

Q3 2023 Management's Discussion and Analysis

The following management's discussion and analysis ("MD&A") as provided by the management of Headwater Exploration Inc. ("Headwater" or the "Company") is dated November 9, 2023 and should be read in conjunction with the unaudited interim condensed financial statements as at and for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2023, and the MD&A and the audited financial statements and the notes thereto for the year ended December 31, 2022, copies of which are available through SEDAR+ at www.sedarplus.ca. The unaudited interim condensed financial statements have been prepared in accordance with IAS 34 *Interim Financial Reporting* as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board ("IASB"). All dollar amounts are referenced in Canadian dollars unless otherwise stated.

DESCRIPTION OF THE COMPANY

Headwater is a Canadian resource company engaged in the exploration for and development and production of petroleum and natural gas in Canada. Headwater currently has heavy oil production and reserves in the Clearwater formation in the Marten Hills, West Nipisi and Greater Peavine areas of Alberta and natural gas production and reserves in the McCully field near Sussex, New Brunswick.

Unless otherwise indicated herein, all production information presented herein has been presented on a gross basis, which is the Company's working interest prior to deduction of royalties and without including any royalty interests.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR THREE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

- Achieved record production averaging 18,027 boe/d (consisting of 16,902 bbls/d heavy oil, 6.1 mmcf/d natural gas and 103 bbls/d natural gas liquids), representing an increase of 55% from the third quarter of 2022.
- Realized record adjusted funds flow from operations ⁽¹⁾ of \$80.9 million (\$0.34 per share basic) and cash flows from operating activities of \$85.6 million (\$0.36 per share basic).
- Achieved an operating netback, including financial derivatives ⁽²⁾ of \$58.80/boe and an adjusted funds flow netback ⁽²⁾ of \$49.22/boe.
- Achieved record net income of \$49.7 million (\$0.21 per share basic) equating to \$30.23/boe.
- Executed a \$70.2 million capital expenditure ⁽³⁾ program focusing on development in Marten Hills West drilling a total of 26 crude oil wells in the area at a 100% success rate.
- Returned \$0.10/share to shareholders. Since announcing the Company's inaugural dividend in November 2022, Headwater has returned a total of \$0.40/share to shareholders.
- As at September 30, 2023, Headwater had adjusted working capital ⁽¹⁾ of \$35.9 million, working capital of \$43.5 million and no outstanding bank debt.

(1) Refer to "Management of capital" in note 12 of the interim financial statements and to "Non-GAAP and Other Financial Measures" within this MD&A.

(2) Non-GAAP ratio that does not have any standardized meaning under IFRS and therefore may not be comparable with the calculation of similar measures of other entities. Refer to "Non-GAAP and Other Financial Measures" within this MD&A.

(3) Non-GAAP measure that does not have any standardized meaning under IFRS and therefore may not be comparable with the calculation of similar measures of other entities. Refer to "Non-GAAP and Other Financial Measures" within this MD&A.

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Production and Pricing

	Three months ended September 30, 2023			Nine months ended September 30, 2023		
	2022	Percent Change		2022	Percent Change	
Average daily production						
Heavy oil (bbls/d)	16,902	10,842	56	15,775	10,695	47
Natural gas (mmcf/d)	6.1	4.3	42	9.1	7.2	26
Natural gas liquids (bbls/d)	103	55	87	100	43	133
Barrels of oil equivalent (boe/d)	18,027	11,612	55	17,398	11,929	46
Average daily sales ⁽¹⁾						
Heavy oil (bbls/d)	16,738	10,910	53	15,709	10,690	47
Natural gas (mmcf/d)	6.1	4.3	42	9.1	7.2	26
Natural gas liquids (bbls/d)	103	55	87	100	43	133
Barrels of oil equivalent (boe/d)	17,862	11,680	53	17,331	11,925	45
Headwater average sales price ⁽²⁾						
Heavy oil (\$/bbl) ⁽³⁾	92.05	92.35	-	78.86	104.06	(24)
Natural gas (\$/mcf)	2.36	4.23	(44)	3.90	10.84	(64)
Natural gas liquids (\$/bbl)	86.65	95.54	(9)	76.48	105.51	(28)
Barrels of oil equivalent (\$/boe)	87.56	88.27	(1)	73.98	100.17	(26)
Average Benchmark Price						
WTI (US\$/bbl) ⁽⁴⁾	82.26	91.56	(10)	77.39	98.09	(21)
WCS differential to WTI (US\$/bbl)	(12.91)	(19.86)	(35)	(17.59)	(15.73)	12
WCS (Cdn\$/bbl) ⁽⁵⁾	93.05	93.54	(1)	80.45	105.55	(24)
Condensate at Edmonton (Cdn\$/bbl)	104.22	118.78	(12)	101.96	127.04	(20)
AGT (US\$/mmbtu) ⁽⁶⁾	-	-	-	4.32	11.88	(64)
AECO 5A (Cdn\$/GJ)	2.46	3.95	(38)	2.61	5.14	(49)
NYMEX Henry Hub (US\$/mmbtu)	2.55	8.20	(69)	2.69	6.77	(60)
Exchange rate (US\$/Cdn\$)	0.75	0.77	(3)	0.74	0.78	(5)

(1) Includes sales of heavy crude oil excluding the impact of purchased condensate and butane. The Company's heavy oil sales volumes and production volumes differ due to changes in inventory.

(2) Average sales prices are calculated using average sales volumes.

(3) Realized heavy oil prices are based on sales, net of blending expense.

(4) WTI = West Texas Intermediate.

(5) WCS = Western Canadian Select.

(6) AGT = Algonquin city-gates. The AGT price is the average for the winter producing months in the McCully field which include January to April, November and December.

	Three months ended September 30, 2023 2022			Nine months ended September 30, 2023 2022		
	Percent Change			Percent Change		
	(thousands of dollars)			(thousands of dollars)		
Heavy oil sales	147,368	97,335	51	359,875	325,627	11
Blending expense	(5,629)	(4,638)	21	(21,675)	(21,929)	(1)
Heavy oil, net of blending expense ⁽¹⁾	141,739	92,697	53	338,200	303,698	11
Natural gas	1,330	1,669	(20)	9,714	21,170	(54)
Natural gas liquids	819	482	70	2,097	1,229	71
Gathering, processing and transportation	115	101	14	1,122	976	15
Total sales, net of blending expense ⁽¹⁾	144,003	94,949	52	351,133	327,073	7

(1) Non-GAAP measure. Refer to "Non-GAAP and Other Financial Measures" within this MD&A.

Heavy Oil – Alberta

The Company's realized price received for its heavy crude oil is determined by the quality of crude compared to the benchmark price of WCS. Headwater's heavy crude oil production (average 18 – 22° API) is blended with diluent in order to meet pipeline transportation specifications.

Pricing improved in the third quarter compared to the first half of 2023 primarily due to OPEC+ production cuts and increased North American refinery demand. However, WTI pricing remained weaker compared to prior year due to reduced oil demand out of China and elevated global recessionary risks. For the nine months ended September 30, 2023, the WCS differential to WTI widened from prior year due to reduced North American demand primarily resulting from increased refinery maintenance and downtime. The WCS differential to WTI narrowed in the third quarter of 2023 due to increased export to the United States and the restart of some large refineries in both the Midwest and US Gulf Coast regions. Over the longer-term, the WCS differential to WTI is expected to narrow further with the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion anticipated to commission in 2024, improving egress optionality for heavy crude oil out of western Canada.

During the three months ended September 30, 2023, Headwater's heavy oil sales, net of blending expense, increased to \$141.7 million from \$92.7 million in the comparable period of 2022. This increase was attributable to a 53% increase in sales volumes, with commodity pricing remaining flat as lower WTI pricing was offset by a weaker Canadian dollar and the narrowing of the WCS differential to WTI in the quarter. Headwater's discount to WCS improved in the third quarter of 2023, when compared to the same period of the prior year, due to favorable butane pricing relative to WCS pricing.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2023, Headwater's heavy oil sales, net of blending expense, increased to \$338.2 million from \$303.7 million in the comparable period of 2022. This increase was attributable to a 47% increase in sales volumes, partially offset by a 24% decrease in realized commodity pricing, consistent with the decrease in benchmark WCS pricing. For the nine months ended September 30, 2023, Headwater's discount to WCS widened when compared to the same period of the prior year, due to stronger winter condensate pricing relative to WCS pricing.

During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2023, Headwater's heavy oil sales volumes averaged 16,738 bbls/d and 15,709 bbls/d, respectively, compared to 10,910 bbls/d and 10,690 bbls/d in the comparable periods of 2022. The Company's heavy oil sales volumes have increased significantly as a result of Headwater's extensive 2022 and 2023 capital expenditure programs. Headwater drilled 97.0 total net crude oil wells during the year ended December 31, 2022, and drilled 76.0 total net crude oil wells in the first nine months of 2023, substantially increasing the Company's heavy oil production.

Natural Gas – New Brunswick and Alberta

The Company produces natural gas out of the McCully field in New Brunswick. The transaction price is based on the AGT daily benchmark price adjusted for delivery location and heat content. Headwater also produces natural gas in Alberta, processing its gas through the Company's joint gas processing facility located in Marten Hills. The natural gas sales transaction price is based on the AECO 5A daily benchmark price adjusted for delivery location and heat content.

For the three months ended September 30, 2023, Headwater's natural gas sales decreased to \$1.3 million from \$1.7 million in the corresponding period of the prior year, due to a 44% decrease in realized commodity pricing partially offset by a 42% increase in natural gas sales volumes. For the nine months ended September 30, 2023, Headwater's natural gas sales decreased to \$9.7 million from \$21.2 million in the corresponding period of the prior year due to a 64% decrease in realized commodity pricing partially offset by a 26% increase in natural gas sales volumes. Realized natural gas pricing decreased due to lower benchmark pricing for both AGT and AECO 5A. For the nine months ended September 30, 2023, AGT saw a 64% decrease from prior year due to warmer winter weather experienced in the northeastern US natural gas market, which significantly reduced natural gas demand in the area resulting in higher-than-expected storage levels.

During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2023, Headwater's natural gas sales volumes increased to 6.1 mmcf/d and 9.1 mmcf/d, respectively, from 4.3 mmcf/d and 7.2 mmcf/d in the comparable periods of 2022 as a result of higher associated natural gas production due to growth of the Company's Marten Hills assets.

Consistent with prior years, the Company shut-in McCully natural gas production for the summer season effective May 1, 2023. Headwater expects to resume McCully operations at the end of November 2023 to take advantage of the AGT market's premium winter pricing.

Financial Derivative Gains (Losses)

	Three months ended September 30, 2023 2022		Percent Change	Nine months ended September 30, 2023 2022		Percent Change
	<i>(thousands of dollars)</i>			<i>(thousands of dollars)</i>		
Realized gains (losses)	294	-	100	7,863	(4,203)	(287)
Unrealized gains (losses)	1,905	(401)	(575)	2,995	(3,332)	(190)
Financial derivative gains (losses)	2,199	(401)	(648)	10,858	(7,535)	(244)
Per boe	1.34	(0.37)	(462)	2.29	(2.31)	(199)

Natural gas and crude oil commodity contracts

Headwater enters into financial derivative commodity contracts to manage the risks associated with fluctuations in commodity prices.

The realized financial derivative gains recognized during the three months ended September 30, 2023, of \$0.3 million compared to nil in the corresponding period of 2022, represent the Company's Alberta natural gas contracts referenced to the AECO 5A price. The Company recognized gains on its AECO 5A contracts during the three months ended September 30, 2023, as the commodity contracts to fix the AECO 5A price exceeded the settlement price in the period. The settlement price was lower than expected due to weather-driven market oversupply of natural gas resulting in higher seasonable storage levels in western Canada.

The realized financial derivative gains recognized during the nine months ended September 30, 2023, primarily relate to Headwater's first quarter McCully natural gas contracts referenced to the AGT price. A realized financial derivative gain was recorded during the nine months ended September 30, 2023, of \$7.9 million compared to a realized loss of \$4.2 million in the corresponding period of 2022. The Company recognized gains on its AGT contracts during the nine months ended September 30, 2023, as the commodity contracts to fix the AGT price exceeded the settlement price in the period. The AGT settlement price was lower than expected due to warmer winter weather experienced in the northeastern US natural gas market resulting in significantly reduced natural gas demand in the area.

The unrealized gains and losses recorded are a result of the change in fair value of the Company's outstanding financial derivative contracts over the periods. As at September 30, 2023, the fair value of Headwater's outstanding financial derivative commodity contracts was a net unrealized asset of \$1.8 million as reflected in the interim financial statements. The fair value or mark to market value of these contracts is based upon the estimated amount that would have been receivable/payable as at September 30, 2023, had the contracts been monetized or terminated. Subsequent changes in the fair value of the contracts are recognized in each reporting period and could be materially different than what is recorded as at September 30, 2023. For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2023, Headwater recognized unrealized gains of \$1.9 million and \$3.0 million, respectively, compared to unrealized losses of \$0.4 million and \$3.3 million in the corresponding periods of 2022.

As at September 30, 2023, Headwater had the following financial derivative commodity contracts outstanding:

Commodity	Index	Type	Term	Daily Volume	Contract Price
Natural Gas	AGT	Fixed	Dec 2023 - Mar 2024	5,000 mmbtu	Cdn\$16.98/mmbtu
Natural Gas	AGT	Fixed	Dec 2023 - Jan 2024	2,500 mmbtu	Cdn\$18.95/mmbtu
Natural Gas	AECO 5A	Fixed	Oct 2023	3,000 GJ	Cdn\$3.53/GJ
Natural Gas	AECO 5A	Fixed	Apr 2024 - Oct 2024	1,000 GJ	Cdn\$2.50/GJ
Crude Oil	WCS Basis	Differential	Oct 2023 - Dec 2023	4,000 bbl	US\$15.76/bbl

During the three months ended September 30, 2023, the Company entered into financial derivative commodity contracts to manage fluctuations in natural gas commodity pricing associated with production in the McCully field in New Brunswick. As of September 30, 2023, the Company had hedged 4.7 mmcf/d representing approximately 77% of McCully's estimated December 2023 - March 2024 production at a price of Cdn\$18.50/mcf.

Foreign exchange contracts

The Company is exposed to fluctuations of the Canadian to U.S. dollar exchange rate given realized pricing is directly influenced by U.S. dollar denominated benchmark pricing and from exposure to its U.S. dollar denominated heavy oil and natural gas marketing arrangements.

Headwater mitigates this risk by entering into commodity contracts in Canadian dollars and entering into short-term foreign exchange contracts.

As at September 30, 2023, Headwater had the following financial derivative foreign exchange contract outstanding:

Type	Buy Currency	Sell Currency	Rate	Notional Amount	Settlement Date
Forward contract	CAD	USD	Sep 2023 average ⁽¹⁾	US\$33.1 million	Oct 26, 2023

(1) WM/Reuters Intraday Spot Rate as of Noon EST

(2) Unrealized change in fair value related to the Company's foreign exchange contracts is included in interest income and other expense in the interim financial statements.

Royalty Expense

	Three months ended September 30, 2023 2022			Nine months ended September 30, 2023 2022		
	(thousands of dollars)			(thousands of dollars)		
			Percent Change			Percent Change
Heavy oil	26,644	22,952	16	60,705	63,845	(5)
Natural gas and natural gas liquids	77	616	(88)	1,065	1,965	(46)
Total royalty expense	26,721	23,568	13	61,770	65,810	(6)
Percentage of total sales, net of blending ⁽¹⁾	18.6%	24.8%	(25)	17.6%	20.1%	(12)
Per boe	16.26	21.93	(26)	13.06	20.21	(35)

(1) Non-GAAP ratio. Refer to the advisory "Non-GAAP and Other Financial Measures".

Royalty expense consists of crown royalties payable to the Alberta and New Brunswick provincial governments and the gross overriding royalty ("GORR") payable to Topaz Energy Corp. Under the Alberta Modernized Royalty Framework ("MRF"), the Company will pay a flat royalty of 5% on a well's production until the well's total revenue exceeds the Drilling and Completion Cost Allowance (C*), then royalty rates increase on a sliding scale up to 40% depending on commodity reference pricing.

For the three months ended September 30, 2023, royalty expense increased to \$26.7 million from \$23.6 million in the comparable period of 2022, due to a significant increase in total sales (net of blending expense) of 52% partially offset by a lower average corporate royalty rate. For the nine months ended September 30, 2023, royalty expense decreased to \$61.8 million from \$65.8 million in the comparable period of 2022 due to a lower average corporate royalty rate partially offset by a slight increase in total sales (net of blending expense) of 7%.

For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2023, Headwater's average corporate royalty rate was 18.6% and 17.6%, respectively, compared to 24.8% and 20.1% in the corresponding periods of 2022. The decrease in royalty rate was primarily attributed to lower commodity pricing in 2023, as WCS averaged \$80.45/bbl in the first three quarters of 2023 compared to \$105.55/bbl in the comparable period of 2022, reflecting a 24% decrease. This significant decrease in realized commodity pricing caused new production to remain on the MRF's flat 5% royalty rate longer, bringing down the average corporate royalty rate in the periods. While commodity pricing recovered into the third quarter of 2023, the impact of significantly lower pricing in the first half of 2023 was sustained, resulting in a 25% decrease in the royalty rate quarter-over-quarter.

Transportation Expense

	Three months ended September 30, 2023 2022			Nine months ended September 30, 2023 2022		
	(thousands of dollars)			(thousands of dollars)		
			Percent Change			Percent Change
Transportation expense	8,745	4,238	106	25,703	14,042	83
Per boe	5.32	3.94	35	5.43	4.31	26

Transportation expense includes clean oil trucking, terminal fees and pipeline tariffs incurred to move production to the sales point.

For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2023, transportation expense increased to \$8.7 million and \$25.7 million, respectively, from \$4.2 million and \$14.0 million in the comparable periods of the prior year due to a significant increase in heavy oil sales volumes and higher trucking fees.

For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2023, transportation expense per boe increased to \$5.32 and \$5.43, respectively, from \$3.94 and \$4.31 in the corresponding periods of the prior year. Downstream pipeline apportionment starting in early 2023 forced clean oil volumes, normally transported via pipeline, to be trucked out of the area resulting in higher transportation costs. Headwater expects transportation expense per boe to decrease in 2024 with additional pipeline capacity expected to come online.

Headwater has firm transportation service commitments in place to secure pipeline capacity to the point of sale. Refer to “Contractual Obligations and Commitments” for more information.

Production Expense

	Three months ended September 30, 2023 2022			Nine months ended September 30, 2023 2022		
	Percent Change			Percent Change		
	(thousands of dollars)			(thousands of dollars)		
Production expense	12,211	6,394	91	33,625	18,860	78
Per boe	7.43	5.95	25	7.11	5.79	23

For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2023, production expense increased to \$12.2 million and \$33.6 million respectively, from \$6.4 million and \$18.9 million in the comparable periods of the prior year due to a significant increase in production volumes.

For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2023, production expense per boe increased to \$7.43 and \$7.11, respectively, from \$5.95 and \$5.79 in the comparable periods of the prior year. Increased costs were due to substantial growth in the Marten Hills West area and the development of new areas in Greater Peavine which carry higher operating costs than the initial development area in the core area of Marten Hills. Production out of Marten Hills West grew significantly to 8,214 bbls/d in the third quarter of 2023 from 1,576 bbls/d in the same period of the prior year driving an increase in emulsion and water hauling costs. Higher carbon taxes also contributed to increased production expense for both the three and nine months ended September 30, 2023.

Netbacks

Operating netback reflects the Company's margin on a per-barrel of oil equivalent basis. The following table provides a reconciliation of Headwater's operating netback and operating netback, including financial derivatives. Refer to the heading "Non-GAAP and Other Financial Measures" for more information.

	Three months ended September 30, 2023			Nine months ended September 30, 2023		
	2022	Percent Change		2022	Percent Change	
	(\$/boe)			(\$/boe)		
Sales	91.05	92.68	(2)	78.80	107.20	(26)
Royalties	(16.26)	(21.93)	(26)	(13.06)	(20.21)	(35)
Transportation and blending	(8.74)	(8.26)	6	(10.01)	(11.05)	(9)
Production expense	(7.43)	(5.95)	25	(7.11)	(5.79)	23
Operating netback ⁽¹⁾	58.62	56.54	4	48.62	70.15	(31)
Realized gains (losses) on financial derivatives	0.18	-	100	1.66	(1.29)	(229)
Operating netback, including financial derivatives ⁽¹⁾	58.80	56.54	4	50.28	68.86	(27)

(1) Non-GAAP ratio. Refer to the advisory "Non-GAAP and Other Financial Measures".

For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2023, the Company's operating netback, including financial derivatives, increased to \$58.80 per boe and decreased to \$50.28 per boe, respectively, from \$56.54 per boe and \$68.86 per boe in the corresponding periods of 2022. The slight increase in operating netback, including financial derivatives in the three months ended September 30, 2023, was primarily due to a lower average corporate royalty rate, partially offset by increased production expense on a per boe basis while realized commodity prices were flat quarter-over-quarter. The decrease in operating netback, including financial derivatives in the nine months ended September 30, 2023, was primarily due to a reduction in commodity pricing in the first half of 2023 and higher production expense on a per boe basis. Partially offsetting some of this decrease was a lower average corporate royalty rate and higher realized gains on financial derivatives resulting from depressed commodity pricing.

General and Administrative ("G&A") Expenses

	Three months ended September 30, 2023			Nine months ended September 30, 2023		
	2022	Percent Change		2022	Percent Change	
	(thousands of dollars)			(thousands of dollars)		
G&A expenses	3,363	2,354	43	9,574	7,411	29
Capitalized G&A	(867)	(787)	10	(2,688)	(2,570)	5
Net G&A expenses	2,496	1,567	59	6,886	4,841	42
Per boe (\$)	1.52	1.46	4	1.46	1.49	(2)

For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2023, gross G&A expenses increased to \$3.4 million and \$9.6 million, respectively, from \$2.4 million and \$7.4 million in the comparable periods of the prior year. Increased G&A costs before capitalization were mainly the result of increased employee-related costs and professional fees due to the significant growth experienced by the Company over the periods.

For both the three and nine months ended September 30, 2023, G&A expenses per boe were consistent with the corresponding periods of the prior year.

Interest Income and Other Expense

	Three months ended September 30, 2023 2022			Nine months ended September 30, 2023 2022		
	<i>(thousands of dollars)</i>			<i>(thousands of dollars)</i>		
			Percent Change			Percent Change
Interest income	1,519	1,278	19	4,886	2,011	143
Realized and unrealized foreign exchange losses	(290)	(434)	(33)	(520)	(743)	(30)
Accretion on decommissioning liability	(295)	(201)	47	(822)	(484)	70
Interest on repayable contribution	(124)	(63)	97	(362)	(74)	389
Interest on lease liability	(15)	(23)	(35)	(33)	(57)	(42)
Total interest income and other expense	<u>795</u>	<u>557</u>	43	<u>3,149</u>	<u>653</u>	382
Per boe (\$)	0.48	0.52	(8)	0.67	0.20	235

Foreign exchange gains and losses, accretion on decommissioning liability and interest on repayable contribution and lease liability were offset by a significant increase in interest income for both the three and nine months ended September 30, 2023.

The increase in interest income in both the three and nine months ended September 30, 2023, was a result of the significant increase in interest rates throughout 2022 and the first three quarters of 2023. The Bank of Canada increased the target overnight rate to 4.50% in January 2023, resulting in a prime rate of 6.70%, and then to 5.0% in July 2023, resulting in a prime rate of 7.2% which held steady into September 2023, while the prime rate was 2.45% entering 2022 and 5.45% at September 30, 2022.

The Company manages fluctuations in foreign exchange gains and losses by entering into foreign exchange contracts to fix the foreign exchange rate. Refer to “Financial Derivatives Gains (Losses)” for more information.

Stock-based Compensation

	Three months ended September 30, 2023 2022			Nine months ended September 30, 2023 2022		
	<i>(thousands of dollars)</i>			<i>(thousands of dollars)</i>		
			Percent Change			Percent Change
Stock options	267	648	(59)	1,031	2,248	(54)
Deferred share units	284	1	100	1,077	491	119
Share awards	1,397	668	109	3,465	1,432	142
Capitalized stock-based compensation	(450)	(404)	11	(1,235)	(1,160)	6
Stock-based compensation	<u>1,498</u>	<u>913</u>	64	<u>4,338</u>	<u>3,011</u>	44
Per boe (\$)	0.91	0.85	7	0.92	0.92	-

During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2023, stock-based compensation expense increased to \$1.5 million and \$4.3 million, respectively, from \$0.9 million and \$3.0 million in the corresponding periods of the prior year as a result of additional grants of restricted share units (“RSUs”) and performance share units (“PSUs” and collectively with the RSUs, the “Awards”) under the Company’s performance and restricted award plan (the “Award Plan”) as well as additional grants of deferred share units (“DSUs”) under the Company’s deferred share unit plan (the “DSU Plan”). A large portion of historical stock options are now fully amortized causing the expense related to stock options to decrease from the prior period.

Stock Options

The Company has an old and new stock option plan (together, the “Option Plans”) under which options to purchase common shares of the Company may be granted to directors, officers, employees and consultants of the Company. The exercise price of each option granted is based on the closing price of the common shares on the Toronto Stock Exchange (“TSX”) on the trading day prior to the date the option was granted. Options granted generally vest as to one third of the number granted on each of the first, second and third anniversaries of the date of grant over a three-year period and expire four to five years after the grant date. There were no stock options granted in the nine months ended September 30, 2023, or in the year ended December 31, 2022, and the Company cannot grant any further stock options under the Option Plans.

As at September 30, 2023, there were 2,775,182 stock options outstanding under the Option Plans.

Share Awards

The Award Plan provides for the grant of RSUs and PSUs to officers, employees and consultants of the Company. Under the Award Plan, the aggregate number of common shares reserved for issuance may not exceed the lesser of: (i) 6.0% of the aggregate number of issued and outstanding common shares less the aggregate number of common shares reserved for issuance under the Option Plans; and (ii) 4.5% of the aggregate number of issued and outstanding common shares. Generally, one third of the RSUs will vest on each of the first, second and third anniversaries of the date of grant and all PSUs will vest on the third anniversary of the date of grant, unless otherwise determined by the Board of Directors of the Company (the “Board”). The common shares underlying PSUs are adjusted based on a payout multiplier ranging from 0 to 2 times, which is determined based on certain corporate performance measures, as determined by the Board.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2023, the Board approved the cash settlement of RSUs. Previously, these awards had been accounted for as equity-settled. As a result of this modification to the Company’s outstanding RSUs from equity-settled to cash-settled, the fair value of the awards previously expensed was reclassified from contributed surplus to stock-based compensation payable. Subsequent to this modification, the grant date fair value is used to record the cost of the RSUs and any subsequent remeasurement of the liability is also recognized in the Statement of Income and Comprehensive Income.

It is the intention of the Company to equity settle any outstanding PSUs. The Award Plan allows a holder to receive common shares upon vesting. Headwater uses the fair value method for valuing the PSUs. The fair value of PSUs is determined based on the volume weighted average trading price of the five days preceding the grant date. This fair value is recognized as stock-based compensation expense, with a portion being capitalized, over the vesting period with a corresponding increase to contributed surplus. The amount of stock-based compensation expense is reduced by an estimated forfeiture rate determined at the date of the grant and updated each period. Upon vesting of the PSUs and settlement in common shares, the previously recognized value in contributed surplus will be recorded as an increase to capital stock.

As at September 30, 2023, there were 379,483 RSUs outstanding and 1,917,474 PSUs outstanding.

DSUs

The DSU Plan provides for grants of DSUs to non-management directors. Each DSU vests on the date of grant; however, settlement of the DSU occurs when the individual ceases to be a director of the Company. DSUs are to be settled in cash or by payment in common shares acquired through the facilities of the TSX. It is the intention of the Company to settle DSUs in cash. The directors may also elect to receive all of their annual cash compensation in the form of DSUs provided that such election must be made on December 1st of the preceding calendar year (or within a certain prescribed time frame if an individual becomes a director after the commencement of a calendar year or after the initial adoption of the DSU Plan) and after such date the election will be irrevocable for such year. DSUs granted are measured at fair value using the volume weighted average trading price of the five days preceding the grant date.

As at September 30, 2023, there were 254,605 DSUs outstanding.

Depletion & Depreciation

	Three months ended September 30, 2023 2022 <i>(thousands of dollars)</i>			Percent Change			Nine months ended September 30, 2023 2022 <i>(thousands of dollars)</i>			Percent Change		
Depletion	30,530	17,044		79			88,098	52,864		67		
Depreciation	193	240		(20)			623	701		(11)		
Depletion & depreciation	<u>30,723</u>	<u>17,284</u>		78			<u>88,721</u>	<u>53,565</u>		66		
Depletion – Per boe (\$)	18.58	15.87		17			18.62	16.23		15		
Depreciation – Per boe (\$)	0.12	0.22		(45)			0.13	0.22		(41)		
Per boe (\$)	18.70	16.09		16			18.75	16.45		14		

Depletion expense is calculated using the unit-of-production method which is based on production volumes in relation to the proved plus probable reserves base.

Depletion for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2023, increased to \$30.5 million and \$88.1 million, respectively, from \$17.0 million and \$52.9 million in the corresponding periods of 2022, due to a significant increase in the Company's production volumes.

Depletion and depreciation per boe increased during both the three and nine months ended September 30, 2023, when compared to the corresponding periods of 2022, primarily due to significant exploration drilling, site preparation and infrastructure spend and waterflood expenditures.

Impairment Assessment

As at September 30, 2023, there were no indicators of impairment identified for the Company's CGUs. As such, an impairment test was not performed.

Current and Deferred Income Taxes

	Three months ended September 30, 2023 2022			Nine months ended September 30, 2023 2022		
	Percent Change			Percent Change		
	(thousands of dollars)			(thousands of dollars)		
Current income tax expense	14,647	2,009	629	29,322	13,318	120
Deferred income tax expense	279	7,587	(96)	4,172	24,424	(83)

For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2023, the Company recorded current taxes of \$14.6 million and \$29.3 million, respectively, compared to \$2.0 million and \$13.3 million in the corresponding periods of the prior year. Current income taxes have increased as a result of lower available tax pool claims.

For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2023, the Company recorded deferred income tax expense of \$0.3 million and \$4.2 million, respectively, compared to \$7.6 million and \$24.4 million in the corresponding periods of the prior year.

Cash Flows Provided by Operating Activities and Adjusted Funds Flow From Operations

Refer to the heading “Non-GAAP and Other Financial Measures” for more information.

	Three months ended September 30, 2023 2022			Nine months ended September 30, 2023 2022		
	Percent Change			Percent Change		
	(thousands of dollars)			(thousands of dollars)		
Cash flows provided by operating activities	85,568	72,060	19	212,626	217,477	(2)
Changes in non-cash working capital	5,618	(11,610)	(148)	(1,663)	3,740	(144)
Current income taxes	(14,647)	(2,009)	629	(29,322)	(13,318)	120
Income taxes paid	4,348	-	100	24,638	-	100
Adjusted funds flow from operations ⁽¹⁾	80,887	58,441	38	206,279	207,899	(1)

	Three months ended September 30, 2023 2022			Nine months ended September 30, 2023 2022		
	Percent Change			Percent Change		
	(\$/boe)			(\$/boe)		
Cash flows provided by operating activities	52.07	67.06	(22)	44.94	66.80	(33)
Changes in non-cash working capital	3.41	(10.80)	(132)	(0.35)	1.15	(130)
Current income taxes	(8.91)	(1.87)	376	(6.20)	(4.09)	52
Income taxes paid	2.65	-	100	5.21	-	100
Adjusted funds flow netback ⁽²⁾	49.22	54.39	(10)	43.60	63.86	(32)

(1) Refer to “Management of capital” in note 12 of the interim financial statements and to “Non-GAAP and Other Financial Measures” within this MD&A.

(2) Non-GAAP ratio. Refer to the advisory “Non-GAAP and Other Financial Measures”.

For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2023, adjusted funds flow from operations increased to \$80.9 million and decreased to \$206.3 million, respectively, from \$58.4 million and \$207.9 million in the corresponding periods of the prior year. For the three months ended September 30, 2023, the increase in adjusted funds flow from operations was primarily due to a significant increase in sales volumes of 53% while realized commodity pricing remained flat, partially offset by higher overall cash costs including transportation, production expense and current income taxes. For the nine months ended September 30, 2023, adjusted funds flow from operations remained flat as the significant increase in sales volumes of 45% was offset by lower realized commodity pricing of 26% and higher overall cash costs including transportation, production expense and current income taxes. Lower commodity pricing also contributed to lower royalty expense and higher realized gains on financial derivatives.

Capital Expenditures

	Three months ended September 30, 2023 2022			Nine months ended September 30, 2023 2022		
	Percent Change			Percent Change		
	(thousands of dollars)			(thousands of dollars)		
Lease acquisition, retention and geological and geophysical	3,234	4,249	(24)	16,267	31,070	(48)
Site preparation	10,558	13,246	(20)	21,690	25,154	(14)
Drilling and completions	48,058	41,543	16	142,773	94,795	51
Equipping and facilities	8,352	11,924	(30)	23,053	35,346	(35)
Corporate	6	39	(85)	13	44	(70)
	70,208	71,001	(1)	203,796	186,409	9
Government grant	-	-	-	-	(2,591)	(100)
Capital expenditures ⁽¹⁾	70,208	71,001	(1)	203,796	183,818	11

(1) Non-GAAP measure. Refer to "Non-GAAP and Other Financial Measures" within this MD&A.

During the three months ended September 30, 2023, the Company invested a total of \$70.2 million in capital expenditures, including \$48.1 million on drilling and completions, \$10.5 million on site preparation (including road construction), \$8.4 million on equipping and facilities and \$3.2 million on lease acquisition and geological and geophysical costs.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2023, the Company invested a total of \$203.8 million in capital expenditures, including \$142.8 million on drilling and completions, \$23.0 million on equipping and facilities, \$21.7 million on site preparation (including road construction) and \$16.3 million on lease acquisition and geological and geophysical costs. Lease acquisition costs of \$15.5 million increased Headwater's total land base in the Clearwater as well as added other oil-based exploration opportunities across the Western Canadian Sedimentary Basin.

Drilling Activity

The following table summarizes the Company's drilling results:

	Three months ended September 30, 2023 2022				Nine months ended September 30, 2023 2022			
	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net
Crude oil	28	28.0	26	26.0	76	76.0	67	67.0
Natural gas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Injection	1	1.0	-	-	7	7.0	-	-
Source/stratigraphic test	-	-	1	1.0	3	3.0	7	7.0
Junked and abandoned	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1.0
Total	29	29.0	27	27.0	86	86.0	75	75.0
Success	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Decommissioning Liabilities

As at September 30, 2023, the decommissioning liabilities of the Company were \$37.7 million. The Company recorded an increase of \$5.4 million in the obligation from the decommissioning liability of \$32.3 million as at December 31, 2022. This increase of \$5.4 million was due to additions of \$11.3 million as a result of the Company's capital expenditure program and accretion expense of \$0.8 million partially offset by a downward change in estimate of \$6.7 million. The change in estimate is a result of a decrease to the inflation rate from 2.1% at December 31, 2022 to 1.8% at September 30, 2023, paired with an increase to the risk-free rate from 3.3% at December 31, 2022 to 3.8% at September 30, 2023. The total undiscounted uninflated amount of estimated cash flows required to settle these obligations is \$58.8 million (December 31, 2022 - \$43.0 million).

2023 Guidance Update

Due to favorable drilling conditions in 2023, Headwater has accelerated some of the Company's planned 2024 drilling into the fourth quarter of 2023. As a result of these changes, the Board has approved a \$10 million expansion to the 2023 capital budget from \$225 million to \$235 million. Due to timing of the additional expenditures, there is not anticipated to be any impact on 2023 forecast annual average production. Below is a comparison of current 2023 guidance to the guidance released on August 3, 2023, reflecting the increase in capital expenditures and new commodity price assumptions:

	2023 Guidance August 3, 2023	2023 Guidance November 9, 2023
Average Daily Production Annual (boe/d)	18,000	18,000
Pricing		
Crude oil – WTI (US\$/bbl)	75.21	77.95
Crude oil – WCS (Cdn\$/bbl)	77.67	80.15
Exchange rate (US\$/Cdn\$)	0.74	0.74
Financial Summary (\$millions)		
Estimated capital expenditures	225	235
Estimated adjusted funds flow from operations	280	285
Estimated dividends ⁽¹⁾ (\$0.40/common share)	94	94
Estimated adjusted working capital	65	60

(1) Refer to "Dividend Policy" within this MD&A.

For assumptions utilized in respect of the above guidance, see "*Forward Looking Information*" within this MD&A. Headwater expects to fund its 2023 capital expenditure budget through existing working capital and forecasted cash flows from operating activities.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

The Company's objectives when managing capital are to: i) deploy capital to provide an appropriate return on investment to its shareholders; ii) maintain financial flexibility in order to preserve the Company's ability to meet financial obligations; and iii) maintain a capital structure that provides financial flexibility to execute strategic acquisitions. To aid in managing the capital structure, the Company monitors adjusted working capital and adjusted funds flow from operations, supplemented as necessary by equity and debt financings.

On November 3, 2022, Headwater announced its inaugural quarterly cash dividend of \$0.10 per common share (\$0.40 per common share annualized). The first dividend was paid on January 16, 2023, to shareholders of record at the close of business on December 30, 2022. During the nine months ended

September 30, 2023, the Company declared \$70.8 million (nine months ended September 30, 2022 - \$nil) related to its quarterly cash dividend.

As at September 30, 2023, the Company had cash of \$129.0 million, adjusted working capital of \$35.9 million and no outstanding bank debt. The Company expects to have adequate liquidity to fund its 2023 capital expenditure program, quarterly cash dividends and contractual obligations in the near term through existing working capital and forecasted adjusted funds flow from operations. Headwater anticipates that it will make use of debt or equity financing for any substantial expansion of its capital program or to finance any significant acquisitions.

To the extent that the Company's existing working capital is not sufficient to pay the cash portion of the purchase price for any future acquisition, Headwater anticipates that it will make use of additional equity or debt financings as available. Alternatively, the Company may issue equity as consideration to complete any future acquisition.

Credit Facilities

During the fourth quarter of 2022, the Company entered into an agreement with the National Bank of Canada and the Bank of Montreal (the "Lenders") providing for senior secured revolving syndicated credit facilities. The extendible revolving credit facilities are comprised of a \$20.0 million operating facility and an \$80.0 million syndicated facility.

As at September 30, 2023, Headwater had not drawn on the credit facilities.

The credit facilities have a revolving period of 364 days, extendible annually at the request of the Company, subject to approval of the Lenders. If not extended, the credit facilities will automatically convert to a term loan and all outstanding obligations will be repayable one year after the expiry of the revolving period. In the second quarter of 2023, the expiry of the revolving period was extended from December 8, 2023, to May 30, 2024. The borrowing base is subject to semi-annual redeterminations occurring by May 31st and by November 30th of each year. The credit facilities are secured by a demand debenture in the amount of \$250.0 million. Repayments of principal are not required until the maturity date, provided that the borrowings do not exceed the authorized borrowing base and the Company is in compliance with all covenants, representations and warranties.

The credit facilities bear interest at a floating market rate with margins charged by the Lenders linked to the Company's senior debt to EBITDA ratio. EBITDA, for the purposes of calculating the senior debt to EBITDA ratio, is calculated as net income adjusted for non-cash items, interest expense and income taxes. Senior debt, for the purposes of calculating the senior debt to EBITDA ratio, is calculated as any debt of the Company excluding the financial derivative liability and repayable contribution.

The credit facilities are not subject to any financial covenants. Additionally, distributions are permitted subject to compliance with a Board approved distributions policy.

Contractual Obligations and Commitments

As at September 30, 2023, the Company is committed to future payments under the following agreements:

	Total	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Thereafter
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Transportation ⁽¹⁾	101,927	3,338	13,362	13,628	14,775	15,906	40,918
Lease ⁽²⁾	2,691	109	444	452	460	468	758
Government grant ⁽³⁾	8,834	-	-	883	2,942	5,009	-

- (1) At September 30, 2023, Headwater has the following transportation commitments:
- 8- year take-or-pay transportation agreement with a minimum volume commitment of 10,000 boe/d.
 - 8- year financial commitment at \$1.9 million per year adjusted for inflation.
 - 8- year take-or-pay transportation agreement with a current minimum volume commitment of 9,750 boe/d increasing to 12,500 boe/d in year 6.
- (2) Relates to variable operating costs, which are a non-lease component of the Company's head office lease.
- (3) Relates to scheduled undiscounted re-payments of federal government funding under the terms of the repayable contribution agreement with NRCan.
- (4) Excludes leases accounted for under IFRS 16.

Common Share Information

Share Capital

(thousands)	Three months ended September 30,		Nine months ended September 30,	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
Weighted average outstanding common shares ⁽¹⁾				
-Basic	236,191	229,909	235,305	225,794
-Diluted	239,167	236,658	237,683	232,984
Outstanding securities at September 30, 2023				
-Common shares				236,384
-Stock options – weighted average strike price of \$3.67				2,775
-Restricted share units				379
-Performance share units				1,917
-Deferred share units				254

- (1) The Company uses the treasury stock method to determine the dilutive effect of stock options, warrants, RSUs and PSUs. Under this method, only "in-the-money" dilutive instruments impact the calculation of diluted income per common share. This method also assumes that the proceeds received from the exercise of all "in-the-money" dilutive instruments are used to repurchase shares at the average market price.

Changes to share capital during the nine months ended September 30, 2023, were the following:

- 2.7 million stock options were exercised for 1.9 million common shares on a cashless basis, and 0.6 million stock options were exercised for 0.6 million common shares for total proceeds of \$1.0 million. Contributed surplus related to the options exercised of \$2.6 million was transferred to capital stock.
- The remaining balance of the warrants to purchase common shares that were outstanding were exercised for common shares for total proceeds of \$5 thousand. The associated fair value of the warrants of \$2 thousand, along with the proceeds received, were transferred to capital stock.

Total Market Capitalization

The Company's market capitalization at September 30, 2023 was approximately \$1.7 billion.

<i>(thousands)</i>	September 30, 2023
Common shares outstanding	236,384
Share price ⁽¹⁾	\$ 7.16
Total market capitalization	\$1,692,509

(1) Represents the closing price on the TSX on September 30, 2023.

As at November 9, 2023 the Company had 236,384,105 common shares outstanding.

<i>(thousands)</i>	November 9, 2023
Outstanding securities at November 9, 2023	
-Common shares	236,384
-Stock options – weighted average strike price of \$3.67	2,775
-Restricted share units	379
-Performance share units	1,917
-Deferred share units	254

Environmental, Social and Governance (“ESG”) Update

Headwater remains committed to strong ESG performance. Recent achievements related to the Company's ESG strategy include:

- On October 25, 2023, Headwater entered into an agreement to construct a gas gathering system in Marten Hills West, which is expected to allow the Company to conserve all of its natural gas in the area.
- Headwater newly formed an Environment, Safety and Sustainability Committee, which is comprised of independent members of the Board, to develop the Company's approach to matters concerning the environment, health and safety and sustainability.
- Achieved board diversification commitment to increase women on the Board to 30% by the 2023 annual shareholder meeting. Devery Corbin was appointed to the Board in May 2023.
- Headwater released its inaugural ESG report on November 3, 2022, highlighting key factors of the Company's ESG program including emissions management, Indigenous and community engagement and sustainability stewardship. For more information, see the Company's ESG report and updated 2022 Performance Tables on the Company's website at www.headwaterexp.com.

In addition to the Environment, Safety and Sustainability Committee, the Board has also established the Audit Committee, Reserves Committee and Corporate Governance and Compensation Committee which are all comprised of independent members of the Board. The Audit Committee and Reserves Committee ensure the integrity of the financial and reserves reporting of the Company, while the Corporate Governance and Compensation Committee is charged with independent oversight of the director nomination process, executive compensation decisions and other corporate governance matters. For additional information relating to the governance policies and structure of the Company see the Company's management information circular dated March 27, 2023 for the annual meeting of the shareholders held on May 11, 2023, which is available on SEDAR at www.sedarplus.ca and the information under the heading Corporate Responsibility on the Company's website at www.headwaterexp.com.

Summary of Quarterly Information

	Q3/23	Q2/23	Q1/23	Q4/22	Q3/22	Q2/22	Q1/22	Q4/21
Financial								
Total sales	149,632	118,967	104,209	109,377	99,587	130,153	119,262	75,287
Total sales, net of blending ^{(1) (2)}	144,003	112,560	94,570	102,974	94,949	122,102	110,022	70,125
Adjusted funds flow from operations ⁽³⁾	80,887	66,235	59,157	71,828	58,441	79,435	70,023	48,731
Per share - basic ⁽⁴⁾	0.34	0.28	0.25	0.31	0.25	0.35	0.32	0.24
- diluted ⁽⁴⁾	0.34	0.28	0.25	0.31	0.25	0.34	0.30	0.22
Cash flows provided by operating activities	85,568	66,857	60,201	66,448	72,060	84,728	60,689	47,753
Net income	49,677	30,947	29,979	39,789	31,545	48,412	42,363	27,927
Per share - basic	0.21	0.13	0.13	0.17	0.14	0.21	0.19	0.14
- diluted	0.21	0.13	0.13	0.17	0.13	0.21	0.18	0.13
Capital expenditures ⁽²⁾	70,208	64,094	69,494	60,677	71,001	30,860	81,957	49,043
Depletion and depreciation	30,723	29,341	28,657	25,842	17,284	17,243	19,038	15,790
Adjusted working capital ⁽³⁾	35,921	48,968	70,467	104,918	117,967	130,206	80,072	92,929
Working capital	43,496	54,765	77,415	109,433	113,381	127,101	77,122	89,775
Shareholders' equity	587,380	559,779	551,160	543,335	525,006	492,145	441,148	397,791
Dividends declared	23,638	23,586	23,539	23,392	-	-	-	-
Per share	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	-	-	-	-
Weighted average shares								
Basic	236,191	235,631	234,069	231,766	229,909	226,168	221,209	204,005
Diluted ⁽⁵⁾	239,167	237,913	236,279	235,305	236,658	233,479	234,265	220,958
Shares outstanding, end of period								
Basic	236,384	235,864	235,386	233,920	229,911	229,908	223,727	217,681
Diluted ⁽⁶⁾	241,175	241,240	241,368	241,029	241,593	241,585	241,688	242,448
Operating (6:1 boe conversion)								
Average daily production								
Heavy oil (bbls/d)	16,902	15,624	14,777	13,536	10,842	10,637	10,602	9,377
Natural gas (mmcf/d)	6.1	8.5	12.8	11.5	4.3	6.4	10.8	6.4
Natural gas liquids (bbls/d)	103	107	91	99	55	66	7	-
Barrels of oil equivalent (boe/d) ⁽⁷⁾	18,027	17,152	17,004	15,546	11,612	11,772	12,414	10,449
Average daily sales ⁽⁸⁾	17,862	17,154	16,968	15,568	11,680	11,705	12,398	10,459
Average selling prices								
Heavy oil (\$/bbl)	92.05	77.14	65.41	73.10	92.35	121.49	98.80	75.12
Natural gas (\$/mcf)	2.36	2.51	5.58	10.15	4.23	7.28	15.65	8.46
Natural gas liquids (\$/bbl)	86.65	75.01	66.53	73.02	95.54	113.61	108.57	-
Barrels of oil equivalent (\$/boe)	87.56	71.98	61.40	71.60	88.27	114.34	98.09	72.62
Netbacks (\$/boe) ^{(4) (9)}								
Operating								
Sales, net of blending	87.63	72.11	61.93	71.90	88.36	114.63	98.60	72.88
Realized gain (loss) on financial derivatives	0.18	0.21	4.74	2.96	-	(0.24)	(3.54)	1.41
Royalties	(16.26)	(12.63)	(10.04)	(13.51)	(21.93)	(23.85)	(15.09)	(11.34)
Transportation	(5.32)	(5.48)	(5.50)	(4.21)	(3.94)	(4.07)	(4.90)	(6.98)
Production	(7.43)	(7.33)	(6.53)	(6.25)	(5.95)	(5.66)	(5.77)	(4.20)
Operating netback, including financial derivatives (\$/boe)	58.80	46.88	44.60	50.89	56.54	80.81	69.30	51.77
General and administrative	(1.52)	(1.49)	(1.35)	(1.14)	(1.46)	(1.52)	(1.48)	(1.23)
Interest income and other expense ⁽¹⁰⁾	0.85	0.96	1.11	1.15	1.18	0.44	0.14	0.10
Current income taxes	(8.91)	(3.91)	(5.61)	(0.75)	(1.87)	(5.16)	(5.21)	-
Adjusted funds flow netback (\$/boe)	49.22	42.44	38.75	50.15	54.39	74.57	62.75	50.64

- (1) Heavy oil sales are netted with blending expense to compare the realized price to benchmark. In the interim financial statements, blending is recorded in blending and transportation expense.
- (2) Non-GAAP measure. Refer to “Non-GAAP and Other Financial Measures” within this MD&A.
- (3) Refer to “Management of capital” in note 12 of the interim financial statements and to “Non-GAAP and Other Financial Measures” within this MD&A.
- (4) Non-GAAP ratio. Refer to the advisory “Non-GAAP and Other Financial Measures”.
- (5) Diluted weighted average shares outstanding includes the impact of any stock options, RSUs and PSUs that would be outstanding as dilutive instruments using the treasury stock method. The number of outstanding RSUs and PSUs have been adjusted for dividends.
- (6) Includes in-the-money dilutive instruments as at September 30, 2023 which include 2.8 million stock options with a weighted average exercise price of \$3.67 and 2.0 million PSUs. The number of outstanding PSUs has been adjusted for dividends. RSUs have been excluded as the Company intends to cash settle these awards.
- (7) See barrels of oil equivalent under “Oil and Gas Metrics”.
- (8) Includes sales of unblended heavy crude oil. The Company’s heavy oil sales volumes and production volumes differ due to changes in inventory.
- (9) Netbacks are calculated using average sales volumes.
- (10) Excludes unrealized foreign exchange gains/losses, accretion on decommissioning liabilities and interest on the lease liability.

Headwater has experienced significant growth over the past two years as a result of its significant capital expenditure programs. The Company has grown production from 10,449 boe/d in the fourth quarter of 2021 to 18,027 boe/d in the third quarter of 2023. This production growth is attributed to successful drilling results in the Company’s Marten Hills core and west areas, as well as newer exploration prospects including West Nipisi and Greater Peavine. A significant increase in crude oil prices in 2021 and the first nine months of 2022 following the global recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic combined with the increase in the Company’s average production resulted in increasing adjusted funds flow from operations. Crude oil prices pulled back in the fourth quarter of 2022 and into the first half of 2023 before recovering in the third quarter of 2023. The recovery of commodity pricing in the third quarter of 2023 combined with record production, resulted in record adjusted funds flow of \$80.9 million for the three months ended September 30, 2023.

Headwater implemented a return of capital strategy announcing its inaugural quarterly cash dividend of \$0.10 per common share in the fourth quarter of 2022. Since announcing the Company’s inaugural dividend, Headwater has returned a total of \$94.1 million to shareholders.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

All off-balance sheet arrangements are in the normal course of business. Refer to the commitments under the heading “Contractual Obligations and Commitments”.

Subsequent Events

Subsequent to September 30, 2023, Headwater entered into an agreement to construct a natural gas gathering system with an estimated capital cost of approximately \$22.5 million. Once commissioned, which is expected late 2024, the Company is entitled to be reimbursed the capital costs, in respect thereof, and will be subject to a long-term fixed take-or-pay contract. The estimated capital costs and timing of the project are preliminary and subject to change.

Declaration of Dividend

Subsequent to September 30, 2023, the Board declared a quarterly cash dividend to shareholders of \$0.10 per common share payable on January 15, 2024, to shareholders of record at the close of business on December 29, 2023. This dividend is an eligible dividend for the purposes of the Income Tax Act (Canada).

Foreign Exchange Contracts

Subsequent to September 30, 2023, Headwater entered into the following foreign exchange contracts:

Type	Buy Currency	Sell Currency	Rate	Notional Amount	Settlement Date
Forward contract	CAD	USD	Oct 2023 average	US\$38.4 million	Nov 28, 2023
Forward contract	CAD	USD	Nov 2023 average	US\$27.0 million	Dec 28, 2023

Headwater Succession Plan

On November 9, 2023, Headwater announced changes to the positions and titles of certain members of its management team as part of Headwater's ongoing long-term succession planning. Effective January 1, 2024, Jason Jaskela will transition from President and Chief Operating Officer to President and Chief Executive Officer. Neil Roszell, the current Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, will stay on as Headwater's Executive Chairman. Brad Christman will assume the role of Chief Operating Officer from his current role of Vice President, Production.

Non-GAAP and Other Financial Measures

Throughout this MD&A, the Company uses various non-GAAP and other financial measures to analyze operating performance and financial position. These non-GAAP and other financial measures do not have standardized meanings prescribed under IFRS and therefore may not be comparable to similar measures presented by other entities.

Heavy oil sales, net of blending

Management utilizes heavy oil sales, net of blending expense to compare realized pricing to WCS benchmark pricing. It is calculated by deducting the Company's blending expense from heavy oil sales. In the interim financial statements blending expense is recorded within blending and transportation expense.

	Three months ended September 30,		Nine months ended September 30,	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	(thousands of dollars)		(thousands of dollars)	
Heavy oil sales	147,368	97,335	359,875	325,627
Blending expense	(5,629)	(4,638)	(21,675)	(21,929)
Heavy oil sales, net of blending expense	141,739	92,697	338,200	303,698

Total sales, net of blending

Management utilizes total sales, net of blending expense to compare realized pricing to benchmark pricing. It is calculated by deducting the Company's blending expense from total sales. In the interim financial statements blending expense is recorded within blending and transportation expense.

	Three months ended September 30,		Nine months ended September 30,	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	(thousands of dollars)		(thousands of dollars)	
Total sales	149,632	99,587	372,808	349,002
Blending expense	(5,629)	(4,638)	(21,675)	(21,929)
Total sales, net of blending expense	144,003	94,949	351,133	327,073

Capital expenditures

Management utilizes capital expenditures to measure total cash capital expenditures incurred in the period. Capital expenditures represents capital expenditures – exploration and evaluation and capital expenditures – property, plant and equipment in the statement of cash flows in the Company's interim financial statements, netted by the government grant.

	Three months ended September 30,		Nine months ended September 30,	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	(thousands of dollars)		(thousands of dollars)	
Cash flows used in investing activities	62,030	54,062	188,998	170,099
Proceeds from government grant ⁽¹⁾	-	1,208	-	1,208
Restricted cash	-	-	-	(5,000)
Change in non-cash working capital	8,178	15,731	14,798	20,102
Government grant	-	-	-	(2,591)
Capital expenditures	70,208	71,001	203,796	183,818

(1) Relates to federal government funding received in respect of the repayable contribution agreement with NRCan.

Capital Management Measures

Adjusted Funds Flow from Operations

Management considers adjusted funds flow from operations to be a key measure to assess the Company's management of capital. Adjusted funds flow from operations is an indicator as to whether adjustments are necessary to the level of capital expenditures. For example, in periods where adjusted funds flow from operations are negatively impacted by reduced commodity pricing, capital expenditures may need to be reduced or curtailed to preserve the Company's capital and dividend policy. Management believes that by excluding the impact of changes in non-cash working capital and adjusting for current income taxes in the period, adjusted funds flow from operations provides a useful measure of Headwater's ability to generate the funds necessary to manage the capital needs of the Company.

	Three months ended September 30,		Nine months ended September 30,	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	(thousands of dollars)		(thousands of dollars)	
Cash flows provided by operating activities	85,568	72,060	212,626	217,477
Changes in non-cash working capital	5,618	(11,610)	(1,663)	3,740
Current income taxes	(14,647)	(2,009)	(29,322)	(13,318)
Current income taxes paid	4,348	-	24,638	-
Adjusted funds flow from operations	80,887	58,441	206,279	207,899

Adjusted Working Capital

Adjusted working capital is a capital management measure which management uses to assess the Company's liquidity. Financial derivative receivable/liability have been excluded as these contracts are subject to a high degree of volatility prior to settlement and relate to future production periods. Financial derivative receivable/liability are included in adjusted funds flow from operations when the contracts are ultimately realized. Management has included the effects of the contribution receivable and repayable contribution to provide a better indication of Headwater's net financing obligations.

	As at September 30, 2023	As at December 31, 2022
	<i>(thousands of dollars)</i>	
Working capital	43,496	109,433
Contribution receivable (long-term)	1,104	1,104
Repayable contribution	(7,082)	(6,720)
Financial derivative receivable	(1,794)	(419)
Financial derivative liability	197	1,520
Adjusted working capital	35,921	104,918

Non-GAAP Ratios

Adjusted funds flow netback, operating netback and operating netback, including financial derivatives

Adjusted funds flow netback, operating netback and operating netback, including financial derivatives are non-GAAP ratios and are used by management to better analyze the Company's performance against prior periods on a more comparable basis.

Adjusted funds flow netback is defined as adjusted funds flow from operations divided by sales volumes in the period.

Operating netback is defined as sales less royalties, transportation and blending costs and production expense divided by sales volumes in the period. Sales volumes exclude the impact of purchased condensate and butane. Operating netback, including financial derivatives is defined as operating netback plus realized gains or losses on financial derivatives.

Adjusted funds flow per share

Adjusted funds flow per share is a non-GAAP ratio and is used by management to better analyze the Company's performance against prior periods on a more comparable basis. Adjusted funds flow per share is calculated as adjusted funds flow from operations divided by weighted average shares outstanding during the period on a basic or diluted basis.

Royalty rate

Corporate royalty rate is calculated as total royalties as a percentage of total sales, net of blending expense.

Per boe numbers

This MD&A represents various results on a per boe basis including Headwater's average realized sales price, financial derivatives gains or losses per boe, royalty expense per boe, transportation expense per boe, production expense per boe, general and administrative expenses per boe, interest income and other expense per boe, stock-based compensation expense per boe and depletion and depreciation per boe. These figures are calculated using sales volumes.

Disclosure Controls and Procedures

The Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have designed, or caused to be designed under their supervision, disclosure controls and procedures as defined in National Instrument 52-109 of the Canadian Securities Administrators, to provide reasonable assurance that (i) material information relating to the Company is made known to the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer by others, particularly during the period in which the annual and interim filings are being prepared and (ii) information required to be disclosed by the Company in its annual filings, interim filings or other reports filed or submitted

by it under securities legislation is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in securities legislation.

Internal Controls over Financial Reporting

The Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have designed, or caused to be designed under their supervision, internal controls over financial reporting as defined in National Instrument 52-109 of the Canadian Securities Administrators, in order to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with IFRS.

The Company confirms that there were no changes to Headwater's internal controls over financial reporting during the interim period from July 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

It should be noted that while Headwater's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer believe that the Company's internal controls and procedures provide a reasonable level of assurance and that they are effective, they do not expect that these controls will prevent all errors or fraud. A control system, no matter how well conceived or operated, can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance that the objectives of the control system are met.

Critical Accounting Estimates

Use of estimates and judgments

The preparation of the Company's financial statements in accordance with IFRS requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Such estimates and assumptions are evaluated at each reporting date and are based on management's experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Estimates are more difficult to determine, and the range of potential outcomes can be wider, in periods of higher volatility and uncertainty. The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the recovery therefrom coupled with several factors including higher levels of uncertainty due to the Russian Ukrainian war and Israeli-Hamas conflict and the resultant impact on energy markets, rising interest and inflation rates, and constrained supply chains have created a higher level of volatility and uncertainty. Management has, to the extent reasonable, incorporated known facts and circumstances into the estimates made, however, actual results could differ from those estimates and those differences could be material. The Company has identified the following areas requiring significant judgments, assumptions or estimates.

Climate change

The following provides certain disclosures as to the impact of climate change on the amounts recorded in the financial statements as at and for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2023. The below is not a comprehensive list or analysis of all climate change impacts and risks.

Emissions, carbon and other regulations impacting climate and climate related matters are constantly evolving. With respect to climate reporting, the International Sustainability Standards Board has issued an IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standard with the aim to develop sustainability disclosure standards that are globally consistent, comparable and reliable. In addition, the Canadian Securities Administrators have issued a proposed National Instrument 51-107 - *Disclosure of Climate-Related Matters*. The cost to comply with these standards, and others that may be developed or evolve over time, has not yet been quantified.

The Company has considered the impact of the evolving worldwide demand for energy and global advancement of alternative sources of energy that are not sourced from fossil fuels in its assessment as a possible indication of impairment of its oil and gas properties. The Company completed the analysis of triggers for impairment as at September 30, 2023 and climate risk/climate change, in of itself, did not result in the Company completing an impairment test. The Company has considered the impact of the evolving worldwide demand for energy and global advancement of alternative sources of energy that are not sourced from fossil fuels in its assessment of depletion on its oil and gas properties. Depletion of the Company's oil and gas properties was based on proved and probable reserves, the life of which is generally less than 20 years. The ultimate period in which global energy markets can transition from carbon-based sources to alternative energy is highly uncertain, however, the majority of the Company's proved and probable reserves per the 2022 reserve report should be realized prior to the elimination of carbon-based energy. At this time, the Company has not capped its reserve life for purposes of calculating depletion expense, however, this estimate will be monitored as the energy evolution continues.

The Company engages a third-party external reserve engineer to prepare the reserve report. The reserve report includes anticipated impacts from emissions related taxes, most notably the reserve report includes estimated carbon tax related to the Company's operations consistent with Alberta's Emissions Management and Climate Resilience Act.

The evolving energy transition and general sentiment to the oil and gas industry may result in reduced access to capital markets. Management will continue to adjust the capital structure to the dynamic environment.

During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2023, the Company did not incur material weather-related damages to its property, plant and equipment. Management is not aware of a material disruption in its supply chain or the marketers of the Company's product related to climate events. The Alberta wildfires had minimal impact to Headwater's production during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2023.

The Company maintains insurance coverage that provides a level of insurance for certain events that may arise due to climate change factors; however, the Company's insurance program is subject to limits and various restrictions. No claims were made under the Company's insurance policies during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2023 with respect to climate related matters.

a) Critical Judgments in Applying Accounting Policies

Business Combinations

Business combinations are accounted for using the acquisition method of accounting. The determination of fair value is estimated based on information available at the date of acquisition and requires management to make assumptions and estimates about future events. The assumptions and estimates with respect to determining the fair value of exploration and evaluation assets and property, plant and equipment acquired generally require the most judgment and include estimates of the cash flows associated with proved and probable reserves acquired which is impacted by assumptions related to forecasted production, forecasted operating and royalty costs, future development costs, future crude oil and natural gas commodity prices, foreign exchange rates, and discount rates. Assumptions are also required to determine the fair value of decommissioning liabilities associated with the properties. Changes in any of these assumptions or estimates used in determining the fair value of acquired assets and liabilities could impact the amounts assigned to assets, liabilities (including deferred income tax liabilities) in the acquisition equation. Future net income (loss) will be affected as the fair value on initial recognition impacts future depletion expense, as well as the risk of potential impairment in future periods.

Determination of cash-generating units ("CGU") and impairment

The determination of what constitutes a CGU used to test the recoverability of the carrying values of the Company's oil and gas properties is subject to management's judgment. Judgments are made in regard to

shared infrastructure, geographical proximity, petroleum type and similar exposure to market risks and materiality. The asset composition of a CGU can directly impact the recoverability of the assets included therein.

Judgments are required to assess when impairment or impairment reversal indicators exist and impairment testing is required.

Exploration and evaluation (“E&E”) assets

The application of the Company’s accounting policy for E&E assets requires management to make certain judgments as to whether economic quantities of reserves have been found. Judgment is also required to determine the level at which E&E is assessed for impairment; for Headwater, the recoverable amount of E&E assets is assessed at a CGU level.

b) Key Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

Recoverability of asset carrying value and the impact of reserves on depletion and the evaluation of the recoverable amount of a CGU

At each reporting date, the Company assesses its property, plant and equipment and exploration and evaluation assets to determine if there is any indication that the carrying amount of the assets may not be recoverable. An assessment is also made at each reporting date to determine whether there is any indication that previously recognized impairment losses no longer exist or have decreased. Determination as to whether and how much an asset is impaired, or no longer impaired, involves management’s estimates on highly uncertain matters. The key estimates used in the determination of cash flows from crude oil and natural gas reserves and the volume of proved and probable crude oil and natural gas reserves include the following:

- i) Reserves and forecasted production – assumptions that are valid at the time of reserve estimation may change significantly when new information becomes available. Changes in future price estimates, production levels or results of future drilling may change the economic status of reserves and may ultimately result in reserve revisions.
- ii) Forecasted crude oil and natural gas prices – commodity prices can fluctuate for a variety of reasons including supply and demand fundamentals, inventory levels, exchange rates, weather, and economic and geopolitical factors.
- iii) Discount rate – the discount rate used to calculate the net present value of cash flows is based on estimates of an approximate industry peer group weighted average cost of capital. Changes in the general economic environment could result in significant changes to this estimate.
- iv) Forecasted operating and royalty costs and future development costs – estimates concerning future drilling and infrastructure costs and production costs required to operate the assets are used in the cash flow model.

Changes in circumstances may impact these estimates which could have a material financial impact in future periods.

Reserves estimates also have a material financial impact on depletion expense, property, plant, and equipment acquired in business combinations, deferred income taxes and decommissioning liabilities, all of which could have a material impact on financial results. These reserve estimates are evaluated by third-party reserve evaluators at least annually, who work with information provided by the Company to establish reserve determinations in accordance with National Instrument 51-101 - *Standards of Disclosure for Oil and Gas Activities*. Changes in circumstances may impact these estimates which could have a material financial impact in future periods.

Decommissioning liabilities

The decommissioning costs which will ultimately be incurred by the Company are uncertain and estimates can vary in response to many factors including changes to relevant legal requirements, the emergence of new restoration techniques or experience at other production sites. The expected timing can also change in response to changes in reserves or changes in laws and regulations. As a result, there could be significant adjustments to the provisions established which could materially affect future financial results. Judgments include the most appropriate discount rate to use, which management has determined to be a risk-free rate.

Valuation of financial instruments

The estimated fair values of the Company's financial derivative commodity and foreign exchange contracts are subject to measurement uncertainty due to the estimation of future crude oil and natural gas commodity prices, foreign exchange rates and volatility.

Valuation of stock options

The estimated fair values of the stock options issued under the Company's stock option plans were based on the Black-Scholes pricing model incorporating assumptions on volatility, risk-free interest rate, forfeiture rate and the expected term.

Changing regulation

On June 26, 2023, the International Sustainability Standards Board ("ISSB") issued IFRS S1 - General Requirements for Disclosure of Sustainability-Related Financial Information ("IFRS S1"), and IFRS S2 – Climate Related Disclosures ("IFRS S2"). IFRS S1 and IFRS S2 are effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after January 1, 2024. The sustainability standards as issued by the ISSB provide for transition relief in IFRS S1 that allow a reporting entity to report only on climate-related risks and opportunities, as set out in IFRS S2, in the first year of reporting under the sustainability standards.

The Canadian Securities Administrators ("CSA") are responsible for determining the reporting requirements for public companies in Canada and are responsible for decisions related to the adoption of the sustainability disclosure standards, including the effective annual reporting dates. The CSA issued proposed National Instrument NI 51-107 – Disclosure of Climate-Related Matters in October 2021. The CSA has indicated it will consider the ISSB sustainability standards and developments in the United States in its decisions related to developing climate-related disclosure requirements for reporting issuers in Canada. The CSA will involve the Canadian Sustainability Standards Board ("CSSB") for their combined review of the ISSB issued sustainability standards for their suitability for adoption in Canada. Until such time as the CSA and CSSB make decisions on sustainability standard adoption here in Canada, there is no requirement for public companies in Canada to adopt the sustainability standards. The Company is committed to transparent and comprehensive reporting of its sustainability performance and is actively evaluating the potential effects of the ISSB issued sustainability standards; however, at this time, the Company is not able to determine the impact on future financial statements, nor the potential costs to comply with these sustainability standards.

Business Conditions and Risks

There are numerous factors both known and unknown, that could cause actual results or events to differ materially from forecast results. The following is a summary of such risk factors, which should not be construed as exhaustive:

- Volatility in the market conditions for the oil and natural gas industry may affect the value of the Company's reserves and restrict its cash flow and ability to access capital to fund the development of its properties and pay dividends;
- Risks related to wildfires or other natural disasters in close proximity to the Company's operations, including safety of personnel, asset integrity and potential disruption of operations, which could affect the Company's results, business, financial conditions or liquidity;
- Various factors may adversely impact the marketability of oil and natural gas, affecting net production revenue, production volumes and development and exploration activities;
- The anticipated benefits of acquisitions may not be achieved and the Company may dispose of non-core assets for less than their carrying value on the financial statements as a result of weak market conditions;
- The impacts of the Russian Ukrainian war, Israeli-Hamas conflict and other international wars or conflicts on commodity prices and the world economy could affect the Company's results, business, financial conditions or liquidity;
- Natural disasters, terrorist acts, civil unrest, war, pandemics and other disruptions and dislocations may affect the Company's results, business, financial conditions or liquidity;
- The Company's business may be adversely affected by political and social events and decisions made in Canada, the United States, Europe, the Middle-East and elsewhere;
- Lack of capacity and/or regulatory constraints on gathering and processing facilities and pipeline systems may have a negative impact on the Company's ability to produce and sell its oil and natural gas;
- The Company competes with other oil and natural gas companies, some of which have greater financial and operational resources;
- The Company's ability to successfully implement new technologies into its operations in a timely and efficient manner will affect its ability to compete;
- Changes to the demand for oil and natural gas products and the rise of petroleum alternatives may negatively affect the Company's financial condition, results of operations and cash flow;
- Modification to current, or implementation of additional, regulations (including environmental regimes) or royalty regimes may reduce the demand for oil and natural gas, impact the Company's cash flows and/or increase the Company's costs and/or delay planned operations;
- Taxes on carbon emissions affect the demand for oil and natural gas, the Company's operating expenses and may impair the Company's ability to compete;
- Liability management programs enacted by regulators in the western provinces may prevent or interfere with the Company's ability to acquire properties or require a substantial cash deposit with the regulator;
- The Company may require additional financing, from time to time, to fund the acquisition, exploration and development of properties and its ability to obtain such financing in a timely fashion and on acceptable terms may be negatively impacted by the current economic and global market volatility;
- Changing investor sentiment towards the oil and natural gas industry may impact the Company's access to, and cost of, capital;
- Oil and natural gas operations are subject to seasonal weather conditions and, if applicable to the Company's operations in the future, the Company may experience significant operational delays as a result;
- Regulatory water use restrictions and/or limited access to water or other fluids may impact the Company's future production volumes from any future waterflood of the Company;
- Credit risk related to non-payment for sales contracts or other counterparties;
- Foreign exchange risk as commodity sales are based on US dollar denominated benchmarks; and

- The risk of significant interruption or failure of the Company's information technology systems and related data and control systems or a significant breach that could adversely affect the Company's operations.

Additional risks and information on risk factors are included in the Annual Informational Form for the year ended December 31, 2022, dated March 9, 2023, which is available on the Company's website at www.headwaterexp.com and under the Company's profile on SEDAR+ at www.sedarplus.ca.

The Company uses a variety of means to help mitigate or minimize these risks including the following:

- Attracting and retaining a team of highly qualified and motivated professionals who have a vested interest in the success of the Company;
- Employing risk management instruments to minimize exposure to volatility of commodity prices;
- Maintaining a strong financial position;
- Maintaining strict environmental, safety and health practices;
- Maintaining a comprehensive insurance program;
- Managing credit risk by entering into agreements with counterparties that are investment grade; and
- Implementation of cyber security protocols and procedures to reduce to risk of failure of breach of data.

Oil and Gas Abbreviations and Metrics

<u>Oil and Natural Gas Liquids</u>		<u>Natural Gas</u>	
bbl	barrel	mcf	thousand cubic feet
bbls	barrels	mmcf	million cubic feet
bbls/d	barrels per day	mmcf/d	million cubic feet per day
		mmbtu	million British Thermal Units
		GJ	gigajoule
<u>Other</u>			
AECO	A natural gas storage facility located at Suffield, Alberta		
AGT	Algonquin City-Gate natural gas pricing point on the Algonquin gas pipeline system		
API	American Petroleum Institute		
°API	an indication of the specific gravity of crude oil measured on the API gravity scale		
boe	barrel of oil equivalent of natural gas and crude oil on the basis of 1 boe for 6 mcf of natural gas		
boe/d	barrel of oil equivalent per day		
NYMEX	New York Mercantile Exchange		
WCS	Western Canadian Select, a heavy sour Canadian crude oil blended at Port Hardisty, Alberta with a nominal API gravity of 20.5 degrees		
WTI	West Texas Intermediate, the reference price paid in U.S. dollars at Cushing, Oklahoma for crude oil of standard grade		

Barrels of Oil Equivalent

The term barrels of oil equivalent ("boe") may be misleading, particularly if used in isolation. Per boe amounts have been calculated using a conversion rate of six thousand cubic feet of natural gas to one barrel of crude oil. This equivalence is based on an energy equivalency conversion method primarily applicable at the burner tip and does not represent a value equivalency at the wellhead. As the value ratio between natural gas and crude oil based on the current prices of natural gas and crude oil is significantly different from the energy equivalency of 6:1, utilizing a conversion on a 6:1 basis may be misleading as an indication of value.

Dividend Policy

The amount of future cash dividends paid by the Company, if any, will be subject to the discretion of the Board and may vary depending on a variety of factors and conditions existing from time to time, including, among other things, adjusted funds flow from operations, fluctuations in commodity prices, production levels, capital expenditure requirements, acquisitions, debt service requirements and debt levels, operating costs, royalty burdens, foreign exchange rates and the satisfaction of the liquidity and solvency tests imposed by applicable corporate law for the declaration and payment of dividends. Depending on these and various other factors, many of which will be beyond the control of the Company, the Board will adjust the Company's dividend policy from time to time and, as a result, future cash dividends could be reduced or suspended entirely.

Forward Looking Information

This MD&A contains certain forward-looking statements and forward-looking information (collectively referred to herein as "forward-looking statements") within the meaning of Canadian securities laws. All statements other than statements of historical fact are forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements typically contain statements with words such as "anticipate", "believe", "plan", "continuous", "estimate", "expect", "may", "will", "project", "intend", "should" or similar words suggesting future outcomes. In particular, this MD&A contains forward-looking statements pertaining to the following:

- business plans and strategies (including its production optimization and hedging strategies);
- the expectation the WCS to WTI differential is expected to tighten longer term with the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion expected to commission in 2024;
- the expectation transportation costs will decrease in 2024 with additional pipeline capacity;
- Headwater expecting to resume McCully operations at the end of November 2023 to take advantage of AGT market's premium winter pricing;
- the Company's estimated production for McCully for December 2023 to March 2024;
- the Company's intent to settle PSUs in equity;
- the Company's intent to settle DSUs in cash;
- the expectation the Marten Hills West gas gathering system will commission in late 2024 and cost approximately \$22.5 million and that such system will allow the Company to conserve all of its natural gas in the area;
- the expectation that Headwater could make use of additional equity or debt financings to fund any substantial increase of its capital expenditure program or for future acquisitions;
- the expectation that the Company has adequate liquidity to fund its 2023 capital expenditure budget, future dividend payments and contractual obligations in the near term through existing working capital and forecasted cash flows from operations;
- 2023 crude oil and natural gas pricing assumptions;
- 2023 Canadian – US dollar exchange rates;
- 2023 guidance related to annual production, capital expenditures, dividends, adjusted funds flow from operations and adjusted working capital;

- the Company's objectives with respect to managing capital;
- the Company's future contractual obligations and commitments;
- Headwater's commitment to strong ESG performance;
- the Company's dividend policy;
- the Company's commitment to transparent and comprehensive reporting of its sustainability performance and active evaluation of the potential effects of the ISSB issued sustainability standards;
- the estimated amount to settle the Company's decommissioning liabilities; and
- the expectation that the majority of the Company's proved and probable reserves per the 2022 reserve report should be realized prior to the elimination of carbon-based energy.

Statements relating to "reserves" are forward-looking statements, as they involve the implied assessment, based on certain estimates and assumptions that the reserves described, as applicable, exist in the quantities predicted or estimated and can profitably be produced in the future.

Undue reliance should not be placed on forward-looking statements, which are inherently uncertain, are based on estimates and assumptions, and are subject to known and unknown risks and uncertainties (both general and specific) that contribute to the possibility that the future events or circumstances contemplated by the forward-looking statements will not occur. There can be no assurance that the plans, intentions or expectations upon which forward-looking statements are based, will in fact be realized. Actual results will differ, and the difference may be material and adverse to the Company and its shareholders.

The forward-looking statements contained herein are based on certain key expectations and assumptions made by the Company, including but not limited to expectations and assumptions concerning the success of optimization and efficiency improvement projects, the availability of capital, current legislation, receipt of required regulatory approval, the success of future drilling, development and waterflooding activities, the performance of existing wells, the performance of new wells, Headwater's growth strategy, general economic conditions including inflationary pressures, availability of required equipment and services, prevailing equipment and services costs and prevailing commodity prices. Although the Company believes that the expectations and assumptions on which the forward-looking statements are based are reasonable, undue reliance should not be placed on the forward-looking statements because the Company can give no assurance that they will prove to be correct.

Any financial outlook or future oriented financial information in this MD&A, as defined by applicable securities legislation, has been approved by management of the Company as of the date hereof. Readers are cautioned that any such future-oriented financial information contained herein should not be used for purposes other than those for which it is disclosed herein. The Company and its management believe that the prospective financial information as to the anticipated results of its proposed business activities for the periods specified herein has been prepared on a reasonable basis, reflecting management's best estimates and judgments, and represent, to the best of management's knowledge and opinion, the Company's expected course of action. However, because this information is highly subjective, it should not be relied on as necessarily indicative of future results. The assumptions used in the 2023 guidance include: annual average production of 18,000 boe/d, WTI of US\$77.95/bbl, WCS of Cdn\$80.15/bbl, AGT US\$5.80/mmbtu, foreign exchange rate of US\$/Cdn\$ of 0.74, blending expense of WCS less \$2.25, royalty rate of 18%, operating and transportation costs of \$12.65/boe, financial derivatives gains of \$1.95/boe, G&A and interest income and other expense of \$0.75/boe and cash taxes of \$6.10/boe. The AGT price is the average price for the winter producing months in the McCully field which include January to April and November to December. 2023 annual production guidance comprised of: 16,390 bbls/d of heavy oil, 60 bbls/d of natural gas liquids and 9.3 mmcf/d of natural gas.

Since forward-looking statements address future events and conditions, by their very nature they involve inherent risks and uncertainties. Actual results could differ materially from those currently anticipated due to a number of factors and risks. These include, but are not limited to, the risks identified under the heading "*Business Conditions and Risks*". Further information regarding these factors and additional factors may be found under the heading "Risk Factors" in the Annual Informational Form for the year ended December

31, 2022, dated March 9, 2023, which is available on the Company's website at www.headwaterexp.com and under the Company's profile on SEDAR+ at www.sedarplus.ca. Readers are cautioned that the foregoing list of factors that may affect future results is not exhaustive.

The forward-looking statements contained in this MD&A are made as of the date hereof and the Company does not undertake any obligation to update publicly or to revise any of the included forward-looking statements, except as required by applicable law. The forward-looking statements contained herein are expressly qualified by this cautionary statement.

Corporate Information

Board of Directors

NEIL ROSZELL
Executive Chairman & CEO, Headwater Exploration Inc.
Calgary, Alberta

JASON JASKELA
President and COO, Headwater Exploration Inc.
Calgary, Alberta

CHANDRA HENRY ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾
CFO and Chief Compliance Officer, Longbow Capital Inc.
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- (1) Audit Committee
- (2) Corporate Governance and Compensation Committee
- (3) Reserves Committee
- (4) Environment, Safety and Sustainability Committee

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Independent Reservoir Consultants
McDaniel & Associates Consultants Ltd.

Officers

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Executive Chairman & CEO

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President and COO

GEORGIA LITTLE, CPA, CA
Interim Vice President Finance & CFO

TERRY DANKU, P. Eng.
Vice President Engineering

JON GRIMWOOD, P. Geo.
Vice President New Ventures

DIETER DEINES
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