

NICHOLAS FINANCIAL INC  
Form DEF 14A  
July 10, 2007

OMB APPROVAL  
OMB Number: 3235-0059  
Expires: January 31, 2008  
Estimated average burden  
hours per response 14

**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**Washington, D.C. 20549**

**SCHEDULE 14A**

**Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the**  
**Securities Exchange Act of 1934**  
**(Amendment No. \_\_)**

Filed by the Registrant  Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement

**Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**

Definitive Proxy Statement

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

**NICHOLAS FINANCIAL, INC.**

---

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

---

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

(1) Title of each class of securities to which the transaction applies:

---

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which the transaction applies:

---

(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of the transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

---

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of the transaction:

---

(5) Total fee paid:

---

Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

(1) Amount Previously Paid:

---

Edgar Filing: NICHOLAS FINANCIAL INC - Form DEF 14A

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

---

(3) Filing Party:

---

(4) Date Filed:

---

**NICHOLAS FINANCIAL, INC.**

**Building C #501B**

**2454 McMullen Booth Road**

**Clearwater, FL 33759-1340**

**(727) 726-0763**

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

To the Shareholders of Nicholas Financial, Inc:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 2007 Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders (the Meeting ) of Nicholas Financial, Inc. (hereinafter called the Company ) will be held at the Company s corporate headquarters, located at 2454 McMullen Booth Road, Building C #501B, Clearwater, Florida, on Tuesday, August 7, 2007, at the hour of 10:00 AM (Clearwater, Florida time) for the following purposes:

1. to receive the Report of the Directors;
2. to receive the consolidated financial statements of the Company for its fiscal year ended March 31, 2007 and the report of Dixon Hughes PLLC, the Company s Independent Auditors, thereon;
3. to elect two directors to hold office until the 2010 Annual General Meeting of Shareholders or until their respective successors are duly elected and qualified.
4. to approve the appointment of Dixon Hughes PLLC as the Company s Independent Auditors for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2008; and
5. to transact such other business as may properly come before the Meeting.

Accompanying this Notice are a Proxy Statement and Information Circular and Form of Proxy.

Shareholders of record as of the close of business on July 5, 2007 will be entitled to attend and vote at the Meeting, or any adjournment or postponement thereof. A shareholder entitled to attend and vote at the Meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy holder to attend and vote in his stead.

Your vote is important. If you are unable to attend the Meeting (or any adjournment or postponement thereof) in person, please read the Notes accompanying the Form of Proxy enclosed herewith and then complete and return the Proxy within the time set out in the Notes.

The enclosed Form of Proxy is solicited by the Board of Directors of the Company but, as set out in the Notes accompanying the Form of Proxy, you may amend it if you so desire by striking out the names listed therein and inserting in the space provided the name of the person you wish to represent you at the Meeting.

DATED at Clearwater, Florida, July 10, 2007.

**BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Ralph T. Finkenbrink

Secretary

**NICHOLAS FINANCIAL, INC**

**Building C #501B**

**2454 McMullen Booth Road**

**Clearwater, FL 33759**

**(727) 726-0763**

**PROXY STATEMENT AND INFORMATION CIRCULAR**

**AS AT AND DATED JULY 10, 2007**

This Proxy Statement and Information Circular accompanies the Notice of the 2007 Annual General Meeting of Shareholders (the Meeting) of Nicholas Financial, Inc. (hereinafter called the Company) to be held on Tuesday, August 7, 2007, at 10:00 a.m. (Clearwater, Florida time), at the Company's corporate headquarters, located at 2454 McMullen Booth Road, Building C #501B, Clearwater, Florida, and is being furnished in connection with the solicitation of proxies on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Company for use at that Meeting and at any adjournment thereof.

The Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2007 (the Annual Report), together with this Proxy Statement and Information Circular and the accompanying proxy form (Proxy), are first being mailed on or about July 10, 2007 to shareholders entitled to vote at the Meeting.

**REVOCABILITY OF PROXY**

If the accompanying Proxy is completed, signed and returned, the shares represented thereby will be voted at the Meeting. The giving of the Proxy does not affect the right to vote in person should the shareholder be able to attend the Meeting. The shareholder may revoke the Proxy at any time prior to the voting thereof.

In addition to revocation in any other manner permitted by law, a proxy may be revoked by an instrument in writing executed by the shareholder or his attorney authorized in writing, or if the shareholder is a corporation, by a duly authorized officer or attorney thereof, and deposited either at the registered office of the Company at any time up to and including the last business day preceding the day of the Meeting, or any adjournment thereof, or, as to any matter in respect of which a vote shall not already have been cast pursuant to such proxy, with the Chairman of the Meeting on the day of the Meeting, or any adjournment thereof, and upon either of such deposits the proxy is revoked.

**PERSONS MAKING THE SOLICITATION**

THE ENCLOSED PROXY IS BEING SOLICITED BY

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMPANY

Solicitations will be made by mail and possibly supplemented by telephone or other personal contact to be made without special compensation by regular officers and employees of the Company. The Company may reimburse shareholders, nominees or agents (including brokers holding shares on behalf of clients) for the cost incurred in obtaining from their principals authorization to execute forms of proxy. No solicitation will be made by specifically engaged employees or soliciting agents. The cost of solicitation of proxies on behalf of the Board of Directors will be borne by the Company.

**VOTING SHARES AND OWNERSHIP**

**OF MANAGEMENT AND PRINCIPAL HOLDERS**

As of the date of this Proxy Statement and Information Circular, the Company is authorized to issue 50,000,000 Common shares without par value and 5,000,000 Preference shares without par value. As of the close of business on July 5, 2007, the record date for determining shareholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the Meeting, there were issued and outstanding 10,033,481 Common shares and no Preference shares. At a General Meeting of the Company, on a show of hands, every shareholder present in person and entitled to vote shall have one vote, and on a poll, every shareholder present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote shall have one vote for each share of which such shareholder is the registered holder. Shares represented by proxy will only be voted on a poll.

The following table sets forth certain information regarding the beneficial ownership of Common shares as of July 5, 2007 regarding (i) each of the Company's directors (including the nominees for re-election as directors), (ii) each of the Company's executive officers, (iii) all directors and officers as a group, and (iv) each person known by the Company to beneficially own, directly or indirectly, more than 5% of the outstanding Common shares. Except as otherwise indicated, each of the persons listed below has sole voting and investment power over the shares beneficially owned.

NAME	NUMBER OF SHARES	PERCENTAGE OWNED
Peter L. Vosotas (1) (2)	1,487,736	14.5%
Stephen Bragin (3) (4)	121,207	1.2
Alton R. Neal (5) (6)	23,500	*
Ralph T. Finkenbrink (7) (8)	85,500	*
Scott Fink (9) (10)	9,500	*
Mahan Family, LLC (11)	543,552	5.4
Southpoint Capital Advisors LLC (12)	600,320	6.0
Midwood Capital Management LLC (13)	516,589	5.1
Fidelity Management & Research Company (14)	500,048	5.0
All directors and officers as a group (5 persons) (15)	1,727,443	16.6%

\* Less than 1%

(1) Mr. Vosotas' business address is 2454 McMullen Booth Road, Building C, Clearwater, Florida 33759.

(2) Includes 26,434 shares owned directly by Mr. Vosotas, 1,200,168 held in family trusts over which Mr. Vosotas retains voting and investment power and 36,134 shares held by Mr. Vosotas' spouse. Also includes 225,000 shares issuable upon the exercise of outstanding stock options exercisable within 60 days.

(3) Mr. Bragin's business address is c/o Nicholas Financial, Inc., 2454 McMullen Booth Road, Building C, Clearwater, Florida 33759.

(4) Includes 37,500 shares issuable upon the exercise of outstanding stock options exercisable within 60 days.

(5) Mr. Neal's business address is 911 Chestnut Street, Clearwater, Florida 33756.

(6) Includes 7,500 shares issuable upon the exercise of outstanding stock options exercisable within 60 days.

(7) Mr. Finkenbrink's business address is 2454 McMullen Booth Road, Building C, Clearwater, Florida 33759.

(8) Includes 75,000 shares issuable upon the exercise of outstanding stock options exercisable within 60 days.

(9) Mr. Fink's business address is 3936 U.S. Highway 19, New Port Richey, Florida 34652.

(10) Includes 7,500 shares issuable upon the exercise of outstanding stock options exercisable within 60 days.

Edgar Filing: NICHOLAS FINANCIAL INC - Form DEF 14A

- (11) Mahan Family, LLC, together with Roger Mahan, Gary Mahan, Nancy Ernst, Kenneth Ernst and Mahan Children, LLC, filed a joint Schedule 13D/A on May 18, 2005. As reported in such Schedule 13D/A, Roger Mahan, Nancy Ernst and Gary Mahan are siblings. Kenneth Ernst is the husband of Nancy Ernst. Mahan Family, LLC is a New Jersey limited liability company of which Roger Mahan, Nancy Ernst and Gary Mahan are equity holders and the sole managers. The principal business address of Mahan Family, LLC is Stonehouse Road, P.O. Box 367, Millington, New Jersey. Mahan Children, LLC is a New Jersey limited liability company of which Roger Mahan, Nancy Ernst and Gary Mahan are the sole equity holders and managers. The principal business address of Mahan Children, LLC is Stonehouse Road, P.O. Box 367, Millington, New Jersey. In addition to the 543,552 shares owned by Mahan Family, LLC, (i) Mahan Children, LLC owns 401,646 shares, (ii) Roger Mahan owns 120,000 shares, (iii) a son of Kenneth and Nancy Ernst owns 600 shares and (iv) a son of Gary Mahan owns 600 shares. These shares collectively constitute approximately 10.6% of the Company's outstanding Common shares.



- (12) Southpoint Capital Advisors LLC ( Southpoint CA LLC ) is a Delaware limited liability company and the general partner of Southpoint Capital Advisors LP, a Delaware limited partnership ( Southpoint Advisors ). Southpoint GP, LLC is a Delaware limited liability company and the general partner of Southpoint GP, LP, a Delaware limited liability company and the general partner of Southpoint Fund LP, a Delaware limited partnership (the Fund ), Southpoint Qualified Fund LP, a Delaware limited partnership (the Qualified Fund ), and Southpoint Master Fund, LP, a Cayman Islands exempted limited partnership (the Master Fund ). Southpoint Offshore Fund, Ltd., a Cayman Island exempted company (the Offshore Fund ), is also a general partner of the Master Fund. The shares are held by the Fund, the Qualified Fund and the Master Fund. Southpoint CA LLC, Southpoint GP, LLC, Southpoint GP, Southpoint Advisors, Robert W. Butts and John S. Clark II have the sole power to vote and dispose of the 600,320 shares.
- (13) David E. Cohen and Ross D. DeMont (the Managers ) are the managers of Midwood Capital Management LLC ( Capital ), which is the sole general partner of each of Midwood Capital Partners, L.P. ( LP ) and Midwood Capital Partners QP, L.P. ( QP ) and together with LP, the Funds ). Capital is a Delaware limited liability company. Each of the Funds is a Delaware limited partnership. Each of the Managers is a U.S. citizen. The beneficial ownership of each of the foregoing is as follows: (i) LP beneficially owns 215,789 shares, (ii) QP beneficially owns 300,800 shares, and (iii) Capital, as the sole general partner of each Fund, and Messrs. Cohen and DeMont, as the managers of Capital, each beneficially owns 516,589 shares. Each Fund has the power to vote and dispose of the shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by such Fund. Capital, as the sole general partner of the Fund, has the sole authority to vote and dispose of all of the shares. Each of the Managers, by virtue of their positions as managers of Capital, has the shared authority to vote and dispose of all of the shares.
- (14) Fidelity Management & Research Company ( Fidelity ), a wholly-owned subsidiary of FMR Corp., is the beneficial owner of all 500,048 shares as a result of acting as investment adviser to one investment company, Fidelity Low Priced Stock Fund (the Fund ), which owns 500,048 shares. The principal business office of FMR Corp. and the Fund is located at 82 Devonshire Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02109. Edward C. Johnson 3d and FMR Corp., through its control of Fidelity, and the Fund, each has sole power to dispose of the 500,048 shares owned by the Fund. Neither FMR Corp. nor Edward C. Johnson 3d, Chairman of FMR Corp., has the sole power to vote or direct the voting of the shares owned directly by the Fund, which power resides with the Fund's Board of Trustees. Fidelity carries out the voting of the shares under written guidelines established by the Fund's Board of Trustees.
- (15) Includes an aggregate of 350,000 shares issuable upon the exercise of outstanding stock options exercisable within 60 days. The Board of Directors has determined that all shareholders of record as of the close of business on July 5, 2007 (the Record Date ) will be entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the Meeting. Those shareholders so desiring may be represented by proxy at the Meeting. The Proxy, and the power of attorney or other authority, if any, under which it is signed or a notarially certified copy thereof, must be deposited either at the office of the Registrar and Transfer Agent of the Company, Computershare Investor Services Inc., 100 University Avenue, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Toronto, Ontario M5J 2Y1, or at the Corporate Headquarters of the Company at Building C #501B, 2454 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater, Florida 33759-1343 not less than 48 hours, Saturdays and holidays excepted, prior to the time of the holding of the Meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Votes cast by proxy or in person at the Meeting will be tabulated by the inspector of elections appointed for the Meeting, who will also determine whether a quorum is present for the transaction of business. The Company's Articles provide that a quorum is present if two or more shareholders of the Company are present in person (or represented by proxy) holding an aggregate of at least 33-1/3% of the total issued and outstanding shares of the Company as of the Record Date for the Meeting. Abstentions will be counted as shares that are present and entitled to vote for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present. Shares held by nominees for beneficial owners will also be counted for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present.

if the nominee has the discretion to vote on at least one of the matters presented, even though the nominee may not exercise discretionary voting power with respect to other matters and even though voting instructions have not been received from the beneficial owner (a broker non-vote). Neither abstentions nor broker non-votes are counted in determining whether a proposal has been approved. The vote required for each proposal set forth herein, including the election of directors, is set forth under the discussion herein of such proposal.

Shareholders are urged to indicate their votes in the spaces provided on the Proxy. Proxies solicited by the Board of Directors of the Company will be voted in accordance with the directions given therein. Where no instructions are indicated, signed Proxies will be voted FOR each proposal listed in the Notice of the Meeting and set forth more completely herein. Returning your completed Proxy will not prevent you from voting in person at the Meeting should you be present and wish to do so.

Only registered shareholders or duly appointed proxyholders are permitted to vote at the Meeting. Most shareholders of the Company are nominee, or non-registered, shareholders because the shares they own are not registered in their names but are instead registered in the name of the brokerage firm, bank or trust company through which they purchased the shares. More particularly, a person is not a registered shareholder in respect of shares which are held on behalf of the person (the Non-Registered Holder) but which are registered either: (a) in the name of an intermediary (an Intermediary) that the Non-Registered Holder deals with in respect of the shares (Intermediaries include, among others, banks, trust companies, securities dealers or brokers and trustees or administrators of self-administered RRSPs, RRIFs, RESPs and similar plans); or (b) in the name of a clearing agency (such as The Canadian Depository for Securities Limited) (CDS) of which the Intermediary is a participant. In accordance with the requirements as set out in National Instrument 54-101 (formerly National Policy Statement No. 41) of the Canadian Securities Administrators, the Company has distributed copies of the Notice of Meeting, this Information Circular and the Proxy (collectively, the Meeting Materials) to the clearing agencies and Intermediaries for onward distribution to Non-Registered Holders.

Intermediaries are required to forward the Meeting Materials to Non-Registered Holders unless a Non-Registered Holder has waived the right to receive them. Very often Intermediaries will use service companies to forward the Meeting Materials to Non-Registered Holders. Generally, Non-Registered Holders who have not waived the right to receive Meeting Material will either:

- (a) be given a form of proxy which has already been signed by the Intermediary (typically by a faxed, stamped signature), which is restricted as to the number of shares beneficially owned by the Non-Registered Holder but which is otherwise not completed. Because the Intermediary has already signed the form of proxy, this form of proxy is not required to be signed by the Non-Registered Holder when submitting the proxy. In this case, the Non-Registered Holder who wishes to submit a proxy should otherwise properly complete the form of proxy and deposit it with the Company's Registrar and Transfer Agent as provided above; or
- (b) more typically, be given a voting instruction form which is not signed by the Intermediary, and which, when properly completed and signed by the Non-Registered Holder and returned to the Intermediary or its service company, will constitute voting instructions (often called a proxy authorization form) which the Intermediary must

follow. Typically, the proxy authorization form will consist of a one page preprinted form. Sometimes instead of the one page preprinted form, the proxy authorization form will consist of a regular printed proxy form accompanied by a page of instructions, which contains a removable label containing a bar code and other information. In order for the form of proxy to validly constitute a proxy authorization form, the Non-Registered Holder must remove the label from the instructions and affix it to the form of proxy, properly complete and sign the form of proxy and return it to the Intermediary or its service company in accordance with the instructions of the Intermediary or its service company.

In either case, the purpose of this procedure is to permit Non-Registered Holders to direct the voting of the shares, which they beneficially own. Should a Non-Registered Holder who receives one of the above forms wish to vote at the Meeting in person, the Non-Registered Holder should strike out the names of the Management Proxyholders named in the form and insert the Non-Registered Holder's name in the blank space provided. In either case, Non-Registered Holders should carefully follow the instructions of their Intermediary, including those regarding when and where the proxy or proxy authorization form is to be delivered.

### **PROPOSAL 1: ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

**The Board of Directors recommends each of the nominees set forth below for election as a Director and urges each shareholder to vote FOR each of the nominees. Proxies in the accompanying form will be voted at the Meeting, unless authority to do so is withheld, in favor of the election as a Director of each of the nominees named below.**

The Company's Board of Directors currently consists of five members divided into three classes, with the members of each class serving three-year terms expiring at the third Annual General Meeting of Shareholders after their election. The Company's Board of Directors, upon the recommendation of the Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee, has nominated Peter L. Vosotas and Ralph T. Finkenbrink to stand for re-election as Directors at the Meeting, to hold office for a term of three years expiring at the 2010 Annual General Meeting of Shareholders, and until their respective successors shall have been duly elected and qualified. No other person has been nominated by the Board to stand for election as a director at the Meeting. Assuming a quorum is present, the election of each of Mr. Vosotas and Mr. Finkenbrink as a Director requires that a plurality of the total votes cast with respect to Common shares present, or represented, and entitled to vote at the Meeting vote in favor of his election. In the event Mr. Vosotas or Mr. Finkenbrink is unable to serve, the persons designated as proxies will cast votes for such other person in their discretion as a substitute nominee. The Board of Directors has no reason to believe that the nominees will be unavailable, or if elected, will decline to serve. Mr. Vosotas and Mr. Finkenbrink are residents of the United States. Certain information is set forth below for each of the nominees for Director, as well as for each Director whose term of office will continue after the Meeting.

---

**NOMINEES FOR DIRECTOR TERM TO EXPIRE 2010**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Principal Occupation And Other Information</u>
Peter L. Vosotas	65	Mr. Vosotas founded the Company in 1985 and has served as Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer and President of the Company since its inception. Prior to founding the Company, Mr. Vosotas held a variety of Sales and Marketing positions with Ford Motor Company, GTE and AT&T Paradyne Corporation. Mr. Vosotas attended the United States Naval Academy and earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering from The University of New Hampshire.
Ralph T. Finkenbrink	46	Mr. Finkenbrink has served as Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Secretary of the Company since 1997 and served as Vice President Finance of the Company from 1992 to July 1997. He joined the Company in 1988 and served as Controller of Nicholas Financial and NDS until 1992. Prior to joining the Company, he was a staff accountant for MBI, Inc. from January 1984 to March 1985 and Inventory Control Manager for the Dress Barn, Inc. from March 1985 to December 1987. Mr. Finkenbrink received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting from Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

**DIRECTORS CONTINUING IN OFFICE TERM TO EXPIRE 2009**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Principal Occupation And Other Information</u>
Scott Fink	46	Mr. Fink has served as a director of the Company since August 11, 2004. In 2001, Mr. Fink was awarded the Hyundai of New Port Richey, Florida dealership, where he is currently President and Owner. He recently opened two additional automobile franchises in the Tampa Bay area Hyundai of Wesley Chapel and Mazda of Wesley Chapel. In 1998, Mr. Fink formed S&T Collision Centers, which currently operates out of locations in Clearwater and Brandon, Florida. Prior to 1998, Mr. Fink owned and operated a Toyota and a Mitsubishi Dealership in Clearwater, Florida. Mr. Fink also previously worked for Ford Motor Company in various management positions. Mr. Fink received his Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Wagner College, Staten Island, NY.
Alton R. Neal	61	Mr. Neal has served as a director of the Company since May 17, 2000. He has been in the private practice of law since 1975 and has been a partner with the firm of Johnson, Blakely, Pope, Bokor, Ruppel & Burns, Tampa, Florida, since 1999. From 1994 until 1999, he was a partner in the firm of Forlizzo & Neal. Mr. Neal also previously served as a Vice President Corporate Finance for Raymond James & Associates, Inc. and worked at Lever Brothers in New York, New York. Mr. Neal received his Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Lipscomb University and received his Juris Doctor degree from Emory University.

**DIRECTOR CONTINUING IN OFFICE TERM TO EXPIRE 2008**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Principal Occupation And Other Information</u>
Stephen Bragin	77	Mr. Bragin has served as a director of the Company since February 10, 1999. Mr. Bragin is currently the Vice President, Treasurer and a member of the Board of Directors of Curlew Hills Memory Gardens. He is the retired Regional Development Director at the University of South Florida. Mr. Bragin is also a former principal and Vice President (retired) of David Bilgore & Company and a former member of the Board of Directors of Interest Bank. He served in the U.S. Army and is a Korean War veteran. Mr. Bragin received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Pennsylvania (Wharton School).

---

**PROPOSAL 2: APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS**

**The Board of Directors and Audit Committee recommend the approval of the appointment of Dixon Hughes PLLC as Independent Auditors of the Company for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2008, and urge each shareholder to vote FOR such proposal. Executed and unmarked proxies in the accompanying form will be voted at the Meeting in favor of such proposal.**

During the fiscal year ended March 31, 2007, the Company engaged Dixon Hughes PLLC to provide certain audit services, including the audit of the annual consolidated financial statements, quarterly reviews of the condensed consolidated financial statements included in the Company's Forms 10-Q, services performed in connection with filing this Proxy Statement and Information Circular and the Annual Report on Form 10-K by the Company with the SEC, attendance at meetings with the Audit Committee and consultation on matters relating to accounting, tax and financial reporting. Dixon Hughes PLLC has acted as the independent registered public accounting firm for the Company since December 31, 2003.

The Board of Directors and Audit Committee propose the appointment of Dixon Hughes PLLC as Independent Auditors of the Company for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2008. No representative of Dixon Hughes PLLC will be present at the Company's Annual General Meeting or available at the Meeting to answer any questions or make any statements with respect to the Company.

**Vote Required**

Assuming a quorum is present, approval of the appointment of Dixon Hughes PLLC as Independent Auditors of the Company for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2008 requires that a majority of the total votes cast with respect to Common shares present, or represented, and entitled to vote at the Meeting vote in favor of such proposal.

**Fees for Audit and Non-Audit Related Matters**

The fees charged by Dixon Hughes PLLC for professional services rendered to the Company in connection with all audit and non-audit related matters were as follows:

	<b>Fiscal Year Ended March 31,</b>	
	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
Audit Fees (1)	\$389,743	\$142,000
Audit Related Fees (2)	\$49,769	\$24,000
Tax Fees (3)	\$28,440	\$65,000
All Other Fees	None	None

- (1) Audit fees consist of fees for the audit of the Company's annual consolidated financial statements and review of the Company's condensed consolidated financial statements included in the Company's quarterly reports on Form 10-Q. Services for fiscal 2007 include fees associated with audits of (i) management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting and (ii) the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of March 31, 2007. Services for fiscal 2006 include fees for the preliminary review of documentation related to Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- (2) Audit related fees consist primarily of fees for the audit of the Company's retirement plan and consultation regarding financial reporting matters and consultation regarding SEC filing requirements.
- (3) Tax fees consist of fees for tax compliance, tax advice and tax planning services.

The Audit Committee has concluded that Dixon Hughes PLLC's provision of the services described above is compatible with maintaining Dixon Hughes PLLC's independence. The Audit Committee pre-approved all of such services. The Audit Committee has established pre-approval policies and procedures with respect to audit and permitted non-audit services to be provided by the Company's independent auditors.

### **Policy on Audit Committee Pre-Approval of Audit and Permissible Non-Audit Services of Independent Auditors**

The Audit Committee's policy is to pre-approve all audit and permissible non-audit services provided by the Company's independent auditors in order to assure that the provision of such services does not impair the auditor's independence. These services may include audit services, audit-related services, tax services and other services. Pre-approval is generally provided for up to one year and any pre-approval is detailed as to the particular service or category of services and is generally subject to a specific budget. Management is required to periodically report to the Audit Committee regarding the extent of services provided by the independent auditors in accordance with this pre-approval, and the fees for the services performed to date. During the fiscal year ended March 31, 2007, all services were pre-approved by the Audit Committee in accordance with this policy.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **Committees of the Board of Directors and Meeting Attendance**

The Company has not adopted a formal policy that each Director must attend each annual general meeting of shareholders, although Directors are encouraged to do so. The Company expects all members of the Board to attend the Meeting barring other significant commitments or special circumstances. All of the Company's Board members attended the Company's 2006 Annual General Meeting of Shareholders. During the Company's fiscal year ended March 31, 2007, there were four meetings of the Board, and each incumbent Director attended at least 75% of the aggregate number of Board meetings and meetings of all committees of the Board on which he served.

The Board of Directors of the Company has the standing committees listed below.

Audit Committee. The Board of Directors has established an Audit Committee. From April 1, 2004 until June 30, 2005, the Audit Committee was comprised of two members, namely Messrs. Neal (Chair) and Bragin. Effective June 30, 2005, the size of the Audit Committee was expanded from two to three members, and Mr. Fink was added to the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee held four meetings during the fiscal year ended March 31, 2007. The Board has determined that Messrs. Neal, Bragin and Fink satisfy the independence requirements of current Securities and Exchange Commission rules and NASDAQ Global Market listing standards. The Board also has determined that Mr. Fink qualifies as an audit committee financial expert as defined under these rules and listing standards.

The Audit Committee assists the Board of Directors with its responsibilities by (A) overseeing the Company's accounting and financial reporting processes and the audits of the Company's consolidated financial statements and (B) monitoring (i) the Company's compliance with legal, risk management and regulatory requirements, (ii) the Company's independent auditors' qualifications and independence, (iii) the performance of the Company's audit function and independent auditors, and (iv) the Company's systems of internal control with respect to the integrity of financial records, adherence to its policies and compliance with legal requirements. The Audit Committee: has sole responsibility to retain and terminate the Company's independent auditors, subject to shareholder ratification; has sole authority to pre-approve all audit and non-audit services performed by the Company's independent auditors and the fees and terms of each engagement; reviews the scope and results of each annual internal audit; and reviews the Company's audited consolidated financial statements and related public disclosures, earnings press releases and other financial information and earnings guidance provided to analysts or rating agencies. The Audit Committee is governed by a written charter, which sets forth the specific functions and responsibilities of the Audit Committee. A copy of the current Audit Committee charter is included as Appendix A to this Proxy Statement and Information Circular.

Compensation Committee. On June 30, 2005, the Board of Directors established a Compensation Committee, which is comprised of three directors, namely Messrs. Bragin, Fink and Neal (Chair). The Compensation Committee held one meeting during the fiscal year ended March 31, 2007. The Board has determined that Messrs. Bragin, Fink and Neal satisfy the independence requirements of current NASDAQ Global Market listing standards.

The principal responsibilities of the Compensation Committee are to evaluate the performance and approve the compensation of the Company's Chief Executive Officer and other executive officers; prepare an annual report on executive compensation for inclusion in future proxy statements of the Company; and oversee the Company's compensation and benefit plans for key employees and non-employee directors.

The Compensation Committee reviews and approves corporate goals and objectives relevant to the Company's Chief Executive Officer's compensation, evaluates the Chief Executive Officer's performance in light of these goals and objectives and establishes his compensation levels based on its evaluation. This Committee is also responsible for administration of the Equity Plan, the Employee Plan and the Director Plan. The specific functions and responsibilities of the Compensation Committee are set forth in its written charter.



A copy of the current Compensation Committee charter is included as Appendix B to this Proxy Statement and Information Circular. The Compensation Committee charter is not currently available on the Company's web site.

Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee. On June 30, 2005, the Board of Directors established a Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee, which is comprised of two directors, namely Messrs. Bragin and Neal. The Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee held one meeting during the fiscal year ended March 31, 2007. The Board has determined that Messrs. Bragin and Neal satisfy the independence requirements of current NASDAQ Global Market listing standards. The Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee is governed by a written charter, which will be reviewed on an annual basis. A copy of the current Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee charter is included as Appendix C to this Proxy Statement and Information Circular. The Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee charter is not currently available on the Company's web site.

The principal functions of the Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee are to: identify, consider and recommend to the Board qualified director nominees for election at the Company's annual meeting; review and make recommendations on matters involving the general operation of the Board and its committees and recommend to the Board nominees for each committee of the Board; and develop and recommend to the Board the adoption and appropriate revision of the Company's corporate governance practices.

### **Nominations of Directors**

The entire Board by majority vote selects the Director nominees to stand for election at the Company's annual general meetings of shareholders and to fill vacancies occurring on the Board, based on the recommendations of the Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee. In selecting nominees to recommend to the Board to stand for election as Directors, the Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee will examine each Director nominee on a case-by-case basis regardless of who recommended the nominee and take into account all factors it considers appropriate. Directors shall be selected so that the Board is a diverse body. The Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee believes, however, that the following minimum qualifications must be met by a Director nominee to be recommended to stand for election as Director:

Each Director must display high personal and professional ethics, integrity and values.

Each Director must have the ability to exercise sound business judgment.

Each Director must be highly accomplished in his or her respective field, with broad experience at the executive or policy-making level in business, government, education, technology or public interest.

Each Director must have relevant expertise and experience, and be able to offer advice and guidance based on that expertise and experience.

Each Director must be able to represent all shareholders of the Company and be committed to enhancing long-term shareholder value.

Each Director must have sufficient time available to devote to activities of the Board and to enhance his or her knowledge of the Company's business.

The Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee may use various sources for identifying and evaluating nominees for Directors, including referrals from the Company's current Directors, management and shareholders. The Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee will review the resume and qualifications of each candidate identified through any of the sources referenced above, and determine whether the candidate would add value to the Board. With respect to candidates that are determined by the Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee to be potential nominees, one or more members of the Committee will contact such candidates to determine the candidate's general availability and interest in serving. Once it is determined that a candidate is a good prospect, the candidate will be invited to meet with the full Committee, which will conduct a personal interview with the candidate. During the interview, the Committee will evaluate whether the candidate meets the guidelines and criteria adopted by the Board as well as exploring any special or unique qualifications, expertise and experience offered by the candidate and how such qualifications, expertise and/or experience may complement that of existing Board members. If the candidate is approved by the Committee as a result of the Committee's determination that the candidate will be able to add value to the Board and the candidate expresses his or her interest in serving on the Board, the Committee will then review its conclusions with the Board and recommend that the candidate be selected by the Board to stand for election by the shareholders or fill a vacancy or newly created position on the Board.

Recommendations for Director nominees to be considered by the Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee, including recommendations from shareholders of the Company, should be sent in writing, together with appropriate biographical information concerning each proposed nominee, to the Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee of the Board of Directors, care of the Secretary of the Company, at the Company's headquarters.

### **Communications with Board of Directors**

Shareholders may communicate with the full Board or individual Directors by submitting such communications in writing to Nicholas Financial, Inc., Attention: Board of Directors (or the individual Director(s)), Building C #501B, 2454 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater, Florida 33759. Such communications will be delivered directly to the appropriate Director(s).

### **Report of the Audit Committee**

The Audit Committee oversees the Company's financial reporting process on behalf of the Board of Directors. Management has the primary responsibility for the consolidated financial statements and the reporting process including the systems of internal controls. In fulfilling its oversight responsibilities, the Committee reviewed the audited consolidated financial statements in the Annual Report with management including a discussion of the quality,

not just the acceptability, of the accounting principles, the reasonableness of significant judgments, and the clarity of disclosures in the consolidated financial statements.

The Committee reviewed with the Company's Independent Auditors, who are responsible for expressing an opinion on the conformity of those audited consolidated financial statements with generally accepted accounting principles, their judgments as to the quality, not just the acceptability, of the Company's accounting principles and such other matters as are required to be discussed with the Committee under standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board. The Audit Committee also discussed with the Company's Independent Auditors matters related to the financial reporting process required to be discussed by Statement on Auditors Standards No. 61 (Communication with Audit Committees). In addition, the Independent Auditors provided to the Audit Committee the written disclosures and the letter required by Independence Standards Board Standard No. 1 (Independence Discussions with Audit Committees), and the Audit Committee reviewed with the Independent Auditors that firm's independence and considered the compatibility of nonaudit services with the Independent Auditors' independence.

The Committee discussed with the Company's Independent Auditors the overall scope and plans for their respective audits. The Committee meets with the internal and independent auditors, with and without management present, to discuss the results of their examinations, their evaluations of the Company's internal controls, and the overall quality of the Company's financial reporting. The Committee held four meetings during the fiscal year ended March 31, 2007.

In reliance on the reviews and discussions referred to above, the Committee recommended to the Board of Directors (and the Board has approved) that the audited consolidated financial statements be included in the Annual Report for filing with the Commission. The Committee and the Board have also recommended, subject to shareholder approval, the appointment of Dixon Hughes PLLC as the Company's Independent Auditors for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2008.

The foregoing report of the Audit Committee does not constitute soliciting material and should not be deemed filed or incorporated by reference into any other Company filing under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, except to the extent the Company specifically incorporates such report by reference therein.

Alton R. Neal, Audit Committee Chair

Scott Fink, Audit Committee Member

Stephen Bragin, Audit Committee Member

June 12, 2007

## EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND COMPENSATION

The Company has two (2) executive officers, Peter L. Vosotas, Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer and President, and Ralph T. Finkenbrink, Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Secretary. For additional information regarding Messrs. Vosotas and Finkenbrink, see Proposal 1: Election of Directors above.

### Executive Compensation Discussion and Analysis

#### *Overview of Executive Compensation Philosophy*

The primary objectives of the Compensation Committee of the Company's Board of Directors with respect to executive compensation are to attract, motivate and retain the best executive talent available and to align the Company's executive compensation structure with shareholder value creation. More specifically, the Compensation Committee believes that executive compensation should:

- ◆ help attract and retain the most qualified individuals by being competitive with compensation paid to persons having similar responsibilities and duties in other companies in the same and closely related businesses;
- ◆ relate to the value created for shareholders by being directly tied to the financial performance of the Company and the particular executive officer's contribution to such performance;
- ◆ motivate and reward individuals who help the Company achieve its short-term and long-term objectives and thereby contribute significantly to the success of the Company; and
- ◆ reflect the qualifications, skills, experience, and responsibilities of the particular executive officer.

#### *Role of the Compensation Committee*

The Compensation Committee is responsible for:

- ◆ evaluating the performance and determining and approving the compensation of the Company's executive officers, including the Chief Executive Officer (the CEO); and
- ◆ overseeing the Company's compensation and benefit plans for key employees and non-employee directors.

Through this process, the Committee reviews and determines all aspects of compensation for the Named Executive Officers (as defined below) of the Company. The Named Executive Officers of the Company are: Mr. Peter L. Vosotas, Chairman of the Board, CEO and President; and Mr. Ralph T. Finkenbrink, Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Secretary.

### *Process for Determining Executive Compensation*

The Compensation Committee is responsible for establishing and monitoring adherence to the Company's compensation programs. When setting executive compensation, the Compensation Committee applies a consistent approach for all Named Executive Officers. It intends that the combination of elements of executive compensation closely aligns the executives' interest with those of the Company's shareholders. Target total compensation is comprised of base salary, annual cash bonus and long-term incentive compensation in the form of equity grants. As a general rule, the Compensation Committee reviews and adjusts executive target total compensation levels annually in February; however, the Compensation Committee also reviews and sometimes adjusts target total compensation levels in May of each year.

In fiscal 2006, the Board of Directors and Compensation Committee retained an independent compensation consulting firm to perform analyses of competitive performance and compensation levels for the Company's Named Executive Officers. This consulting firm developed recommendations that were reviewed by the Compensation Committee and the Board of Directors in connection with approving executive compensation for fiscal 2007.

The CEO currently initiates the compensation discussions with the Compensation Committee, providing requests and seeking approval from the Compensation Committee and the Board of Directors before finalizing any salary increases, employment contracts, bonus plans or long-term incentive equity awards for Named Executive Officers. In considering the CEO's requests, the Compensation Committee takes into consideration the executive pay for executive officers in comparable positions for companies in the Company's peer group, as well as the level of inherent risk associated with the position, and the specific circumstances of the executive. The Compensation Committee approves the base salary, annual incentive award and long-term incentive equity awards for the CEO and for each officer below the CEO level, based on the CEO's recommendations.

The Compensation Committee has reviewed the aggregate amounts and mix of all components of the CEO's and the other Named Executive Officer's compensation, including base salary, annual incentive compensation, long-term incentive compensation, accumulated (realized and unrealized) stock option and restricted stock gains, the value to the executive and cost to the Company of all perquisites and other personal benefits and the actual projected payout obligations for severance and change-in-control scenarios. A tally sheet setting forth all the above components was prepared and reviewed affixing dollar amounts under the various payout scenarios for the CEO and the other Named Executive Officer.

### *Compensation Components*

The Company's executive compensation program currently consists of three key elements: base salary, annual incentive bonus and long-term equity compensation.

**Base Salary.** The Compensation Committee establishes base salaries for the Company's executives based on the scope of their responsibilities, taking into account competitive market compensation paid by other companies in the Company's peer group for similar positions. Generally, the Compensation Committee believes that executive base salaries should be targeted

near the median of the range of salaries for executives in similar positions and with similar responsibilities at comparable companies in line with our compensation philosophy.

Base salaries are reviewed annually, and may be adjusted to realign salaries with market levels after taking into account individual responsibilities, performance and experience.

The base salaries in fiscal 2007 for Mr. Vosotas, the Company's CEO, and Mr. Finkenbrink, the Company's Chief Financial Officer, were \$300,000 and \$200,000, respectively. No base salary increases were made during fiscal 2007 for Messrs. Vosotas and Finkenbrink. The Compensation Committee believes that the current base salaries of the Company's executive officers are generally competitive at the median salary ranges observed at comparable companies.

Annual Incentive Bonus. Annual cash incentive bonuses are intended to compensate the Named Executive Officers for achieving the Company's annual financial goals.

For fiscal 2007, the Company had in effect an annual incentive bonus program pursuant to which each of the Company's Named Executive Officers, including the CEO, was entitled to receive annual cash bonuses based upon the Company's operating income and revenue growth for such fiscal year. The maximum cash bonuses payable to Mr. Vosotas and Mr. Finkenbrink based upon the Company's operating income growth exceeding certain target percentages were \$250,000 and \$75,000, respectively. The maximum cash bonuses payable to Mr. Vosotas and Mr. Finkenbrink based upon the Company's revenue growth exceeding certain target percentages were \$200,000 and \$50,000, respectively. For fiscal 2007, Mr. Vosotas and Mr. Finkenbrink were paid annual cash bonuses of \$325,000 and \$87,500, respectively, pursuant to such plan.

Long-Term Equity Compensation. The Compensation Committee believes that stock-based awards promote the long-term growth and profitability of the Company by providing executive officers of the Company with incentives to improve shareholder value and contribute to the success of the Company and by enabling the Company to attract, retain and reward the best available persons for executive officer positions. The Company currently maintains two long-term equity incentive plans for executive officers—the Nicholas Financial, Inc. Equity Incentive Plan (the Equity Plan) and the Nicholas Financial, Inc. Employee Stock Option Plan (the Employee Plan). The Employee Plan was terminated on August 9, 2006, and no new awards will be granted under such plan, although stock options granted under such plan and still outstanding will continue to be subject to all terms and conditions of such plan.

The Compensation Committee may grant awards under the Equity Plan to any officer (including the Named Executive Officers) or other salaried key employee of the Company or its affiliates. As of the Record Date, there were approximately five officers and 100 other salaried key employees (not including officers) eligible to participate in the Equity Plan.

In addition, upon shareholder approval of the Equity Plan on August 9, 2006, Peter L. Vosotas, the Company's Chairman of the Board, CEO and President, was awarded 10,000 performance shares and Ralph T. Finkenbrink, the Company's Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Secretary, was awarded 1,000 performance shares and 15,000 shares of restricted stock. The shares of restricted stock awarded to Mr. Finkenbrink will vest three years

from the date of grant. The 1,000 performance shares awarded to Mr. Finkenbrink and one-half of the performance shares awarded to Mr. Vosotas were subject to the same fiscal year-to-fiscal year operating income target applicable to the performance shares awarded to the Non-Employee Directors, as described below under Director Compensation. The remaining one-half of the performance shares awarded to Mr. Vosotas were subject to the Company meeting a fiscal year-to-fiscal year gross revenue growth target.

The Company cannot currently determine the number or type of additional awards that may be granted to eligible participants under the Equity Plan in the future. Such determinations will be made from time to time by the Compensation Committee (or Board).

### ***Change in Control***

The Company has change in control provisions in its employment agreements with the Named Executive Officers, the Equity Plan and the Employee Plan. The Company has no additional change in control contracts or arrangements with any of the Named Executive Officers.

The change in control provisions in the plans and employment agreements were designed to make a change in control transaction neutral to the economic interests of employees that might be involved in considering such a transaction. The employees subject to these provisions would likely not be in a position to influence the Company's performance after a change in control and may not be in a position to earn their incentive awards or vest in their equity awards. Thus, the provisions are meant to encourage employees that may be involved in considering a change in control transaction to act in the interests of shareholders rather than their own interests.

The change in control provisions in the employment agreements with Named Executive Officers are described starting on page 25 under Potential Payments Upon Termination or a Change-In-Control. Generally, the Company's equity compensation plans provide that restricted stock will vest in full, and options to purchase Common shares will become immediately exercisable, either upon a change in control or upon termination of employment within one year after a change in control. The Compensation Committee believes that the provisions provided for under both our employment agreements and equity compensation plans are appropriate since an employee's position could be adversely affected by a change in control even if he is not terminated. These plans provide, however, that the Compensation Committee may determine in advance of the change in control event that the provisions would not apply and therefore no accelerated vesting would occur.

### ***Other Compensation***

Consistent with the Compensation Committee's pay-for-performance compensation philosophy, the Company intends to continue to maintain modest executive benefits and perquisites for executive officers; however, the Compensation Committee, in its discretion, may revise, amend or add to the officer's executive benefits and perquisites if it deems it advisable. The Compensation Committee believes these benefits and perquisites are currently at or below median competitive levels for companies in its peer group. The Company has no current plans to make changes to either the employment agreements (except as required by law or as required to

clarify the benefits to which the executive officers are entitled as set forth herein) or levels of benefits and perquisites provided under the employment agreements. In this regard it should be noted that the Company does not provide pension arrangements, post-retirement health coverage, or similar benefits for its executives or employees.

The following table generally illustrates the benefit plans and perquisites that the Company does and does not provide and identifies those employees who may be eligible to receive them. Perquisites for all executive officers are detailed within the footnotes of the summary compensation table.

<b>Perquisites and Employee Benefits</b>	<b>Executive Officers</b>	<b>Full-Time Employees</b>
401(k) Plan (1)	ü	ü
Medical/Dental Plans (2)	ü	ü
Life Insurance (3)	ü	ü
Long Term Disability Plan (4)	ü	ü
Short Term Disability Plan (5)	ü	ü
Company Paid Trips (6)	ü	ü
Company Owned Vehicle (7)	ü	ü
Club Memberships (8)	ü	Not Offered
Change in Control and Severance Plan (9)	ü	Not Offered
Deferred Compensation Plan	Not Offered	Not Offered
Supplemental Early Retirement Plan	Not Offered	Not Offered
Employee Stock Ownership Plan	Not Offered	Not Offered
Defined Benefit Pension Plan	Not Offered	Not Offered

- (1) Eligible employees, including the Company's executive officers, are able to participate in the Company's 401(k) Plan. The 401(k) Plan permits participants to make 401(k) contributions on a pretax basis. All employees of the Company and its subsidiaries who are at least age 21 are eligible to participate in the 401(k) Plan on the first day of the month following the completion of three months of service. Participants can contribute up to 60% of their pretax compensation to the 401(k) Plan annually, subject to certain legal limitations. The 401(k) Plan also provides that the Company and its subsidiaries will make a matching contribution on behalf of each eligible participant equal to a maximum of \$2,000.
- (2) The Company provides medical insurance coverage for all of its full-time employees, including the Named Executive Officers. The Company pays 80% of the applicable premium and the employee pays the remaining 20% of the premium. Employees electing dependent coverage are responsible for 100% of the premium. Dental coverage is offered to all full-time employees. The Company pays 50% of the applicable premium and the employee pays the remaining 50% of the premium.
- (3) The Company provides all full-time employees, including the Named Executive Officers, with a \$10,000 term life insurance policy. The premium for this coverage is paid entirely by the Company.
- (4) The Company provides all full-time employees, including the Named Executive Officers, long-term disability insurance with a monthly benefit in the amount of 60% of monthly salary up to a maximum of \$5,000 per month. The premium for this coverage is paid entirely by the Company.
- (5) The Company offers short-term disability insurance coverage to all of its full-time employees. The employee is responsible for 100% of the applicable premium.



Edgar Filing: NICHOLAS FINANCIAL INC - Form DEF 14A

- (6) The Company maintains an annual sales contest that rewards certain employees with a trip at Company expense. The CEO participates in this program.
  
- (7) The Company provides a Company vehicle to the Named Executive Officers. The Company also provides Company vehicles to its branch managers, regional managers and other key personnel.

(8) The Company covers certain country club membership costs for the Named Executive Officers.

(9) The Company's employment agreements with the Named Executive Officers provide for certain change in control and severance benefits as described elsewhere in this Proxy Statement and Information Circular.

***Tax, Accounting and Other Considerations***

Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code), limits to \$1 million per employee the deductibility of compensation paid to the Named Executive Officers, unless the compensation meets certain specific requirements. The Compensation Committee has considered the Company's ability to deduct from taxable income certain performance based compensation under Section 162(m) of the Code. At the Company's current compensation levels, tax deductibility under Section 162(m) was not a determinative factor in the design of the Company's compensation program.

Section 280G of the Code limits the Company's ability to take a tax deduction for certain excess parachute payments (as defined in Code Section 280G), and Section 4999 of the Code imposes excise taxes on certain executives who receive excess parachute payments. The Compensation Committee considers the adverse tax liabilities imposed by Code Sections 280G and 4999, as well as other competitive factors, when it designs and implements arrangements that may be triggered upon a change in control for all potentially affected employees, including the Company's Named Executive Officers.

Various rules under generally accepted accounting practices determine the extent to which and the manner in which the Company accounts for grants under its long term equity compensation plans in its financial statements. The Compensation Committee takes into consideration the accounting treatment under FAS 123(R) when determining the types of and value of grants under its long term equity incentive plans for all employees, including the Company's Named Executive Officers. The accounting treatment of such grants, however, is not determinative of the type, timing, or amount of any particular grant of equity-based compensation to the Company's employees.

**Compensation Committee Report**

The Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors has reviewed and discussed the foregoing Executive Compensation Discussion and Analysis with management of the Company and, based upon such review and discussion, has recommended to the Board that the Executive Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this Proxy Statement and Information Circular.

Alton R. Neal, Compensation Committee Chair

Scott Fink, Compensation Committee Member

Stephen Bragin, Compensation Committee Member

**Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation**

During the fiscal year ended March 31, 2007, the Compensation Committee was comprised of Messrs. Neal, Fink and Bragin, none of whom is, or ever has been, an employee or

officer of the Company or any of its subsidiaries. During the fiscal year ended March 31, 2007, neither of the executive officers of the Company served on the board of directors or compensation committee (or other board committee performing equivalent functions) of any other entity, one of whose executive officers served on the Board of Directors and/or Compensation Committee of the Company.

### Summary Compensation Table

The following table sets forth for each of the Named Executive Officers: (i) the dollar value of base salary and bonus earned during the fiscal year ended March 31, 2007; (ii) the aggregate grant date fair value of stock and option awards granted during such fiscal year, computed in accordance with FAS 123(R); (iii) the dollar value of earnings for services pursuant to awards granted during such fiscal year under non-equity incentive plans; (iv) the change in pension value and non-qualified deferred compensation earnings during such fiscal year; (v) all other compensation for such fiscal year; and, finally (vi) the dollar value of total compensation for such fiscal year.

Name and Principal Position	Fiscal Year	Salary	Bonus	Stock Awards	Option Awards	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation	Change in Pension Value and Non-qualified Deferred Compensation Earnings	All Other Compensation	Total
						(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)
Peter L. Vosotas Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer and President	2007	\$300,000	\$325,000	\$139,500 (1)				\$15,821(2)	\$780,321
Ralph T. Finkenbrink Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Secretary	2007	\$200,000	\$87,500	\$13,950 (3) \$52,313 (4)				\$9,804(5)	\$363,567

Note: All of the above compensation amounts are expressed in U.S. Dollars

- (1) Represents the dollar amount recognized in fiscal 2007 for consolidated financial statement reporting purposes in accordance with FAS 123(R). Value of 10,000 performance shares granted pursuant to the Equity Plan on August 9, 2006. These shares are valued at \$13.95/share the closing price on the date of grant. For more information on the valuation of share-based awards see Notes 2 and 9 to the Company's consolidated financial statements included in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2007. These amounts reflect the Company's fiscal 2007 accounting expense for these awards, and do not correspond to the actual value that will be recognized by the Named Executive Officer.

## Edgar Filing: NICHOLAS FINANCIAL INC - Form DEF 14A

- (2) Includes matching contributions to 401(k) Plan (\$2,000), payment of club membership dues (\$7,369), personal use of Company-provided vehicle (\$4,630) and sales incentive trip (\$1,822).
  
- (3) Represents the dollar amount recognized in fiscal 2007 for consolidated financial statement reporting purposes in accordance with FAS 123(R). Value of 1,000 performance shares granted pursuant to the Equity Plan on August 9, 2006. These shares are valued at \$13.95/share the closing price on the date of grant. For more information on the valuation of share-based awards see Notes 2 and 9 to the Company's consolidated financial statements included in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2007. These amounts reflect the Company's fiscal 2007 accounting expense for these awards, and do not correspond to the actual value that will be recognized by the Named Executive Officer.

- (4) Represents the dollar amount recognized in fiscal 2007 for consolidated financial statement reporting purposes in accordance with FAS 123(R). Value of 15,000 shares of restricted stock granted pursuant to the Equity Plan on August 9, 2006. These shares are valued at \$13.95/share the closing price on the date of grant. For more information on the valuation of share-based awards see Notes 2 and 9 to the Company's consolidated financial statements included in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2007. These amounts reflect the Company's fiscal 2007 accounting expense for these awards, and do not correspond to the actual value that will be recognized by the Named Executive Officer.
- (5) Includes matching contributions to 401(k) Plan (\$2,000), payment of club membership dues (\$4,200) and personal use of Company-provided vehicle (\$3,604).

**Grants of Plan-Based Awards**

The following table sets forth information regarding all incentive plan awards that were made to the Named Executive Officers during fiscal 2007, including incentive plan awards (equity-based and non-equity based) and other plan-based awards. Disclosure on a separate line item is provided for each grant of an award made to a Named Executive Officer during the year. The information supplements the dollar value disclosure of stock, option and non-stock awards in the Summary Compensation Table by providing additional details about such awards. Equity incentive-based awards are subject to a performance condition or a market condition as those terms are defined by FAS 123(R). Non-equity incentive plan awards that are not subject to FAS 123(R) and are intended to serve as an incentive for performance to occur over a specified period.

Name	Grant Date	Estimated Future payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards			Estimated Future payouts Under Equity Incentive Plan Awards			All Other Stock Awards:	All Other Option Awards:	Exercise or Base Price of Option Awards
		Threshold	Target	Maximum	Threshold	Target	Maximum	Number of Shares of Stock or Units	Number of Securities Underlying Options	
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)	(k)
Peter L. Vosotas	8/9/06							10,000 (1)		
Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer and President										
Ralph T. Finkenbrink	8/9/06							1,000 (1)		
Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officers and Secretary	8/9/06							15,000 (2)		

## Edgar Filing: NICHOLAS FINANCIAL INC - Form DEF 14A

- (1) Represents performance shares granted under the Equity Plan on August 9, 2006. The performance period for the award was April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007. The amount recognized for financial reporting purposes under FAS 123(R) of the award of performance shares is included in the Stock Awards column (column (e)) of the Fiscal 2007 Summary Compensation Table above. The Compensation Committee sets the performance criteria for the Named Executive Officers. See Executive Compensation Discussion and Analysis above. The Company cautions that the amount reported in the Fiscal 2007 Summary Compensation Table above for this award reflects the Company's accounting expense and may not represent the amount that the Named Executive Officer will actually realize from the award.
  
- (2) Represents restricted stock granted under the Equity Plan on August 9, 2006. These shares will vest three years from the date of grant.

## Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End

The following table sets forth information on outstanding option and stock awards held by the Named Executive Officers at March 31, 2007, including the number of shares underlying both exercisable and unexercisable portions of each stock option as well as the exercise price and expiration date of each outstanding option.

Name	Option Awards				Stock Awards			Equity	
	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#)	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#)	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#)	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (\$)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (\$)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (\$)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (\$)	
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)(1)
Peter L. Vosotas Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer and President	150,000			\$1.13 (1)	6/8/08				
	75,000			\$1.58 (1)	11/11/09				
Ralph T. Finkenbrink Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Secretary	15,000			\$1.13 (1)	6/8/08	15,000 (2)	\$167,400 (3)		
	60,000			\$1.58 (1)	11/11/09				

Edgar Filing: NICHOLAS FINANCIAL INC - Form DEF 14A

- (1) As adjusted to reflect prior stock splits, in accordance with the provisions of the Employee Plan.
- (2) Represents restricted stock granted under the Equity Plan on August 9, 2006. These shares will vest three years from the date of grant.
- (3) The value was determined by multiplying the closing price per Common share on March 31, 2007 by the number of unvested shares of restricted stock.



## Option Exercises and Stock Vested

The following table sets forth information regarding each exercise of stock options and vesting of restricted stock during fiscal 2007 for each of the Named Executive Officers on an aggregated basis:

Name	Option Awards		Stock Awards	
	Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise	Value Realized on Exercise	Number of Shares	
			Acquired on Vesting	Value Realized on Vesting
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
Peter L. Vosotas Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer and President			10,000 (1)	\$111,600 (2)
Ralph T. Finkenbrink Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Secretary			1,000 (1)	\$11,160 (2)

(1) Represents performance shares granted under the Equity Plan on August 9, 2006 for which the performance criteria were met as of March 31, 2007. The performance shares were issued on June \_\_, 2007 following the completion of the Company's audited consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2007.

(2) The value of the vesting of unvested performance shares was determined by multiplying the closing price per Common share on March 31, 2007 by the number of performance shares that vested.

### Pension Benefits

The Company does not provide pension arrangements or post-retirement health coverage for its executives or employees.

### Nonqualified Deferred Compensation

The Company does not provide any nonqualified defined contribution or other nonqualified deferred compensation plans.

### Potential Payments Upon Termination or a Change-in-Control

#### *Employment Agreements*

The Company has entered into employment agreements with each of Named Executive Officers, namely Peter L. Vosotas and Ralph T. Finkenbrink. The payments to be made to the Named Executive Officers pursuant to the

employment agreements in the event of disability or death, involuntary termination without cause and termination following a change in control are described below. These employment agreements are described in greater detail beginning on page 30.

*Payments Made Upon Death or Disability*

In the event of the termination of employment due to his death or disability, a Named Executive Officer will receive only such compensation and other benefits to which he was entitled under his employment agreement or otherwise as an employee of the Company through

the termination date, including payments of base salary through the calendar month in which such termination occurs.

*Payments Made Upon Termination Without Cause or Constructive Termination*

In the event of the termination of a Named Executive Officer's employment (i) by the Company other than for cause (as defined in his employment agreement) or (ii) by the Named Executive Officer upon (a) a change of control of the Company, (b) a good faith determination by the Named Executive Officer that there has been a material breach of his employment agreement by the Company, (c) a material adverse change in the Named Executive Officer's working conditions or status or (d) a significant relocation of the Named Executive Officer's principal office, then the Named Executive Officer will be paid (subject to the Section 280G cap described below), a one-time, lump-sum severance payment equal to two times the sum of (A) the Named Executive Officer's annual base salary in effect at the time of such termination and (B) the Named Executive Officer's average annual bonus and other compensation for the two full calendar years immediately preceding such termination.

A change of control is defined in the employment agreements with the Named Executive Officers generally as the occurrence of any of the following:

- (c) any person, entity, or group acting in concert (other than (A) the Company or any of its subsidiaries, (B) a trustee or other fiduciary holding securities under any employee benefit plan of the Company or any of its subsidiaries, (C) an underwriter temporarily holding securities pursuant to an offering of such securities or (D) a corporation owned, directly or indirectly, by the shareholders of the Company in substantially the same proportions as their ownership of stock in the Company), becomes the beneficial owner of securities of the Company which, together with securities previously owned, confer upon such person, entity or group the combined voting power, on any matters brought to a vote of shareholders, of twenty percent (20%) or more of the then outstanding shares of voting securities of the Company; or
- (d) the sale, assignment or transfer of assets of the Company or any of its subsidiaries, in a transaction or series of transactions, in which the aggregate consideration received or to be received by the Company or any such subsidiary in connection with such sale, assignment or transfer is greater than fifty percent (50%) of the book value, as determined by the Company in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, of the Company's assets determined on a consolidated basis immediately before such transaction or the first of such transactions; or
- (e) the merger, consolidation, share exchange or reorganization of the Company (or one or more direct or indirect subsidiaries of the Company) as a result of which the holders of all of the shares of capital stock of the Company as a group would receive less than fifty percent (50%) of the combined voting power of the voting securities of the Company or the voting securities of the surviving or resulting entity or any parent thereof immediately after such merger, consolidation, share exchange or reorganization; or

- (f) the adoption of a plan of complete liquidation or the approval of the dissolution of the Company; or
- (g) the commencement of a tender or exchange offer which, if successful, would result in a change of control of the Company; or
- (h) a determination by the Board of Directors of the Company, in view of the then current circumstances or impending events, that a change of control of the Company has occurred or is imminent, which determination shall be made for the specific purpose of triggering the operative provisions of the employment agreements.

If the severance payment, either alone or when added to any other payment or benefit to which the Named Executive Officer is entitled from the Company, exceeds the amount that may be paid by the Company without a loss of deduction under Section 280G of the Code, then the severance payment will be reduced to an amount that would not result in a loss of deduction.

### ***Long Term Equity Compensation***

#### *Equity Plan*

Unless the Compensation Committee provides otherwise in any particular award agreement, in the event of a change of control of the Company, awards may be assumed or substitute awards may be made by the Company or its successor that contain similar terms and conditions as the awards issued under the Equity Plan, without participant consent. If awards are assumed or if substitute awards are made, and if the Company or its successor in the change of control transaction terminates a participant within one year following the change of control, then the award will immediately vest on the date of such termination of employment or service, as applicable.

If the Company or its successor does not assume the awards or grant substitute awards, then:

- At least 15 days prior to the change of control transaction, all options held by employees of the Company or its affiliates will become fully vested, and the Company will provide a notice to all holders of options of their right to exercise their options up to the date of the change of control. On the change of control date, all options will be cancelled. If it is not feasible to give 15 days notice of cancellation of the options, then the Compensation Committee may determine prior to the change of control date that all options held by employees of the Company or its affiliates will become vested on the date of the change of control, and all holders of options will receive a cash payment, in exchange for cancellation of the options, equal to the value of the option as determined by the Compensation Committee.
- All shares of restricted stock will vest in full immediately prior to the date of a change of control.

- Performance share awards will be deemed earned immediately prior to the date of the change of control in an amount equal to the amount that would be earned had the target performance goal for the performance period been met, and then prorated based on the number of days in the performance period that have elapsed to the date of the change of control.

For purposes of the Equity Plan, a change of control generally includes any of the following events:

- A person or group of persons becomes the beneficial owner of 25% or more of the outstanding Common shares of the Company or the voting power of any of the Company's securities, not counting acquisitions approved in advance by the Board of Directors;
- The members of the Board of Directors on April 1, 2006 (and any new member appointed or elected to the Board whose appointment, nomination or election was approved by two-thirds of the Board, unless the election is in connection with an election contest) cease to constitute a majority of the Board;
- The consummation or the sale or other disposition of all, or substantially all, of the Company's assets;
- The consummation of a complete liquidation or dissolution of the Company; and
- The consummation of a merger or consolidation of the Company with or into any other company in which the Company's shareholders immediately prior to the merger or consolidation will own less than 50% of the outstanding common shares or voting control of the surviving company.

In the event of termination of a participant's employment due to death or disability or termination without cause by the Company, all restricted shares granted to such participant shall become fully vested and the restrictions on transferability under the terms of the award shall lapse.

In the event of termination of a participant's employment due to death, disability or retirement, all options granted to such participant under the Equity Plan shall become fully vested on the date of such termination and shall be exercisable thereafter for a period of thirty days.

In the event of termination of a participant's employment due to death or disability prior to the end of a performance period, performance share awards will be deemed earned immediately upon such termination in an amount equal to the amount that would have been earned had the target performance goal for the performance period been met, and then prorated based on the number of days in the performance period that have elapsed to the date of termination of employment.

In all other cases of termination, non-vested equity awards under the Equity Plan will be forfeited.

A more detailed description of the Equity Plan can be found below under the heading Summary of Equity Plan.

#### *Employee Plan*

In the event of a change in control of the Company, options granted under the Employee Plan will become immediately exercisable in full, unless the Company or its successor in the change in control transaction assumes the options or substitutes substantially equivalent options. In that case, the options will not be immediately exercisable, but will remain exercisable in accordance with their terms.

For purposes of the Employee Plan, a change in control generally includes any of the following events:

- The Company adopts a plan of reorganization, merger, share exchange or consolidation with one or more other corporations or other entities as a result of which the holders of the Company's Common shares as a group would receive less than fifty percent (50%) of the voting power of the capital stock or other interests of the surviving or resulting corporation or entity;
- The Company adopts a plan of liquidation or obtains the approval of its dissolution;
- The Board of Directors approves an agreement providing for the sale or transfer (other than as a security for the Company's or any subsidiary's obligations) of substantially all of the assets of the Company; or
- Any person acquires more than twenty percent (20%) of the Company's outstanding Common shares, if such acquisition is not preceded by a prior expression of approval by the Board.

In the event of termination of a participant's employment due to death, disability or retirement with the consent of the Company, all options granted to such participant under the Employee Plan shall be exercisable for a period of three months (extendable to one year, at the discretion of the Special Committee), but only to the extent such options were exercisable as of the date of such termination.

In all other cases, options terminate immediately upon termination of employment.

#### *Quantification of Termination/Change in Control Payments*

The table below reflects the amount of compensation to be paid to each of the Named Executive Officers of the Company in the event of his disability or death, involuntary termination without cause and termination following a change in control. The amounts assume that such termination was effective as of March 31, 2007, and thus includes amounts earned

through such time and are estimates of the amounts that would be paid out upon termination. The actual amounts to be paid out can only be determined at the time of separation from the Company.

**Fiscal 2007 Termination/Change of Control Payments**

**Constructive Termination**

Name	Death or Disability Salary &			Without Cause Salary &			Change in Control Salary &		
	Bonus	Total		Bonus	Total		Bonus	Total	
	\$	\$	\$ (1)	\$	\$	\$ (1)	\$	\$	
Peter L. Vosotas				\$1,568,658	\$1,568,659		\$1,568,659	\$1,568,659	
Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer and President									
Ralph T. Finkenbrink				\$605,525	\$772,925		\$605,525	\$772,925	
Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Secretary	\$167,400	\$167,400							

- (1) Consists of the value of the accelerated vesting of outstanding unvested restricted stock. The value of the accelerated vesting of unvested restricted stock was determined by multiplying the closing price per Common share on March 31, 2007 by the number of shares of restricted stock that were subject to accelerated vesting. Excludes the value of performance shares granted on August 9, 2006, since the applicable performance goals had been met as of March 31, 2007.

**Summary of Employment Agreements With Named Executive Officers**

The following section provides information on employment agreements with our Named Executive Officers noted in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis or in the tables. For the convenience of the reader, we are putting the descriptions of these employment agreements in one location.

Effective March 16, 1999, the Company entered into an employment agreement with Peter L. Vosotas, Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer. The agreement currently provides for a minimum base salary of \$300,000 and annual performance bonuses as determined by the Compensation Committee. The initial term of this agreement was for a period of one year, however, the agreement automatically renews for successive two-year terms unless the Company provides to Mr. Vosotas, at least sixty days prior to the expiration of any term, written notification that it intends not to renew this agreement. The current term of Mr. Vosotas' employment agreement will expire on March 16, 2008, unless automatically renewed as described above. Mr. Vosotas' employment agreement provides that, if he is terminated by the Company without cause, or if he terminates his employment upon (a) a change in control of the Company, (b) a good faith determination by him that the Company has materially breached his employment agreement, (c) a material adverse change in his working conditions or status or (d) a significant relocation of his principal office, then he shall be entitled to a severance payment equal to the sum of two times his annual base salary in effect at the time of such termination and his average annual bonus and other compensation for the two full calendar years immediately preceding such termination. Mr. Vosotas' agreement further provides that, during the term of the agreement and for a period of two years thereafter, Mr. Vosotas will not, directly or indirectly, compete with the Company by engaging in certain proscribed activities.





Effective November 22, 1999, the Company entered into an employment agreement with Ralph T. Finkenbrink, Senior Vice-President of Finance. The agreement currently provides for a minimum base salary of \$200,000 and annual performance bonuses as determined by the Compensation Committee. The initial term of this agreement was for a period of one year, however, the agreement automatically renews for successive two-year terms unless the Company provides to Mr. Finkenbrink, at least sixty days prior to the expiration of any term, written notification that it intends not to renew this agreement. The current term of Mr. Finkenbrink's employment agreement will expire on November 22, 2008, unless automatically renewed as described herein. Mr. Finkenbrink's employment agreement provides that, if he is terminated by the Company without cause, or if he terminates his employment upon (a) a change in control of the Company, (b) a good faith determination by him that the Company has materially breached his employment agreement, (c) a material adverse change in his working conditions or status or (d) a significant relocation of his principal office, then he shall be entitled to a severance payment equal to the sum of two times his annual base salary in effect at the time of such termination and his average annual bonus and other compensation for the two full calendar years immediately preceding such termination. Mr. Finkenbrink's agreement further provides that, during the term of the agreement and for a period of two years thereafter, Mr. Finkenbrink will not, directly or indirectly, compete with the Company by engaging in certain proscribed activities.

### **Summary of Equity Plan**

The Equity Plan was adopted by the Board of Directors of the Company on June 15, 2006, and approved by the shareholders of the Company on August 9, 2006. The purposes of the Equity Plan are:

- to attract, retain and reward individuals who serve as key employees and non-employee directors of the Board; and
- to increase shareholder value by offering participants the opportunity to acquire Common shares or receive monetary payments based on the value of such Common shares. By providing stock-based awards to the Company's key employees and non-employee directors, the Board of Directors believes those individuals will be provided an incentive to increase shareholder value.

The Equity Plan:

- is administered by the Compensation Committee with respect to key employee participants and the Board of Directors with respect to Non-Employee Director participants;
- permits the grant of stock options (non-qualified or incentive), restricted stock and performance shares;
- limits the number of awards that the Compensation Committee may grant to any one key employee participant;

- limits the number of shares that may be granted as restricted stock to 300,000 Common shares;
- prohibits discounted stock options from being granted, and prohibits repricing of stock options;
- requires shareholder approval for certain changes to the Equity Plan's terms; and
- reserves 975,000 Common shares for awards.

### Director Compensation

The following table sets forth information regarding the compensation received by each of the Company's non-employee directors during the fiscal year ended March 31, 2007:

Name	Fees Earned		Change in Pension				Total
	or Paid in	Stock	Option	Non-Equity	Nonqualified	All Other	
	Cash	Awards	Awards	Incentive Plan	Deferred	Compensation	
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	Earnings	(g)	(h)
Alton R. Neal	\$22,100	\$13,950					\$36,050
Scott Fink	\$18,350	\$13,950					\$32,300
Stephen Bragin	\$20,100	\$13,950					\$34,050

### Director Fees

Prior to August 9, 2006, Directors who were not executive officers of the Company each received an annual retainer of \$5,000, plus \$500 per Board of Directors meeting or committee meeting attended. Effective August 9, 2006, each Non-Employee Director receives an annual retainer of \$10,000 (\$15,000 for the Chair of the Audit Committee), plus \$750 per Board of Directors meeting or committee meeting attended. Directors who are executive officers of the Company receive no additional compensation for service as a member of either the Board of Directors or any committee of the Board.

Prior to August 9, 2006, the Company maintained the Nicholas Financial, Inc. Non-Employee Director Stock Option Plan (the "Director Plan"). The Director Plan was terminated on August 9, 2006, and no new awards will be granted under such plan to Non-Employee Directors, although stock options granted under such plan and still outstanding will continue to be subject to all terms and conditions of such plan.

Effective August 9, 2006, the Company adopted the Equity Plan, under which the Board of Directors may grant awards to any Non-Employee Director. In addition, under the Equity Plan, each Non-Employee Director is entitled to receive 1,000 performance shares annually during his term as a Director. The number of Common shares that a Non-Employee Director shall be entitled to receive pursuant to such 1,000 performance share award will depend upon

the Company's ability to meet fiscal year-to-fiscal year operating income growth targets, but will not exceed 1,000 Common shares.

Upon a change in control of the Company, the awards granted to Non-Employee Directors are treated in the same manner as awards made to employees as described above.

### **SECTION 16(A) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE**

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 requires the Company's executive officers, directors and more than 10% shareholders to file reports of their beneficial ownership of the Company's Common shares with the Commission and furnish copies of such reports to the Company. During the fiscal year ended March 31, 2007 the executive officers and directors of the Company filed with the Commission on a timely basis all required reports relating to transactions involving equity securities of the Company beneficially owned by them. The Company has relied on the written representation of its executive officers and directors and copies of the reports they have filed with the Commission in providing this information.

### **INDEBTEDNESS OF DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

No Director or executive officer of the Company, no proposed nominee for election as a Director of the Company, and no associate or affiliate of any of them, is or has been indebted to the Company or its subsidiaries at any time since the beginning of the Company's last completed fiscal year.

### **CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS**

#### **Transactions with Related Persons**

There were no transactions with related persons during the Company's fiscal year ended March 31, 2007 required by applicable SEC rules and regulations to be disclosed hereunder.

#### **Review, Approval, and/or Ratification of Transactions with Related Persons**

The Company recognizes that transactions involving related persons can present potential or actual conflicts of interest and create the appearance that the Company's business decisions are based on considerations other than the best interests of its shareholders. Therefore, in accordance with the terms of its charter, the Audit Committee of the Board will review and approve transactions involving related persons. The policy covers any transaction involving the Company and a related person, and is not limited solely to those transactions involving related persons that meet the minimum threshold for disclosure in the proxy statement under the relevant SEC rules (i.e., transactions involving amounts exceeding \$120,000 in which a related person has a direct or indirect material interest).

#### ***General Policy***

Transactions involving related persons must be approved, or ratified if pre-approval is not feasible, by the Audit Committee of the Board consisting solely of independent directors, who will approve or ratify the transaction only if they determine that it is in the best interests of the Company's shareholders. In considering the transaction, the Audit Committee will consider all

relevant factors, including, as applicable (i) the business rationale for entering into the transaction; (ii) available alternatives to the transaction; (iii); whether the transaction is on terms no less favorable than terms generally available to an unrelated third-party under the same or similar circumstances; (iv) the potential for the transaction to lead to an actual or apparent conflict of interest and any safeguards imposed to prevent such actual or apparent conflicts; and (v) the overall fairness of the transaction. The Audit Committee will also periodically monitor ongoing transactions involving related persons to ensure that there are no changed circumstances that would render it advisable for the Company to amend or terminate the transaction.

### *Procedures*

- It is the responsibility of management or the affected director or executive officer to bring the matter to the attention of the Audit Committee.
- Any transaction involving a related person should be presented to the Audit Committee at the next regularly scheduled meeting.
- All transactions should be pre-approved by the Audit Committee, and if not feasible, ratified by the Audit Committee as promptly as practicable.
- If a member of the Audit Committee is involved in the transaction, except for purposes of providing material information about the transaction to the Audit Committee, he must be recused from all discussions and decisions about the transaction.

Ongoing transactions involving related persons shall be reviewed by the Audit Committee on an annual basis at the first regularly scheduled meeting of the fiscal year.

Since the beginning of the Company's last fiscal year, there have been no transactions required to be reported under the applicable SEC rules where such policies and procedures did not require review, approval or ratification or where such policies and procedures were not followed.

### **INTEREST OF CERTAIN PERSONS IN MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON**

No director or executive officer of the Company, no nominee for election as a director of the Company, no person who has been a director or executive officer of the Company since the commencement of the Company's last completed fiscal year and no associate or affiliate of any of the foregoing has any material interest, direct or indirect, by way of beneficial ownership or securities or otherwise, in any matter to be acted upon at the Meeting.

### **PERFORMANCE GRAPH**

Set forth below is a graph comparing the cumulative total return on the Company's Common shares for the five-year period ended March 31, 2007, with that of an overall stock market (NASDAQ Composite) and the Company's peer group index (SNL Autofinance Index). The stock performance graph assumes that the value of the investment in each of the Company's



Common shares, the NASDAQ Composite Index and the SNL Autofinance Index was \$100 on April 1, 2002 and that all dividends were reinvested.

The graph displayed below is presented in accordance with Securities and Exchange Commission requirements. Shareholders are cautioned against drawing any conclusions from the data contained therein, as past results are not necessarily indicative of future performance. This graph in no way reflects the Company's forecast of future financial performance.

	Period Ending					
	03/31/02	03/31/03	03/31/04	03/31/05	03/31/06	03/31/07
Nicholas Financial, Inc.	\$100.00	\$84.90	\$206.23	\$400.00	\$397.00	\$372.00
NASDAQ Composite	100.00	72.68	108.07	108.34	126.79	131.23
SNL Autofinance Index	100.00	28.13	93.76	113.58	169.96	141.60

The stock price performance graph shall not be deemed incorporated by reference by any general statement incorporating by reference the Proxy Statement into any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, except to the extent that the Company specifically incorporates this information by reference, and shall not otherwise be deemed filed under said Acts.

### SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS

The deadline for submission of shareholder proposals pursuant to Rule 14a-8 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended ( Rule 14a-8 ), for inclusion in the Company's proxy statement for its 2008 Annual General Meeting of Shareholders is March 4, 2008. After

May 19, 2008, notice to the Company of a shareholder proposal submitted other than pursuant to Rule 14a-8 is considered untimely, and the persons named in proxies solicited by the Board of Directors of the Company for the 2008 Annual General Meeting may exercise discretionary voting power with respect to any such proposal.

#### **OTHER MATTERS**

MANAGEMENT KNOWS OF NO OTHER MATTERS TO COME BEFORE THE MEETING OTHER THAN THOSE REFERRED TO IN THE NOTICE OF MEETING. HOWEVER, SHOULD ANY OTHER MATTERS PROPERLY COME BEFORE THE MEETING, THE SHARES REPRESENTED BY THE PROXY SOLICITED HEREBY WILL, ON A POLL, BE VOTED ON SUCH MATTERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BEST JUDGMENT OF THE PERSONS VOTING THE SHARES REPRESENTED BY THE PROXY.

#### **APPROVAL AND CERTIFICATION**

The contents of this Information Circular have been approved and this mailing has been authorized by the Directors of the Company.

Where information contained in this Information Circular rests specifically within the knowledge of a person other than the Company, and that person has provided the information to the Company, the Company has relied upon information furnished by such person.

The foregoing contains no untrue statement of material fact and does not omit to state a material fact that is required to be stated or that is necessary to make a statement not misleading in the light of the circumstances in which it was made.

Dated this 10<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2007

#### **BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

/s/ Peter L. Vosotas

Chairman of the Board,

Chief Executive Officer and President



**NICHOLAS FINANCIAL, INC.**

**CHARTER OF THE  
AUDIT COMMITTEE**

**1. Purpose**

The purpose of the Company's Audit Committee ( Committee ) of Nicholas Financial, Inc. ( Company ) is:

1.1 **Assist the Board.** To assist the Board of Directors ( Board ) with its responsibilities by:

(a) Overseeing the accounting and financial reporting processes of the Company and the audits of the financial statements of the Company; and

(b) Monitoring:

(i) the Company's compliance with legal, risk management and regulatory requirements;

(ii) the independent auditors' qualifications and independence;

(iii) the Company's financial reporting process and independent auditors; and

(iv) the Company's systems of internal control with respect to the integrity of financial records, adherence to Company policies and compliance with legal and regulatory requirements.

1.2 **Prepare Reports.** To prepare any reports that Securities and Exchange Commission ( SEC ) rules require be included in the Company's annual proxy statement; and

1.3 **Other Duties.** To perform any other duties described in this Charter.

The Company's management is ultimately responsible for preparing the Company's financial statements and its independent auditors are ultimately responsible for auditing those statements. In adopting this Charter, the Board acknowledges that the Committee members are not Company employees and are not providing any expert or special assurance as to the Company's financial statements or any professional certification as to the independent auditors' work or auditing standards. Each Committee member is entitled to rely on the integrity of those persons and organizations within and outside the Company that provide information to the Committee, and the accuracy and completeness of the financial and other information so provided absent actual knowledge to the contrary.

**2. Composition**

2.1 **Membership.** The Committee shall be comprised of not fewer than three members of the Board, as shall be determined from time to time by the Board. The Board will appoint Committee members annually (or as necessary to fill vacancies) upon the recommendation of the Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee of the Board. Each member shall serve until his or her successor is duly elected and qualified or until his or her death, resignation or removal. The Board may remove any member of the Committee, with or without cause, by a majority vote of the Board.

2.2 **Committee Chair.** The Board shall designate the Committee Chair. In the absence of a Chair, the Committee members may designate the Chair by majority vote of the full Committee membership.

2.3 **Other Companies Audit Committees.** No Committee member shall simultaneously serve on the audit committees of more than two other public companies, unless the Board determines that this simultaneous service would not impair his/her ability to effectively serve on the Committee, and the Board discloses this determination in the Company's annual proxy statement.

2.4 **Independence.** Each member shall qualify as independent under the criteria set forth in any applicable law, regulation and/or listing standard, including those of The Nasdaq Stock Market Inc. (NASDAQ) and the SEC. Accordingly, the following persons will not be considered independent:

(a) a director who is, or at any time during the past three years was, employed by the Company or by any of its parent or subsidiaries;

(b) a director who accepted or who has a Family Member (as defined by NASDAQ Rule 4200(14)) who accepted any payments from the Company or any parent or subsidiary of the Company in excess of \$100,000 during any period of twelve consecutive months within the past three years, other than the following: (i) compensation for Board or Board committee service, (ii) payments arising solely from investments in the Company's securities; (iii) compensation paid to a Family Member who is a non-executive employee of the Company or a parent or subsidiary of the Company; (iv) benefits under a tax-qualified retirement plan, or non-discretionary compensation; or (v) loans permitted under Section 13(k) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

(c) a director who is a Family Member of an individual who is, or at any time during the past three years was, employed by the Company or by any parent or subsidiary of the Company as an executive officer;

(d) a director who is, or has a Family Member who is, a partner in, or a controlling shareholder or an executive officer of, any organization to which the Company made, or from which the Company received, payments for property or services in the current or any of the past three fiscal years that exceed 5% of the recipient's consolidated gross

revenues for that year, or \$200,000, whichever is more, other than the following: (i) payments arising solely from investments in the Company's securities; or (ii) payments under non-discretionary charitable contribution matching programs;

(e) a director of the Company who is, or has a Family Member who is, employed as an executive officer of another entity where at any time during the past three years any of the executive officers of the Company serve on the compensation committee of such other entity; or

(f) a director who is, or has a Family Member who is, a current partner of the Company's independent auditors, or was a partner or employee of the Company's independent auditors who worked on the Company's audit at any time during any of the past three years.

In addition, to serve as a member of the Committee, no person shall thereafter accept, directly or indirectly (other than in his or her capacity as a member of the Committee, the Board or any other Board committee), any consulting, advisory or other compensatory fee from the Company or its subsidiaries, except for fees associated with the receipt of fixed amounts of compensation under a retirement plan for prior service with the Company.

2.5 **Audit Committee Financial Expert.** The Board shall appoint at least one member to the Committee who, in the Board's business judgment, has accounting or related financial management expertise. This member will be an Audit Committee Financial Expert as that term may be defined from time to time by the SEC and demonstrates financial sophistication as defined in NASDAQ Rule 4350(d)(2)(A).

2.6 **Financial Literacy.** All Committee members shall be financially literate, being able to read and understand fundamental financial statements, or must become financially literate within a reasonable period of time after his/her appointment to the Committee.

2.7 **No Involvement with Past Financial Statements.** No Committee member shall have participated in the preparation of the Company's financial statements, or those of any current subsidiary, at any time during the previous three years.

2.8 **Subcommittees.** The Committee may, by resolution passed by a majority of its members, designate one or more subcommittees, each subcommittee to consist of one or more Committee members. Any such subcommittee to the extent provided in the Committee's resolutions and to the extent not limited by applicable law or listing standard, shall have and may exercise all the powers and authority of the Committee subject to the terms of its appointment. The Committee will name each subcommittee. Each subcommittee shall keep regular minutes of its meetings and report them to the Committee when required.

### 3. **Meetings**

The Committee shall meet at least quarterly, or more frequently as circumstances dictate. The Committee secretary shall maintain minutes of meetings and activities of the Committee in

accordance with British Columbia law and the Company's Articles, as may be amended and/or restated. Each regularly scheduled session shall conclude with an executive session of the Committee absent members of management and on those terms as the Committee may elect.

#### **4. Responsibilities and Authority**

The Audit Committee shall have the following responsibilities and authority:

4.1 **Engage Independent Auditors.** Annually, the Committee shall be directly responsible for the appointment, compensation, retention (subject to shareholder ratification, if that ratification is required) and supervision of the work of any registered public accounting firm engaged (including resolution of disagreements between management and the independent auditors regarding financial reporting) for the purpose of preparing or issuing an audit report or performing other audit, review or attest services for the Company. The independent auditors shall audit the consolidated financial statements of the Company and the consolidated financial statements of selected subsidiaries for the fiscal year for which it is appointed and report directly to the Committee.

4.2 **Limits on Engagement.** Except as otherwise stated in this Charter, the firm serving as the Company's independent auditors may not be retained to provide non-audit related services to the Company or any of its subsidiaries. This also applies to non-audit related services received by the Company's subsidiaries from other accounting firms serving as their independent auditors. If non-audit related services for a project can reasonably be provided only by the independent auditors due to expertise that is exclusive to that firm or for any other reason that the Committee deems necessary, and provided that the engagement for such non-audit related services is in compliance with all applicable legal and regulatory requirements promulgated by the SEC and NASDAQ, the Committee must specifically approve such arrangements before the independent auditors may be engaged to provide such service. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the independent auditors for the Company are prohibited from providing the following non-audit services to the Company or any of its subsidiaries:

- (a) Bookkeeping or other services related to the accounting records or financial statements of the Company or any of its subsidiaries;
- (b) Financial information systems design and implementation;
- (c) Appraisal or valuation services, fairness opinions, or contribution-in-kind reports;
- (d) Actuarial services;
- (e) Internal audit outsourcing services;
- (f) Management functions or human resources;
- (g) Broker or dealer, investment advisor or investment banking services;

- (h) Legal services and expert services unrelated to the audit; and
- (i) Any other services that the Public Accounting Oversight Board determines, by regulation, is impermissible.

The Committee must, with sole authority, pre-approve all terms and fees for audit services, audit-related services, tax services and other services to be performed for the Company by the independent auditors, subject to *de minimus* exceptions for non-audit services described in Section 10A(i)(1)(B) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, that is not considered part of the annual audit and, to the extent required by applicable law, any non-audit service.

4.3 **Review Performance of Non-Audit Services.** In connection with the Committee's approval of non-audit services, the Committee shall consider whether the independent auditors' performance of any non-audit services is compatible with the external auditors' independence.

4.4 **Establish Hiring Policies.** The Committee shall establish clear hiring policies for employees or former employees of the Company's independent auditors.

4.5 **Review Independent Auditor's Work.** At least annually, and more often if required, the Committee shall meet with and obtain and review a formal written statement of the independent auditors to review the conduct and results of each audit and review of the Company's financial statements, to discuss the matters in Statement of Accounting Standards ( SAS ) No. 61, Communications with Audit Committees, as amended by SAS 89 and 90, and any other communications required to be discussed with the Committee pursuant to applicable laws and regulations, including:

- (a) the independent auditors' internal quality control procedures;
- (b) any material issues raised by the most recent internal quality control review or peer review of the independent auditors' firm, or by any publicly disclosed inquiry or investigation by governmental or professional authorities, within the preceding five years, respecting one or more independent audits carried out by the independent auditors' firm, and the steps taken to deal with those issues; and
- (c) all relationships between the independent auditors and the Company, including each non-audit service provided to the Company and the matters set forth in Independence Standards Board Standard No. 1, in order to assess the independent auditors' independence.

4.6 **Review Auditing Decisions.** Discuss with management and the independent auditors, and receive a report of the independent auditors, regarding the following:

- (a) conclusions and recommendations on the adequacy of the internal controls of the Company, together with the responses of management, including the status of previous audit recommendations;

- (b) reasoning in accepting or questioning sensitive accounting estimates by management;
- (c) reasoning in not recognizing material audit adjustments proposed by the independent auditors;
- (d) judgments about the quality and appropriateness (not just the acceptability) of the Company's critical accounting principles used, including the degree of aggressiveness or conservatism in the application of such principles in its financial reporting;
- (e) views as to the adequacy and clarity of disclosures in the Company's financial statements in relation to generally accepted accounting principles;
- (f) views of how the use of generally acceptable alternatives to critical accounting and tax principles, disclosure practices and valuation policies, preferred by the independent auditors, would have affected the financial statements;
- (g) conclusions regarding any serious disagreements, difficulties or disputes with management encountered during the course of the audit;
- (h) any significant risks to which the Company is, or might be, exposed and the steps management has taken to minimize such risks;
- (i) any significant changes to the audit plan;
- (j) other matters related to the conduct of the audit required to be communicated to the Committee under generally accepted auditing standards;
- (k) material written communications to the management of the Company such as any management letter or schedules of unrecognized audit adjustments; and
- (l) non-audit services provided by the Company's independent accountants to the Company's affiliated investment advisor, if any, or any advisor affiliate that provides ongoing services to the Company, which services were not pre-approved by the Committee (and consideration by the Committee of whether the performance of such services is compatible with maintaining the independent accountant's independence).

4.7 **Evaluate Auditors.** After reviewing the foregoing report, the Committee shall evaluate the independent auditors' qualifications, performance and independence, which shall include the review and evaluation of the lead partner of the independent auditors. In making its evaluation, the Committee shall take into account the opinions of management. The Committee shall present its conclusions with respect to the independent auditors to the Board.

4.8 **Ensure Required Rotation.** The Committee shall ensure the regular rotation of the lead audit partner and concurring partner every five (5) years and consider whether it would be appropriate to implement a regular rotation of the independent auditors' firm.

- 4.9 **Meet With Auditors.** The Committee shall also meet periodically with the independent auditors in separate executive sessions to discuss any other matters or communications required under applicable laws, or which they or the Committee deem advisable or appropriate to discuss.
- 4.10 **Financial Statements.** The Committee shall review and discuss the annual audited financial statements and quarterly financial statements with management and the independent auditors, including the Company's disclosures under the section entitled "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" in the Company's periodic reports filed with the SEC.
- 4.11 **Review Effect of Changes on Financials.** The Committee, as a whole or through its Chair, shall review the impact on the financial statements of significant events, transactions or changes in accounting principles or estimates that potentially affect the quality of the financial reporting with management and the independent auditors prior to filing of the Company's Annual Reports on Form 10-K or Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, or as soon as practicable if the communications cannot be made prior to its filing.
- 4.12 **Review Management Disclosures.** The Committee shall review disclosures made to the Committee by the Company's chief executive officer ( CEO ) and chief financial officer during their certification process for Annual Reports on Form 10-K and Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q regarding any significant deficiencies in the design or operation of internal controls or material weaknesses therein and any fraud involving management or other employees who have a significant role in the Company's internal controls.
- 4.13 **Meet With Management Regarding Audit.** In connection with its review of the Company's financial statements, the Committee shall review and discuss not only with the independent auditors but also with management the matters relating to the conduct of the audit required to be discussed by SAS Nos. 61, 89 and 90 (Communications with Audit Committees), as they may be modified or supplemented.
- 4.14 **Review Audit Process.** The Committee shall review with the independent auditors any audit problems or difficulties and management's responses to them.
- 4.15 **Pass on Financial Statements.** Based on its review and discussions with management and the independent auditors, the Committee shall recommend to the Board whether the Company's financial statements should be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K (or the annual report to shareholders if distributed prior to the filing of the Form 10-K).
- 4.16 **Review Press Releases on Financial Topics.** Although the Committee shall not be required to pre-approve or discuss in advance each earnings release or each instance in which the Company may provide earnings guidance, the Committee shall review and discuss press releases related to the Company's earnings, as well as financial information and earnings guidance provided to financial analysts and rating agencies.

- 4.17 **Meet With Interested Parties.** The Committee shall meet separately, on a periodic basis, with management and the independent auditors.
- 4.18 **Review and Approval of Related-Party Transactions.** The Committee shall review and approve all transactions with related-parties (as defined by applicable rules and regulations of NASDAQ and the SEC).
- 4.19 **Review Internal Controls.** The Committee shall periodically review with management the adequacy of the Company's internal controls, including the Company's computerized information system controls and security. The Committee shall discuss with the independent auditors any significant matters regarding internal controls over financial reporting that have come to their attention during the conduct of the audit.
- 4.20 **Review Expenses.** The Committee shall consider and review directors', officers' and management's Company-funded expenses.
- 4.21 **Review Risk Management.** The Committee shall discuss generally the Company's policies with respect to risk assessment and risk management.
- 4.22 **Review Adherence to Corporate Policies.** Periodically, the Committee shall meet with the appropriate members of management to review adherence to corporate policies and review processes relating to training, monitoring and reporting of policy compliance. The Committee shall also periodically review the Company's policies and procedures regarding compliance with the Company's Employee Code of Business Conduct and the Company's Employee Conflicts-of-Interest Policy.
- 4.23 **Establish Complaint Procedures.** The Committee shall establish procedures for:
- (a) the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the Company regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters; and
  - (b) the confidential, anonymous submission by the Company's employees of concerns regarding accounting or auditing matters.
- 4.24 **Sponsor Educational Programs.** The Committee may cause on-going educational programs related to appropriate financial and accounting practices to be made available to Committee members.
- 4.25 **Report to Board.** The Committee shall communicate to the Board any issues with respect to the quality or integrity of the Company's financial statements, the Company's compliance with legal or regulatory requirements, the performance and independence of the Company's independent auditors or the performance of any internal audit function.
- 4.26 **Prepare SEC Mandated Report.** The Committee shall prepare the audit committee report required by SEC rules to be included in the Company's annual proxy statement.



4.27 **Report to Board Regarding Committee Activities.** The Committee shall report regularly to the Board concerning its activities.

4.28 **Perform a Self-Evaluation.** The Committee shall conduct an annual performance evaluation of the Committee and an annual assessment of the adequacy of this Charter.

4.29 **Keep Minutes of Meetings.** The Committee shall ensure the minutes of each meeting be kept and filed with the minutes of the Company.

4.30 **Review of Charter.** The Committee shall review this Charter at least annually, and recommend to the Board any necessary or advisable amendments.

4.31 **Other Actions.** The Committee shall perform any other activities consistent with this Charter, the Company's Articles and governing law, as the Committee or the Board reasonably deems necessary.

## **5. Authority to Retain and Terminate Advisors**

5.1 **Legal Counsel.** In the course of its duties, the Committee shall have the authority, at the Company's expense, to retain, replace and terminate independent legal counsel and other advisors, as it deems necessary to carry out its duties.

5.2 **Independent Auditors.** The Committee shall have the sole authority to appoint, compensate, retain (subject to shareholder ratification, if that ratification is required) and supervise the work of any registered public accounting firm engaged (including resolution of disagreements between management and the independent auditors regarding financial reporting) for the purpose of preparing or issuing an audit report or performing other audit, review or attest services for the Company. The independent auditor shall report directly to the Committee.

5.3 **Payment of Professionals.** The Committee shall determine the appropriate funding to be provided by the Company for payment of:

- (a) compensation to any registered public accounting firm engaged for the purpose of preparing or issuing an audit report or performing other audit, review or attest services for the Company;
- (b) compensation to any counsel or advisors employed by the Committee; and
- (c) ordinary administrative expenses of the Committee that are necessary or appropriate in carrying out its duties.

## **6. Amendment**

The Board may amend or repeal this Charter and any of its provisions.

**7. Interpretations**

All references in this Charter to a statute or regulation shall include any then-current amendments of the statute or regulation, any successor statute or regulation and, in the case of a statute, any rules and regulations promulgated in connection with that statute. The references to the CEO assume that he or she will also be the Company's Chairman of the Board. If different people hold these offices, all references to the CEO will be construed to mean the CEO and the Chairman individually. President shall be substituted for each reference in this to CEO if the office of CEO is vacant. References to Sections mean sections in this Charter.

**NICHOLAS FINANCIAL, INC.**  
**CHARTER OF THE**  
**COMPENSATION COMMITTEE**

**1. Purpose**

The purposes of the Compensation Committee ( **Committee** ) of Nicholas Financial, Inc. ( **Company** ) are:

- 1.1 To discharge the responsibilities of the Board of Directors ( **Board** ) as specified in this Charter relating to compensation of certain of the Company's key employees, including the chief executive officer ( **CEO** ) and other proxy-named executive officers;
- 1.2 To review and endorse a compensation philosophy that supports competitive pay for performance and is consistent with the Company's corporate strategy;
- 1.3 To assist the Board in establishing the appropriate incentive compensation and equity-based plans for the Company's key employees and non-employee directors and those of its affiliates, to administer those plans in order to attract, retain and motivate skilled and talented executives and to align such plans with Company and business unit performance, business strategies and growth in shareholder value;
- 1.4 To discharge the Board's responsibilities relating to compensation of the Company's executives, and to produce an annual report on executive compensation for inclusion in the Company's annual proxy statement or information statement or in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K, in accordance with applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission ( **SEC** ); and
- 1.5 To perform the other duties and responsibilities stated in and consistent with this Charter.

**2. Composition**

- 2.1 **Number of Committee Members.** The Committee shall be comprised of not fewer than two members of the Board, as the Board shall determine. The Board will appoint the Committee members annually (or as necessary to fill vacancies) upon the recommendation of the Board's Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee.
- 2.2 **Term.** Each member shall serve until his or her successor is duly elected and qualified or until that member's earlier death, resignation or removal. The Board may remove any Committee member, with or without cause, by a majority vote of the Board.
- 2.3 **Chair of the Committee.** The Board shall designate the Chair of the Committee. In the absence of such Chair, the Committee's members may designate the Chair by majority vote of the full Committee membership.

2.4 **Independence.** Each Committee member shall qualify (a) as independent as defined by any applicable law, regulation and/or listing standard; (b) as an outside director as that term is defined in section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and (c) as a non-employee director as that term is defined in section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

### **3. Delegation**

The Committee may, by resolution passed by a majority of the Committee, designate one or more subcommittees, each of which shall consist of one or more Committee members. Any such subcommittee shall have and may exercise all the powers and authority of the Committee, to the extent provided in the Committee's resolutions and to the extent not limited by applicable law or listing standard. Each subcommittee will be named in the Committee resolution by which it is created. Each subcommittee shall keep regular minutes of its meetings and report the same to the Committee or when required.

### **4. Meetings**

The Committee shall meet at least annually, or more frequently as circumstances dictate. The Committee secretary shall maintain minutes or other records of its meetings and activities in accordance with Michigan law and the Company's Bylaws, as may be amended and/or restated. Each regularly scheduled session shall conclude with an executive session of the Committee absent members of management and on those terms as the Committee may elect.

### **5. Responsibilities and Authority**

The Committee shall have the following responsibilities and authority:

5.1 **Executive and Board Compensation.** With regard to executive and Board compensation, the Committee shall:

- (a) Establish a process to obtain an evaluation from all independent directors of the CEO's performance;
- (b) Review and recommend to the Board corporate goals and objectives relevant to the CEO's compensation;
- (c) Evaluate the CEO's performance in light of these goals and objectives at least annually and communicate the results to the CEO and the Board;
- (d) Either as a committee or together with the other independent directors (as directed by the Board), determine and approve, during deliberations at which the CEO is not present, the CEO's compensation level based on the evaluation in (c) above (including annual salary, bonus, stock options and other direct and indirect benefits);
- (e) In determining the long-term incentive component of the CEO's compensation, consider, among other items, the Company's performance and relative stockholder return, the value of similar incentive awards to chief executive officers of

comparable companies and the compensation provided to the Company's CEO and other executive officers in the past;

- (f) Review and recommend to the Board the compensation, including with respect to incentive compensation and equity-based plans, of the Company's executive officers;
- (g) Review new executive compensation programs;
- (h) Monitor executive compensation programs to determine whether they are properly coordinated and achieving their intended purpose;
- (i) Establish and periodically review policies for the administration of executive compensation programs;
- (j) Modify, as necessary, any executive compensation program that yields payments and benefits that are not reasonably related to executive and corporate performance or not comparable to programs of peer businesses;
- (k) Review the impact of change-in-control, spin-offs, etc., on compensation plans; and
- (l) Make recommendations to the Board regarding the compensation of the Chairman of the Board, if the Chairman is not the CEO, and regarding changes in Board compensation, including cash and equity-based retainers and meeting fees for regular Board meetings and Committee meetings. In discharging this duty, the Committee shall be guided by three goals: (1) compensation should fairly pay directors for work required in a company of the Company's size and scope; (2) compensation should align the directors' interests with the long-term interests of shareholders; and (3) the structure of the compensation should be simple, transparent and easy for shareholders to understand.

5.2 **Executive and Director Compensation Plans.** With regard to executive and director compensation plans, the Committee shall:

- (a) Administer the Company's executive compensation plans, including equity incentive, stock option and other non-qualified deferred compensation plans, in accordance with those plans' terms;
- (b) Recommend incentive-based compensation plans and policies and equity-based plans and policies to the Board;
- (c) Provide the necessary approval to qualify for exemptions as may be established by the SEC under Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934;
- (d) Provide the necessary determinations in connection with executive compensation to qualify for tax deductions in excess of limitations under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code; and

(e) Have sole authority, at the Company's expense, to engage and terminate consulting firms to advise the Committee with respect to executive compensation matters, as the Committee deems advisable, including the sole authority to approve the firm's fees and other retention terms.

5.3 **Guiding Principles.** In discharging these duties, the Committee shall be guided by the following principles:

(a) The Board has delegated authority to this Committee to decide the compensation of the Company's CEO and to recommend compensation of the Company's executive officers pursuant to this Charter; and

(b) The compensation, including with respect to incentive compensation and equity-based plans, of all other officers and executives other than those under paragraph (a) above will continue to be determined by the CEO in a manner that is consistent with this Charter, subject to review of the Board.

5.4 **Annual Report.** The Committee shall produce an annual report on executive compensation for inclusion in the Company's annual proxy statement or information statement or in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K, in accordance with applicable SEC rules and regulations.

5.5 **Other Duties.** The Committee shall perform such other activities and functions related to executive compensation as the Board may assign to it, including preparing reports or other disclosure required with respect to the Committee by any applicable SEC proxy or other rules or any applicable listing standards.

5.6 **Regular Reports to the Board.** The Committee shall report regularly to the Board concerning its activities. Discussion of CEO compensation among the members of the Committee and the Board is not precluded under this Charter.

5.7 **Self-Evaluation.** The Committee shall conduct an annual performance evaluation of the Committee.

5.8 **Minutes.** The Committee shall ensure that the minutes of each of its meetings be kept and filed with the Company's minutes.

## **6. Authority To Retain And Terminate Advisors**

In the course of its duties, the Committee shall have the authority, at the Company's expense, to retain, replace and terminate independent legal counsel and other advisors, as it deems necessary to carry out its duties.

## **7. Amendment**

The Board may amend or repeal this Charter and any provision it contains

**8. Interpretations**

All references in this Charter to a statute or regulation shall include any then-current amendments of the statute or regulation, any successor statute or regulation and, in the case of a statute, any rules and regulations promulgated in connection with that statute. The references to the CEO assume that he or she will also be the Company's Chairman of the Board. If different people hold these offices, all references to the CEO will be construed to mean the CEO and the Chairman individually. President shall be substituted for each reference in this to CEO if the office of CEO is vacant. References to Sections mean sections of this Charter.

**NICHOLAS FINANCIAL, INC.**

**CHARTER OF THE**

**NOMINATING/CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

**1. Purpose**

The purpose of the Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee (the Committee ) of Nicholas Financial, Inc. (the Company ) is:

- 1.1 To develop and recommend to the Board of Directors (the Board ) the corporate governance principles applicable to the Company;
- 1.2 To identify and select individuals qualified to become Board members in a manner that is consistent with criteria approved by the Board;
- 1.3 To recommend that the Board select the Director nominees for the next annual meeting of shareholders; and
- 1.4 To oversee the evaluation of the Board and management.

**2. Composition**

The Committee shall be comprised of not fewer than two members of the Board, as shall be determined from time to time by the Board. The members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Board annually (or as necessary to fill vacancies) upon the recommendation of the Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee of the Board. Each member shall serve until his or her successor is duly elected and qualified or until such member's earlier death, resignation or removal. The Board may remove any member of the Committee, with or without cause, by a majority vote of the Board.

The Chair of the Committee shall be designated by the Board. In the absence of such Chair, the members of the Committee may designate the Chair by majority vote of the full Committee membership.

Each member shall qualify as independent as defined by any applicable law, regulation and/or listing standard.

**3. Delegation**

The Committee may, by resolution passed by a majority of the Committee, designate one or more subcommittees, each subcommittee to consist of one or more members of the Committee. Any such subcommittee to the extent provided in the resolutions of the Committee and to the extent not limited by applicable law or listing standard, shall have and may exercise all the powers and authority of the Committee. Each subcommittee shall have such name as may be determined from time to time by resolution adopted by the Committee. Each subcommittee shall keep regular minutes of its meetings and report the same to the Committee or when required.



#### **4. Meetings**

The Committee shall meet at least annually, or more frequently as circumstances dictate. The secretary of the Committee shall maintain minutes or other records of meetings and activities of the Committee in accordance with the British Columbia (Canada) Business Corporations Act and the Company's Articles, as may be amended and/or restated. Each regularly scheduled session shall conclude with an executive session of the Committee absent members of management and on such terms and conditions as the Committee may elect.

#### **5. Responsibilities And Authority**

The Committee shall have the following responsibilities and authority:

##### **5.1 Corporate Governance Principles**

- (a) The Committee shall refer to the Corporate Governance Policies in making the recommendations and determinations required of it under this Charter.
- (b) The Committee shall review the Corporate Governance Policies and each Board committee charter annually, and make recommendations to the Board regarding any amendments thereto.
- (c) The Committee shall review, on an on-going basis, all related-party transactions required to be disclosed pursuant to Securities and Exchange Commission ( SEC ) Regulation S-K, Item 404 for potential conflicts of interest and approve all such transactions.

##### **5.2 Board and Committee Membership**

- (a) At least annually, the Committee shall assess the size and composition of the Board in light of the operating requirements of the Company and the current makeup of the Board.
- (b) The Committee shall develop membership qualifications for the Board and all Board committees. Any assessment of a prospective Board or committee candidate should include, at a minimum, issues of diversity, age, background and training, business or administrative experience and skills, dedication and commitment, business judgment, analytical skills, problem-solving abilities and familiarity with regulatory environment. In addition, the Committee may consider such other attributes as it deems appropriate, all in the context of the perceived needs of the Board or applicable Committee at the point in time.
- (c) The Committee shall assist the Board with defining specific criteria for Director independence and committee membership in a manner that is consistent with the Corporate Governance Policies and making any necessary independence determination for committee membership. Notwithstanding the foregoing, it shall be the responsibility of the full Board to make any required independent determination as to members of this Committee.
- (d) The Committee shall make recommendations to the Board regarding membership on committees, taking into account (i) a prospective candidate's independence, (ii)

the qualifications set forth in Section 2 above, (iii) the needs of each committee, (iv) the desires of individual Directors, (v) the suggestions of the Chief Executive Officer ( CEO ) and the Chairman, if the Chairman is not the CEO, and (vi) other applicable requirements the rules and regulations of The Nasdaq Stock Exchange Market, Inc. ( NASDAQ ) and the SEC.

(e) The Committee shall monitor compliance with the Board and Board committee membership criteria, including on-going compliance with respect to Director independence requirements. Notwithstanding the foregoing, it shall be the responsibility of the full Board to monitor compliance with membership criteria and independence with respect to members of this Committee.

(f) The Committee shall coordinate and assist management and the Board in recruiting new members to the Board. Annually, the Committee shall make recommendations for the nomination of director candidates based on the criteria set forth herein and the evolving needs of the Company.

(g) The Committee shall investigate and consider suggestions for candidates for membership on the Board, including shareholder nominations for the Board. The Committee will give due consideration to all written shareholder nominations that are (i) submitted in writing to the Committee, in care of the Corporate Secretary of the Company, (ii) received at least 120 days before the publication of the Company s annual proxy statement from a shareholder or group of shareholders owning 5% or more of the voting stock for at least one year, and (iii) accompanied by a description of the proposed nominee s qualifications and other relevant biographical information, together with the written consent of the proposed nominee to be named in the proxy statement and to serve on the Board. The Committee may request additional information regarding any prospective candidate as it deems necessary.

(h) In consultation with the CEO, the Chairman and the full Board, the Committee shall search for, recruit, screen, interview and recommend prospective Directors, as required, to provide an appropriate balance of knowledge, experience and culpability on the Board. The Committee shall be guided by this Charter, the Corporate Governance Policies, and other applicable laws and regulations in recruiting and selecting Director candidates. So long as shareholders nominating Director candidates shall have complied with the procedural requirements set forth herein, the Committee shall apply the same criteria and employ substantially similar procedures for evaluating shareholder nominees for the Board as it would for evaluating any other Board nominee.

(i) The Committee shall undertake the responsibilities delegated to the Committee as set forth in the Corporate Governance Policies.

(j) The Committee shall have sole authority, at the Company s expense, to retain and terminate any search firm to be used to identify Director candidates, including sole authority to approve the search firm s fees and other retention terms.

---

<sup>1</sup> President shall be substituted for each reference in this Charter to CEO if the office of CEO is vacant for any reason.

**5.3 Evaluation**

- (a) The Committee shall report to the Board regarding its activities.
- (b) The Committee shall conduct an annual performance evaluation of the Committee and facilitate and oversee the Board of Directors' annual self-evaluation.
- (c) At least annually, the Committee shall facilitate and oversee the evaluation of management, and evaluate the quality, sufficiency and currency of information furnished by management to the Directors in connection with Board and committee meetings and other activities of the Directors.
- (d) The Committee shall ensure the minutes of the meeting be kept and filed with the minutes of the Company.

**6. Authority To Retain And Terminate Advisors**

In the course of its duties, the Committee shall have the authority, at the Company's expense, to retain, replace and terminate independent legal counsel and other advisors, as it deems necessary to carry out its duties.

**7. Amendment**

This Charter and any provision contained herein may be amended or repealed by the Board.

**Security Class**

**Holder Account Number**

-----  
Fold

## **Form of Proxy - Annual General Meeting to be held on August 7, 2007**

**This Form of Proxy is solicited by and on behalf of Management.**

### **Notes to proxy**

- 1. Every holder has the right to appoint some other person or company of their choice, who need not be a holder, to attend and act on their behalf at the meeting. If you wish to appoint a person or company other than the persons whose names are printed herein, please insert the name of your chosen proxyholder in the space provided (see reverse).**
- 2. If the securities are registered in the name of more than one owner (for example, joint ownership, trustees, executors, etc.), then all those registered should sign this proxy. If you are voting on behalf of a corporation or another individual you may be required to provide documentation evidencing your power to sign this proxy with signing capacity stated.**

Edgar Filing: NICHOLAS FINANCIAL INC - Form DEF 14A

3. This proxy should be signed in the exact manner as the name appears on the proxy.
4. If this proxy is not dated, it will be deemed to bear the date on which it is mailed by Management to the holder.
5. **The securities represented by this proxy will be voted as directed by the holder, however, if such a direction is not made in respect of any matter, this proxy will be voted as recommended by Management.**
6. The securities represented by this proxy will be voted or withheld from voting, in accordance with the instructions of the holder, on any ballot that may be called for and, if the holder has specified a choice with respect to any matter to be acted on, the securities will be voted accordingly.
7. This proxy confers discretionary authority in respect of amendments to matters identified in the Notice of Meeting or other matters that may properly come before the meeting.
8. This proxy should be read in conjunction with the accompanying documentation provided by Management.

**Proxies submitted must be received by 10:00 am, Eastern Time, on August 3, 2007.**

**VOTE USING THE TELEPHONE OR INTERNET 24 HOURS A DAY 7 DAYS A WEEK!**

-----  
Fold

Call the number listed BELOW from a touch  
tone

telephone.

Go to the following web site:

[www.investorvote.com](http://www.investorvote.com)

**1-866-732-VOTE (8683) Toll Free**

**If you vote by telephone or the Internet, DO NOT mail back this proxy.**

**Voting by mail** may be the only method for securities held in the name of a corporation or securities being voted on behalf of another individual.

**Voting by mail or by Internet** are the only methods by which a holder may appoint a person as proxyholder other than the Management nominees named on the reverse of this proxy. Instead of mailing this proxy, you may choose one of the two voting methods outlined above to vote this proxy.

Edgar Filing: NICHOLAS FINANCIAL INC - Form DEF 14A

To vote by telephone or the Internet, you will need to provide your CONTROL NUMBER, HOLDER ACCOUNT NUMBER and ACCESS NUMBER listed below.

**CONTROL NUMBER**

**HOLDER ACCOUNT NUMBER**

**ACCESS NUMBER**

13JN07085.E.SEDAR/000001/000001/i



## Appointment of Proxyholder

The undersigned shareholder ( Registered Shareholder ) of Nicholas Financial, Inc. (the Company ) hereby appoints: Ralph Finkenbrink, or failing this person, Peter Vosotas,

OR

Print the name of the person you are appointing if this person is someone other than the Management Nominees listed herein.

as my/our proxyholder with full power of substitution and to vote in accordance with the following direction (or if no directions have been given, as the proxyholder sees fit) and all other matters that may properly come before the Annual General Meeting of Nicholas Financial, Inc. to be held at the Company s corporate headquarters, located at 2454 McMullen Booth Road, Building C #501B, Clearwater, Florida, on Tuesday, August 7, 2007, at the hour of 10:00 AM (Clearwater, Florida time) and at any adjournment thereof.

VOTING RECOMMENDATIONS ARE INDICATED BY OVER THE BOXES.

### 1. Election of Directors

Management recommends that you vote **FOR** all of the nominees listed below:

Ralph Finkenbrink and Peter Vosotas.

	----- Fold
	<b>For</b> <b>Withhold</b>
Vote FOR or WITHHOLD for all nominees proposed by Management	..    ..

### 2. Appointment of Auditors

To approve the appointment of Dixon Hughes PLLC as the Company s Independent Auditors for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2008.

**For**    **Withhold**

..    ..

### 3. Report of the Directors

To receive the Report of the Directors.

**For**    **Against**

..    ..

### 4. Financial Statements & Report of Auditors

**For**    **Against**

