

Investment Canada Today -Certainty or a Random Walk

Lawson A.W. Hunter, Q.C., LL.D. Stikeman Elliott June 24, 2015

A. The Investment Canada Model

- Unconstrained Discretion
 - Broad Public Interest Test
 - net benefit
 - Political decision
 - No legal or specific accountability
 - Very opaque process
 - New add-ons
 - national security

A. The Investment Canada Model (cont'd)

- But not unique in the world
 - Australia
 - France
 - Others and growing

B. Comparison to Competition Act Merger Process

- Competition Act is very different
 - Independent review
 - law enforcement
 - apolitical
 - Justiciable issues
 - doctrinal
 - standards
 - More transparent

C. Evolution of Foreign Takeover Review in Canada

- 1. FIRA Economic Nationalism Phase
 - **•** (1975-1985)
- 2. Market Dominance Phase
 - Investment Canada
 - **•** (1985-2005)
- 3. Undertaking Creep Phase
 - Minority governments
 - Hollowing out transactions
 - Tendency for one size fits all
 - **•** (2000-2012)

- C. Evolution of Foreign Takeover Review in Canada (cont'd)
- 4. Missionary Phase
 - SOE Guidelines

D. Illustrative Issues Today

- 1. New threshold standard Enterprise Value
 - Wilson Panel
 - reaction to Nortel
 - Enterprise Value means
 - transaction value plus liabilities minus cash
 - Previous test was audited book value of assets

- Current EV threshold of \$600 Million
 - May mean fewer reviews but
 - Less certainty.
- Less certainty because:
 - EV harder to determine in non-publicly traded companies
 - More complicated in hostile/multiple bidder situations
 - Is EV a great leap forward
 - Not sure
 - Thresholds arbitrary in any scenario

- 2. Net Benefit gives very broad discretion
 - Essentially public interest test
 - Has been tendency to treat all transactions the same
 - "regulators regulate"
 - "regulation begets regulation"
 - No real proof of overall benefit to Canada over time
 - Should recognize process is very political and transactional
 - i.e., one size does not fit all
 - Recent signs that is happening
 - Fast track for normal cases
 - Longer time / more undertakings for special situations

- 3. SOE guidelines talk about discretion
 - Very open ended
 - Not much experience yet
 - One case on exceptional circumstances in oil sands
 - Did Guidelines chill investment?
 - Directionally yes
 - But general economic factors important

- 4. Opaqueness Confidentiality
 - Tracing history demonstrates broad discretion
 - Period in the 2005-2010 when much more transparency
 - Government issued its own press statement
 - Or make applicants do so
 - Minority government a factor
 - Now much lower profiles
 - Talisman / Repsol one extreme
 - Burger King / Tim Horton's the other
 - Generally ICA seems to want less media

- 5. National Security Reviews
 - Added to ICA but Industry Canada is not subject matter expert
 - Extremely broad discretion
 - Extreme opaqueness
 - Extreme uncertainty
 - No guidelines
 - No clear institutional responsibility
 - No ability to really know case applicant must meet
 - Timelines can be much longer
 - Recent case more interventional than US CFIUS rules

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E. Conclusion

- ICA is here to stay political safety value
- Some signs on "net benefit" that non-controversal deals easier
- But EV/SOE/National Security have significantly raised uncertainty
- Bottom line who benefits? Advisors



For further information

Lawson A.W. Hunter, Q.C., LL.D.

Lhunter@stikeman.com