



## Hexavest becomes a signatory of the United Nation's Principles for Responsible Investment

**Montreal, November 26, 2012** - Hexavest is proud to announce that it is now a signatory of the Principles for Responsible Investment. Implemented by the United Nations Secretary-General, the Principles for Responsible Investment were developed by an international group of institutional investors reflecting the increasing relevance of environmental, social and corporate governance issues to investment practices.

As institutional investors, we have a duty to act in the best long-term interests of our beneficiaries, and we believe that environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG) issues can affect the performance of investment portfolios. We also recognise that applying these Principles may better align investors with broader objectives of society. Therefore, where consistent with our fiduciary responsibilities, we commit to the following:

1. We will incorporate ESG issues into investment analysis and decision-making processes.
2. We will be active owners and incorporate ESG issues into our ownership policies and practices.
3. We will seek appropriate disclosure on ESG issues by the entities in which we invest.
4. We will promote acceptance and implementation of the Principles within the investment industry.
5. We will work together to enhance our effectiveness in implementing the Principles.
6. We will each report on our activities and progress towards implementing the Principles.

Hexavest's philosophy regarding ESG issues is based on the belief that firms lacking strong governance standards or social and environmental responsibility are taking business risks that can have an adverse effect on company and stock performance. We are mindful of the potential risks associated with ESG issues, which are therefore considered from a risk assessment standpoint. We analyse the potential risks and incorporate the results in our research, and we also incorporate ESG issues in the voting guidelines of our Proxy Voting Policy. Our decision to become a signatory of the PRI and our commitment to adhere to these principles will guide our practices in ensuring compatibility between our approach and our fiduciary responsibilities.

Hexavest's Investment Team

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