

Stock Symbol: TSX: OCX
NEWS RELEASE - February 25, 2010

Onex Reports Full-Year 2009 Results

All amounts in Canadian dollars unless otherwise stated

Toronto, February 25, 2010 - Onex Corporation (TSX: OCX) today announced its consolidated financial results for the full year ended December 31, 2009.

Full-Year 2009 Highlights

- Onex sold shares of Emergency Medical Services Corporation in two secondary offerings at an average of approximately 6.3 times Onex' original cost. Onex received US\$310 million, including carried interest, compared to a cost of US\$46 million.
- Onex sold its remaining 13 million trust units of Cineplex Galaxy Income Fund through a secondary offering for about \$175 million of net proceeds. Over more than a decade, Onex invested US\$355 million in its theatre exhibition business and realized total proceeds of approximately US\$900 million.
- Onex sold a portion of its investment in Celestica, receiving net proceeds of \$104 million for total proceeds of \$939 million since acquisition. To date, Onex' total investment has generated a multiple of capital of about 6 times.
- Onex Partners III acquired the Tropicana Las Vegas Hotel and Casino with a total equity value of US\$305 million, including a US\$75 million rights offering.
- Onex Partners III held its final close, reaching its original fundraising target of US\$3.5 billion of third-party capital. Onex increased its commitment to the Fund to US\$800 million for a total fund size of US\$4.3 billion.
- The Warranty Group paid a US\$42 million dividend, of which US\$13 million was Onex' share, and Carestream Health paid a US\$72 million distribution, of which US\$28 million was Onex' share.
- Fee-earning assets under management increased by 13% to US\$7.5 billion.
- Full-year management fees rose by 24% to US\$88 million.
- Carried interest distributions of US\$19 million were received.

Onex is an investor and asset manager generating value from (i) growth in the Company's \$3.9 billion of proprietary capital; (ii) management fees based on the US\$7.5 billion of third-party capital committed to its Funds, and (iii) a carried interest based on the performance of those Funds.

Investing

"It feels good to have 2009 behind us. Not because the world has changed with the start of a new year but there seem to be signs that the worst of the economic recession has passed and that the general sense of malaise is gradually lifting," said Gerald W. Schwartz, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Onex.

"This time last year, we were reflecting upon our discipline during the buoyant acquisition period of 2005 to 2007 fuelled in part by abundant and inexpensive credit. While we were quite active during this time, we remained true to our conservative investing philosophy and did not burden our operating companies with debt levels that were superficially appealing. We hoped that by staying focused on our core strengths our businesses would be well-positioned to survive the downturn and hopefully grow as industries consolidate," continued Mr. Schwartz. "We are pleased that, for the most part, this is indeed what took place. What 2009 proved was that our guiding investing principles provide significant downside protection while delivering excellent long-term results."

Despite the dramatic impact on business activity for most industries in 2009, Onex' operating companies retired close to US\$1.2 billion of debt in 2009 and paid US\$114 million in dividends as a result of strong cash flow generation.

The swift rebound of the capital markets has been both beneficial and detrimental to transaction activity. The ongoing recovery of the equity markets has created an appetite for public offerings. If the markets continue to be receptive, this may provide an opportunity for some of Onex' businesses to pursue equity offerings. Conversely, sellers' pricing expectations appear to be ahead of their businesses' current performance, making it difficult for value investors like Onex to find attractive acquisition opportunities. As well, with debt more readily available, struggling companies may be able to turn to refinancing options rather than sale alternatives.

"We remain optimistic that there will be attractive acquisition prospects for Onex in this environment. Many of the potential transactions we are currently considering are proprietary and are the result of our industry focus and our reputation for complex corporate carve-outs from large multinationals," said Mr. Schwartz. "We are working to find similar opportunities where we can acquire businesses at reasonable purchase prices and create value through earnings growth."

With more than \$1 billion of cash and cash-like investments, no debt and US\$3.9 billion of uncalled third-party capital available, Onex remains well positioned to actively participate in significant investment opportunities.

Onex has stayed true to its active ownership approach to value-oriented investing. By transforming undervalued businesses into industry leaders, Onex has produced impressive returns over its 25-year history. As of December 31, 2009, Onex has generated a 25-year gross IRR of 29% and an average multiple of 3.4 times invested capital from its private equity investing.

Onex continues to believe that its success in building companies and its record of capital preservation and superior returns are direct results of the strong alignment of interests between Onex shareholders, the limited partners and the management team. At December 31, 2009, Onex' management team had over \$1 billion invested in Onex shares and in its operating companies.

Asset Management

Onex' asset management business continues to add value through the predictable and growing management fees it earns on third-party capital and the meaningful carried interest opportunity on that capital.

In December 2009, Onex held the final close for Onex Partners III. During an undoubtedly difficult fundraising period, Onex raised a total of US\$3.5 billion of third-party capital, reaching its original fundraising target. With the success of its third large-cap fund, Onex has almost doubled its total fee-earning assets under management. As a result, the current annualized rate of management fees is US\$88 million for the Onex Partners and ONCAP funds, which offsets the Company's operating costs. In addition, Onex has an 8% carried interest opportunity on US\$3.3 billion of invested capital and on US\$3.7 billion of uncalled capital.

During the fourth quarter, Onex Credit Partners ("OCP") raised over \$200 million for the new OCP Credit Strategy Fund, a publicly-traded Canadian retail fund. This contributed to the tripling of OCP's assets under management during the year, which is a testament to Onex' credit team, their track record and the strength of the Onex brand. We will continue to evaluate opportunities to raise future funds for our platforms – private equity, credit investing and real estate.

Consolidated Fourth-Quarter and Full-Year Results

Onex' quarterly and full-year consolidated financial results do not follow any specific trends due to acquisitions and dispositions of businesses, the impact of foreign currency translation and varying business cycles at its operating companies.

On a consolidated basis for the quarter, revenues decreased 9% to \$6.2 billion and operating earnings rose 13% to \$513 million compared to the fourth quarter in 2008. Onex reported net earnings for the period of \$40 million compared to a \$348 million net loss in the fourth quarter of 2008. Cash flow from operations increased 46% to \$562 million.

On a consolidated basis for the full year, revenues of \$24.8 billion were down 8% and operating earnings increased 7% to \$2.0 billion compared to 2008. Net earnings for the year were \$112 million compared to a net loss of \$283 million in 2008. Cash flow from operations of \$1.3 billion was unchanged from 2008. Assets totaled \$25.5 billion at December 31, 2009 compared to \$29.7 billion at December 31, 2008.

The Company paid a fourth quarter dividend of \$0.0275 per Subordinate Voting Share on January 29, 2010 to shareholders of record on January 8, 2010.

Operating earnings as referred to in this press release are a non-GAAP measure. See Management's Discussion and Analysis for the definition and reconciliation to the consolidated statements of earnings.

Attached are the Consolidated Balance Sheets, Statements of Earnings, Statements of Cash Flows and information by industry segment for the full-year ended December 31, 2009 and 2008. The complete financial statements, including Management's Discussion and Analysis of the results, are posted on Onex' website, www.onex.com, and are also available on SEDAR at www.sedar.com. Also attached is the "How We Are Invested" page, which details Onex' \$3.9 billion of proprietary capital and provides private company performance information.

Webcast

Onex management will host a conference call to review the Company's fiscal 2009 results at 4:30 p.m. ET today. A live webcast of this conference call will be available in listen-only mode on its website, www.onex.com.

About Onex

Onex is one of North America's oldest and most successful investment firms committed to acquiring and building high-quality businesses in partnership with talented management teams. Onex manages investment platforms focused on private equity, real estate and credit securities. In total, the Company manages approximately US\$12 billion. Onex generates annual management fee income and is entitled to a carried interest on approximately US\$7.5 billion of third-party capital and also invests its own capital directly and as a substantial limited partner in its Funds.

Onex' businesses generate annual revenues of \$32 billion, have assets of \$36 billion and employ over 210,000 people worldwide. Onex shares trade on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the stock symbol OCX. For more information on Onex, visit its website at www.onex.com. The Company's security filings can also be accessed at www.sedar.com.

This news release may contain forward-looking statements that are based on management's current expectations and are subject to known and unknown uncertainties and risks, which could cause actual results to differ materially from those contemplated or implied by such forward-looking statements. Onex is under no obligation to update any forward-looking statements contained herein should material facts change due to new information, future events or otherwise.

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[Consolidated Balance Sheets, Statements of Earnings, Statements of Cash Flows, and information by industry segment for the full-year ended December 31, 2009 and 2008](#)

[How We Are Invested](#)