

## **British Columbia Securities Commission**

## By Email

REPLY TO: Joseph A. Bernardo

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September 5, 2008

Ann Gander Secretary to the Commission British Columbia Securities Commission 12<sup>th</sup> Floor, 701 West Georgia Street Vancouver, BC V7Y 1L2

Dear Ms. Gander:

## Manna Trading Corp. et al

The Executive Director seeks an adjournment. The September 5, 2008 affidavit of Douglas Muir supports this application.

On November 5, 2007, the staff received over 172,000 pages of investigative materials in the form of paper and electronic documents. Since that date, we have been continuously reviewing and analyzing this large volume of materials for the relevance and evidentiary significance of each document.

The hearing of this case was originally set to commence on April 28, 2008. However, in light of the amount of evidence the staff was required to assess, the Commission adjourned the hearing to October 6, 2008. Although the staff has now reviewed all documents, we have reluctantly concluded that we need more time to complete our assessment of the evidence and to organize it for efficient presentation at the hearing. This is why we are now seeking an additional adjournment of the hearing, to a start date of January 12, 2009.

We are well aware that the public interest is best served by a timely hearing of allegations. The volume of evidence in the present case, however, is unprecedented.



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We also encountered serious unanticipated challenges in dealing with it. These are explained in the accompanying affidavit.

We respectfully request a pre-hearing conference, so that we may make submissions in support of our application. Commission staff is available for any date and we ask that it be scheduled as soon as possible.

Yours truly,

Joseph A. Bernardo

Chief Enforcement Counsel

Litigation Branch

JB/mc

cc: Manna Humanitarian Foundation (formerly Manna Trading Corp.)

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