



July 11, 2018, St. Lucia.

## **8% increase in assets announced at Portland JSX Limited AGM**

Earlier today, Portland JSX Limited ("PJX") held its Annual General Meeting at which the Company's audited financial statements for the year ended February 28, 2018 were approved by its shareholders.

As at February 28, 2018, PJX reported total assets of USD 25,737,581, an increase of approximately 8% over the prior year. Of greater note, the composition of the Company's assets changed with its investment in Portland Caribbean Fund II having increased to USD 22,065,065 from USD 11,570,715 a year earlier. Most of this increase was funded by utilizing the Company's holdings of cash and short term securities.

PJX invests in businesses, primarily as a limited partner in Portland Caribbean Fund II, LP ("PCF II"), a leading regional private equity fund advised by Portland Private Equity II, Ltd. ("PPE"). Robert Almeida, Managing Partner of PPE, reported that "PCF II had moved from the 'investing' phase of its life cycle to the 'value enhancement' phase". Private equity funds typically go through three phases:

- Investing, during which attractive business opportunities are assessed and investments are negotiated and completed. This phase is expected to be characterized by operating losses as operating costs exceed investment returns.
- Value Enhancement, during which the focus is on working with management to increase the value of the businesses through growth and efficiency improvement. As the size of the investment portfolio increases and the businesses in the portfolio mature, investment returns (realized and unrealized) are expected to exceed operating costs.
- Monetizing, during which investments are made liquid either through distributions, divestment, IPO or other strategies.

As PCF II approaches the end of its investing phase, PPE is pleased with the quality of the portfolio of businesses in the portfolio. The portfolio is well diversified in terms of:

- Geography – businesses in the portfolio have operations across the region including the Caricom countries, Central America, Bermuda, Puerto Rico and Colombia.
- Industry – portfolio companies operate in the telecommunications, energy, financial, business services, tourism, and restaurant sectors.



- Company size and maturity – the companies in the portfolio have assets ranging from the tens of millions (USD) to billions of USD.

More importantly, PPE is excited by the growth strategies that are being executed in each of the businesses in the portfolio. “While PPE continues to look for new investment opportunities, our primary focus is on supporting the outstanding management teams of these businesses as they execute their growth strategies”, Robert Almeida told shareholders. “We are looking for accelerating value enhancement in the portfolio and increasing distributions from the portfolio over the next few years.”