executing cost savings initiatives to mitigate against increasing supply chain costs and supply constraints through alternative sourcing arrangements for components and the negotiation of lower outbound freight costs.

The Government of Ontario has announced its intention to modernize the rules for selling beverage alcohol in Ontario by expanding retail distribution in the province. This could represent a significant change to the retail landscape in Ontario with the goal of providing more convenience and choice to consumers. While there has not been a proposal by the Government of Ontario regarding implementation, the Company is working closely with its industry partners to mitigate the risks that this transition may have on its financial results.

The Canadian wine market continues to be the target of low-priced imported wines from regions and countries that subsidize wine production and grape growing as well as providing sizeable export incentives on subsidies. Many of these countries and regions prohibit or restrict the sale of imported wine in their own domestic markets. The Company, along with other members of the Canadian wine industry, are working with the Canadian government to improve support for the domestic industry.

The Company operates in a highly competitive industry and the dollar amount and unit volume of sales could be negatively impacted by its inability to maintain or increase prices, changes in geographic or product mix, a general decline in beverage alcohol consumption, or the decision of retailers or consumers to purchase competitor's products. Retailer and consumer purchasing decisions are influenced by, among other things, the perceived absolute or relative overall value of the Company's products including their quality or pricing compared to competitive products. Unit volume and dollar sales could also be affected by purchasing, financing, operational, advertising, or promotional decisions made by provincial agencies and retailers which could affect supply of or consumer demand for the Company's products. APL could also experience higher than expected selling and administrative expenses if it finds it necessary to increase the number of its personnel, advertising, or promotional expenditures to maintain its competitive position.

APL expects to increase sales in Canada principally through the sale of VQA wines, and as a result, is dependent on the quality and supply of domestically grown premium quality grapes. If any of the Company's vineyards or the vineyards of our grape suppliers experience adverse weather variations, natural disasters, pestilence, other severe environmental problems, or other occurrences, APL may not be able to secure a sufficient supply of grapes, a situation which could result in a decrease in production of certain products from those regions and/or result in an increase in costs. The inability to secure premium quality grapes could impair the ability of the Company to supply certain wines to its customers. When environmental risks such as wildfires occur, the Company's viticultural teams have internal processes to ensure the Company's vineyards are protected. This may include the use of technology and fire suppression

activities. The Company's winemaking teams are also able to monitor the quality of the grapes and use enhanced processing technology to minimize the risk of smoke taint. APL has also developed programs to maintain access to a consistent supply of premium quality grapes and wine. The price of grapes is determined through negotiations with the Ontario Grape Growers Marketing Board in Ontario and with independent growers in British Columbia.

Foreign exchange risk exists on the purchases of bulk wine and concentrate that are primarily made in United States dollars, Euros, and Australian dollars. Fluctuating foreign currencies may have a positive or negative impact on gross margins (see "Non-IFRS Measures" section of this MD&A), however, the Company believes the impact on gross margin will be largely offset by its continued ability to leverage scale and successful cost control initiatives to reduce other cost of goods sold. The Company's strategy is to hedge approximately 50% - 80% of its foreign exchange requirements throughout the fiscal year and to regularly review its on-going requirements. The Company does not enter into foreign exchange contracts for trading or speculative purposes and contracts are reviewed periodically. As at March 31, 2022, the Company has forward foreign currency contracts to buy \$15.0 million US at rates averaging \$1.26, EUR1.4 million at rates averaging \$1.41 and \$2.4 million AUD at a rate of \$0.91. These contracts mature at various dates to September 2022. Based on the Company's forecasts for foreign currency purchases and the amount of foreign exchange forward contracts outstanding at March 31, 2022, each one percent change in the respective foreign currency exchange rates would not result in a material impact on the Company's net earnings.

The Company purchases glass, bag in box, tetra paks, and other components used for bottling and packaging. The largest component of packaging is glass, of which there are few domestic or international suppliers. There is currently only one commercial supplier of glass in Canada that is able to supply glass to APL's specifications. Any interruption in supply could have an adverse impact on the Company's ability to supply its markets. APL has taken steps to reduce its dependence on domestic suppliers through the development of relationships with several international producers of glass and through carrying increased inventory of selected bottles.

The Company operates in a highly regulated industry with requirements regarding the production, distribution, marketing, advertising, and labelling of wine and spirits. These regulatory requirements may inhibit or restrict the Company's ability to maintain or increase strong consumer support for and recognition of its brands and may adversely affect APL's business strategies and results of operations. Privatization of liquor distribution and retailing has been implemented in varying degrees across the country. The recent regulatory changes relating to privatization in Ontario and sales through grocery outlets remains a risk to the Company through its impact on the Company's retail operations.

The wine industry and the domestic and international markets in which the Company operates are consolidating. This has resulted in fewer, but larger, competitors who have increased their resources and scale. The increased competition from these larger market participants may affect the Company's pricing strategies and create margin pressures resulting in potentially lower revenues. Competition also exerts pressure on existing customer relationships which may affect APL's ability to retain existing customers and increase the number of new customers. The Company has worked to improve production efficiencies, selectively increase pricing to increase gross margin (see "Non-IFRS Measures" section of this MD&A) and implement a higher level of promotion and advertising activity to remain competitive. APL and other wine industry participants also generally compete with other alcoholic beverages for consumer acceptance, loyalty, and shelf space. No assurance can be given that consumer demand for wine and premium wine products will continue at current levels in the future.

Federal and provincial governments impose excise, other taxes, and mark-ups on beverage alcohol products which have been subject to change. Significant increases in excise and other taxes on beverage alcohol products could materially and adversely affect the Company's financial condition or results of operations. Federal and provincial governmental agencies extensively regulate the beverage alcohol products industry concerning such matters as licensing, trade practices, permitted and required labelling, advertising, and relations with consumers and retailers. Certain federal and provincial regulations also require warning labels and signage. New or revised regulations, increased licensing fees, requirements, taxes, or mark-ups could also have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial condition or results of operations.

The Company's future operating results also depend on the ability of its officers and other key employees to continue to implement and improve its operating and financial systems and manage the Company's significant relationships with its suppliers and customers. The Company is also dependent upon the performance of its key senior management

personnel. The Company's success is linked to its ability to identify, hire, train, motivate, promote, and retain highly qualified management. Competition for such employees is intense and there can be no assurances that the Company will be able to retain current key employees or attract new key employees.

The Company has certain defined benefit pension plans. The expense and cash contributions related to these plans depend on the discount rate used to measure the liability to pay future benefits and the market performance of the plan assets set aside to pay these benefits. The Company's Pension Committee reviews the performance of plan assets on a regular basis and has a policy to hold diversified investments. Nevertheless, a decline in long-term interest rates or in asset values could increase the Company's costs related to funding the deficit in these plans.

The competitive nature of the wine industry internationally has resulted in the discounting of retail prices of wine in key markets such as the United States and the United Kingdom. Although significant price discounting may occur in Canada beyond current levels, the Company believes that its product quality, advertising, and promotional support along with its competitive pricing strategies will effectively mitigate the impact on the Company.

The Company considers its trademarks, particularly certain brand names and product packaging, advertising and promotion design, and artwork to be of significant importance to its business and ascribes a significant value to these intangible assets. APL relies on trademark laws and other arrangements to protect its proprietary rights. There can be no assurance that the steps taken by APL to protect its intellectual property rights will preclude competitors from developing confusingly similar brand names or promotional materials. The Company believes that its proprietary rights do not infringe upon the proprietary rights of fourth parties, but there can be no assurance in this regard.

As an owner and lessee of property the Company is subject to various federal and provincial laws relating to environmental matters. Such laws provide that the Company could be held liable for the cost of removal and remediation of hazardous substances on its properties. The failure to remedy any situation that might arise could lead to claims against the Company. A perceived failure to maintain high ethical, social, and environmental standards could have an adverse effect on the Company's reputation.

The success of the Company's brands depends upon the positive image that consumers have of those brands. Contamination of APL's products, whether arising accidentally or through deliberate fourth-party action, or other events that harm the integrity or consumer support for those brands could adversely affect their sales. Contaminants in raw materials purchased from fourth parties and used in the production of the Company's products or defects in the fermentation process could lead to low product quality as well as illness among, or injury to, consumers of the products and may result in reduced sales of the affected brand or all of the Company's brands.

#### **Non-IFRS Measures**

The Company utilizes EBITA (defined as earnings before interest, amortization, gain on sale of assets held for sale, net unrealized gains and losses on derivative financial instruments, other (income) expenses, gain on debt modification net of financing fees, and income taxes) to measure its financial performance. EBITA is not a recognized measure under IFRS; however, management believes that EBITA is a useful supplemental measure to net earnings as it provides readers with an indication of earnings available for investment prior to debt service, capital expenditures, and income taxes, as well as providing an indication of recurring earnings compared to prior periods.

The Company calculates EBITA as follows.

<b>For the three months and year ended March 31,</b> <b>(in \$000)</b>	Three Months		Year	
	<b>2022</b>	2021	<b>2022</b>	2021
Net earnings (loss)	\$ (7,019)	\$ (6,328)	\$ 12,468	\$ 27,786
Add: Interest	2,162	2,619	9,337	8,108
Income taxes	(1,773)	153	4,607	9,667
Amortization of plant and equipment used in production	2,223	2,265	9,116	10,138
Amortization of equipment and intangibles used in selling and administration	3,316	2,859	12,237	8,024
Net unrealized gains on derivative financial instruments	(485)	(495)	(2,269)	(135)
Gain on debt modification	-	-	-	(2,312)
Gain on sale of assets held for sale	-	-	(7,518)	-
Other expenses	946	742	1,210	1,770
<b>EBITA</b>	<b>\$ (630)</b>	<b>\$ 1,815</b>	<b>\$ 39,188</b>	<b>\$ 63,046</b>

Readers are cautioned that EBITA should not be construed as an alternative to net earnings determined in accordance with IFRS as an indicator of the Company's performance or to cash flows from operating, investing, and financing activities as a measure of liquidity and cash flows.

The Company utilizes gross margin (defined as sales less cost of goods sold, excluding amortization) as calculated below.

<b>For the three months and year ended March 31,</b> <b>(in \$000)</b>	Three Months		Year	
	<b>2022</b>	2021	<b>2022</b>	2021
Sales	\$ 78,838	\$ 79,126	\$ 373,944	\$ 393,036
Less: Cost of goods sold, excluding amortization	55,809	51,037	234,952	236,518
<b>Gross margin</b>	<b>\$ 23,029</b>	<b>\$ 28,089</b>	<b>\$ 138,992</b>	<b>\$ 156,518</b>
Gross margin (% of sales)	29.2%	35.5%	37.2%	39.8%

The Company calculates adjusted earnings (loss) as follows:

<b>For the three months and year ended March 31,</b> <b>(in \$000)</b>	Three Months		Year	
	<b>2022</b>	2021	<b>2022</b>	2021
Net earnings (loss)	\$ (7,019)	\$ (6,328)	\$ 12,468	\$ 27,786
Net unrealized gains on derivative financial instruments	(485)	(495)	(2,269)	(135)
Other expenses	946	742	1,210	1,770
Gain on debt modification	-	-	-	(2,312)
Gain on sale of assets held for sale	-	-	(7,518)	-
Fair value adjustment for acquired inventory sold during the period	-	-	-	302
Income tax effect of the above	(120)	(64)	1,252	(425)
<b>Adjusted earnings (loss)</b>	<b>\$ (6,678)</b>	<b>\$ (6,145)</b>	<b>\$ 5,143</b>	<b>\$ 26,986</b>

The Company's method of calculating EBITA, gross margin, and adjusted earnings (loss) may differ from the methods used by other companies and accordingly, may not be comparable to the corresponding measures used by other companies.

### Transactions with Related Parties

The Company is controlled by Peller Family Enterprises Inc. (formerly, Jalger Limited), which owns 61.3% of the Company's Class B voting shares. No individual has sole voting power or control in respect of the shares of the Company owned by Peller Family Enterprises Inc.

The compensation expense recorded for directors and members of the Executive Management Team of the Company is shown below:

For the years ended March 31 (in \$000)	2022	2021
Compensation and short-term benefits	\$ 3,867	\$ 4,421
Post-employment benefits	323	265
Stock based compensation expense	1,132	823
	<b>\$ 5,322</b>	<b>\$ 5,509</b>

The compensation and short-term benefits expense consist of amounts that will primarily be settled within twelve months.

### Financial Statements and Accounting Policies

The Company's consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with IFRS, as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board ("IFRS").

### Critical Accounting Estimates

The preparation of consolidated financial statements in accordance with IFRS requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the dates of the consolidated financial statements, the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting periods and the extent of and the reported amounts in disclosures. Actual results may vary from current estimates. These estimates are reviewed periodically and, as adjustments become necessary, they are recorded in the period in which they change. Specific areas of uncertainty include but are not limited to:

### Impairment of goodwill and indefinite life intangible assets

Testing goodwill for impairment at least annually involves judgement in estimating the recoverable amount of the CGUs to which goodwill is allocated. This requires making assumptions about future cash flows, growth rates and discount rates. Testing indefinite life intangible assets for impairment at least annually involves estimating the fair value using the relief of royalty method. This requires making assumptions about royalty rates, growth rates and discount rates. These assumptions are inherently uncertain and as such, actual amounts may vary from these assumptions and cause significant adjustments.

### Post-employment benefits

Measuring the liability for post employment benefits requires assumptions for the discount rates, increases in compensation, increases in medical costs and the timing of the payment of benefits. Actual amounts may vary from these assumptions and cause significant adjustments.

### Leases

Critical accounting estimates were made in determining the lease term and incremental borrowing rate. In determining the lease term, management considers all facts and circumstances that create an economic incentive to exercise an extension option, or not exercise a termination option. Extension options (or periods after termination options) are only included in the lease term if the lease is reasonably certain to be extended (or not terminated). The assessment is reviewed if a significant event or a significant change in circumstances occurs which affects this assessment and that is within the control of the lessee.

In determining the carrying amount of right of use assets and lease liabilities, the Company is required to estimate the incremental borrowing rate specific to each leased asset or portfolio of leased assets if the interest rate implicit in the

lease is not readily determined. Management determines the incremental borrowing rate of each leased asset or portfolio of leased assets by using the Company's specific risk portfolio, the security, term and value of the underlying leased asset and the economic environment in which the leased asset operates. The incremental borrowing rates are subject to change mainly due to macroeconomic changes in the environment.

### **Recently adopted accounting pronouncements**

#### *IFRS 16, Leases*

This standard has been amended to provide lessees with an optional exemption from assessing whether a rent concession related to COVID 19 is a lease modification. This amendment is effective for annual periods beginning on or after June 1, 2020. At this time, the Company has not received rent concessions related to COVID 19 and therefore, this amendment has not had an impact on the consolidated financial statements.

#### *London Inter-bank Offered Rate (LIBOR) reform with amendments to IFRS 9, IFRS 7, Financial Instruments: Disclosures and IFRS 16.*

In August 2020, the IASB issued Interest Rate Benchmark Reform Phase 2 (the Reform Phase 2), which complemented the Reform Phase 1 and amended various standards requiring interest rates or interest rate calculations. The Reform Phase 2 provides guidance on the impacts on the financial statements after the LIBOR reform and its replacement with alternative benchmark rates. The amendments are effective for annual periods beginning on or after January 1, 2021. The adoption of these amendments did not have a significant impact on the consolidated financial statements.

### **Recently issued accounting pronouncements**

#### *IAS 16, Property, Plant and Equipment*

This standard has been amended to prohibit an entity from deducting from the cost of an item of property, plant and equipment any proceeds received from selling items produced while the entity is preparing the asset for its intended use, clarify that an entity is "testing whether the asset is functioning properly" when it assesses the technical and physical performance of the asset and require certain related disclosures. The amendments are effective for annual periods beginning on or after January 1, 2022. The Company has not yet assessed the impact of the amendments on the consolidated financial statements.

#### *IAS 37, Provisions*

This standard has been amended to clarify that, before a separate provision for an onerous contract is established, an entity recognizes an impairment loss that has occurred on assets used in fulfilling the contract, rather than on assets dedicated to that contract and to clarify the meaning of costs to fulfill a contract. The amendments are effective for annual periods beginning on or after January 1, 2022. The Company has not yet assessed the impact of the amendments on the consolidated financial statements.

#### *IFRS 9, Financial Instruments*

This standard has been amended to address which fees should be included in the 10% test for derecognition of financial liabilities. This amendment is effective for annual periods beginning on or after January 1, 2022. The Company has not yet assessed the impact of the amendment on the consolidated financial statements.

#### *IAS 1, Presentation of Financial Statements*

This standard has been amended to clarify that liabilities are classified as either current or non current depending on the rights that exist at the end of the reporting period. Classification is unaffected by the expectations of the entity or events after the reporting date. The amendment also clarifies the meaning of settlement of a liability. This amendment is effective for annual periods beginning on or after January 1, 2023. The Company has not yet assessed the impact of the amendment on the consolidated financial statements.

#### *IAS 12, Income Taxes*

This standard has been amended to require companies to recognize deferred tax on transactions that, on initial recognition, give rise to equal amounts of taxable and deductible temporary differences. The amendments are effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after January 1, 2023. The Company has not yet assessed the impact of the amendments on the consolidated financial statements.

### **Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures and Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

Disclosure controls and procedures are designed to provide reasonable assurance that all relevant information required to be disclosed by the Company in reports filed with or submitted to various securities regulators are recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified. This information is gathered and reported to the Company's management, including the Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") and Chief Financial Officer ("CFO") on a timely basis so that decisions can be made regarding the Company's disclosures to the public.

The Company's management, under the supervision of, and with the participation of, the CEO and CFO, have designed and maintained the Company's disclosure controls and procedures as required in Canada by "National Instrument 52-109 – Certification of Disclosure in Issuers' Annual and Interim Filings". As at June 15, 2022, the CEO and CFO of the Company have evaluated the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures. Based on these evaluations, the CEO and CFO have concluded that the controls and procedures were operating effectively.

### **Internal Controls over Financial Reporting**

Internal controls over financial reporting are procedures designed to provide reasonable assurance that transactions are properly authorized, assets are safeguarded against unauthorized or improper use, and transactions are properly recorded and reported. A control system, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance with respect to reliability of financial reporting and financial statement preparation. Designing, establishing and maintaining adequate internal controls over financial reporting is the responsibility of management. Internal controls over financial reporting is a process designed by, or under the supervision of, senior management and effected by the Board of Directors to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and preparation of the Company's financial statements in accordance with IFRS. For the year ended March 31, 2022, there have been no material changes in the Company's internal controls over financial reporting or changes to disclosure controls and procedures that materially affected or were likely to affect, the Company's internal control systems. As at June 15, 2022, the CEO and CFO of the Company have evaluated the effectiveness of the Company's internal controls over financial reporting. Based on these evaluations, the CEO and CFO have concluded that the controls and procedures were operating effectively.