# THE GBC AMERICAN GROWTH FUND INC.

#### NOTICE TO HOLDERS OF COMMON SHARES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of shareholders of The GBC American Growth Fund Inc. (the "Fund") will be held at Suite 1700, 1002 Sherbrooke Street West, in the City of Montreal, Province of Quebec, on Monday, the 19th day of March, 2018, at 4:00 o'clock in the afternoon, for the following purposes:

- 1. To receive the financial statements and the report of the auditors in respect of the fiscal year ended 31st December, 2017;
- 2. To elect directors;
- 3. To appoint auditors and to authorize the board of directors to fix their remuneration; and
- 4. To transact such other business as may properly come before the Meeting or any adjournment thereof.

The directors have fixed 11:15 o'clock in the forenoon (local time) of Friday, the 16th day of March, 2018, as the time before which forms of proxy to be used at the Meeting must be deposited with the Fund.

DATED at Montreal, Quebec, this 1st day of February, 2018.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ANTHONY M. CALZETTA Secretary-Treasurer

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE MEETING IN PERSON, PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THE ENCLOSED FORM OF PROXY IN THE ACCOMPANYING RETURN ADDRESSED ENVELOPE.

# MANAGEMENT PROXY CIRCULAR

# SOLICITATION OF PROXIES

This management proxy circular is furnished in connection with the solicitation by the management of The GBC American Growth Fund Inc. (the "Fund") of proxies for use at the Annual Meeting of the shareholders of the Fund to be held on 19th March, 2018. The cost of solicitation will be borne by the Fund. The solicitation will be made only by mail.

# APPOINTMENT AND REVOCATION OF PROXIES

The persons named in the enclosed form of proxy are officers and/or directors of the Fund. A shareholder desiring to appoint some other person (who need not himself be a shareholder) to represent him at the Meeting may do so, either by inserting such person's name in the blank space provided in the form of proxy and deleting the names printed thereon or by completing another proper form of proxy and, in either case, depositing the completed proxy with the Secretary at Suite 1700, 1002 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, H3A 3S4, at least 48 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays) before the time appointed for the holding of the Meeting.

A shareholder who executes and returns the accompanying form of proxy may revoke it by notice in writing executed by the shareholder or by his attorney authorized in writing, or if the shareholder is a corporation, under its corporate seal, or by an officer or attorney thereof duly authorized, and deposited either at the registered office of the Fund at Suite 1700, 1002 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, H3A 3S4, at any time up to and including the last business day preceding the day of the Meeting or any adjournment thereof, at which the proxy is to be used or with the chairman of such meeting on the day of the meeting or any adjournment but prior to the exercise of such proxy in respect of any particular matter.

### INTERESTS OF CERTAIN PERSONS IN MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON

Except as disclosed herein, no director or officer, past or present, or any associate or affiliate of such persons, or any person on behalf of whom this solicitation is made, has any interest, direct or indirect, in any matter to be acted upon at the Meeting, except that such persons may be directly involved in the normal business of the Meeting or the general affairs of the Fund.

#### RECORD DATE

The Fund has established 1st February, 2018 as the Record Date (the "Record Date") for purposes of determining shareholders entitled to receive notice of the Meeting. Each holder of common shares will be entitled at the Meeting and any adjournment(s) thereof to one vote for each share registered in such shareholder's name at the close of business on the Record Date, except that a holder of any shares acquired after the Record Date shall be entitled to vote at the Meeting and any adjournment(s) thereof if such person produces a share certificate issued in such person's name or otherwise establishes that such person owns the shares, and had demanded not later than 10 days before the Meeting that such person's name be included in the list of shareholders entitled to vote at the Meeting.

#### **VOTING OF SHARES**

The persons named in the enclosed proxy will vote the shares in respect of which they are appointed in accordance with the instructions of the shareholder appointing them. Unless otherwise indicated, the voting rights attaching to such shares will be voted "FOR" in respect of all matters described herein.

The enclosed proxy confers discretionary authority upon the persons named therein with respect to all amendments to matters identified in the Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders and to any other matter which may properly come before the Meeting. As of the date of printing of this Circular, the management of the Fund knows of no such amendments, variations or other matters to be brought before the Meeting. If, however, any other business properly

comes before the Meeting, it is the intention of the management nominees named in the form of proxy to vote the shares represented by such proxies in accordance with their best judgment.

#### VOTING SHARES AND PRINCIPAL HOLDERS THEREOF

There are outstanding at the date hereof 5,392,668.644 common shares without nominal or par value of the capital stock of the Fund. To the knowledge of the directors and officers of the Fund, no person beneficially owns or exercises control or direction over common shares of the Fund carrying more than 10 percent of the votes attached to such shares.

#### **ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

In accordance with the by-laws of the Fund, the number of directors to be elected at the Meeting has been determined to be four. Each director elected will hold office until the next Annual Meeting or until his successor is duly elected, unless he resigns or his office otherwise becomes vacant in accordance with the by-laws of the Fund.

Nominees as Directors and Principal Occupations	Period of Service as a Director	Common Shares Beneficially Owned, Controlled or Directed <sup>(2)</sup>
A. Ian Aitken, CFA	23 <sup>rd</sup> March, 2009 to date	85,008
Mr. Marc A. Courtois (1)	8 <sup>th</sup> March, 2004 to date	13,695
Mr. Glen D. Roane (1)	25 <sup>th</sup> March, 2008 to date	12,586
Mr. Lloyd M. Segal <sup>(1)</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup> March, 2006 to date	6,039

<sup>(1)</sup> Member of Audit Committee

<sup>(2)</sup> Includes shares beneficially owned and controlled [or directed] by a spouse

#### REMUNERATION OF DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

None of the Fund's officers received compensation from the Fund for acting in such capacity during the period ended December 31, 2017. The services of the 3 executive officers of the Fund are provided pursuant to the management agreement with Pembroke Private Wealth Management Ltd. ("PPW"), as described below, at the expense of PPW.

The aggregate cash remuneration paid to the directors of the Fund for their services in such capacity during the fiscal year ended 31st December, 2017 was \$70,500. Such remuneration includes an annual fee of \$15,000 each, the Chair of the Board \$5,000, the Chair of the Audit Committee \$2,500 and additional fees of \$1,000 for each attendance at meetings of the board or any committee of directors.

# INDEBTEDNESS OF DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

No director or officer of the Fund or any of their respective associates or affiliates is or has ever been indebted to the Fund at any time.

#### MANAGEMENT CONTRACTS

PPW of Montreal, Quebec, is a Canadian corporation owned by Pembroke Management Ltd. ("Pembroke"). PPW provides management and secretarial services to the Fund pursuant to an agreement effective 1st October, 1988, such agreement being for an initial term of 4 years which is automatically extended and maintained at such term unless either party to such agreement gives notice to prevent such extension.

The agreement provides for remuneration to be paid to PPW in an amount equal to 1/12 of 1.5 percent of the net assets of the Fund at the end of each month. The remuneration paid by the Fund to PPW for the said services for the fiscal year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2017 was \$2,998,415. The remuneration payable by the Fund for such services to date for the fiscal year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2018 amounts to approximately \$145,000.

PPW is wholly responsible for the payment of any investment counselling and portfolio management fees and in Canada pays direct advertising and other related marketing costs.

PPW has arranged to appoint Pembroke to provide investment counselling and portfolio management services with respect to the Fund's portfolio. The fee for this service will be paid for by PPW.

The management agreement between the Fund and PPW and the investment counselling and portfolio management agreement between PPW and Pembroke are available for inspection at the head office of the Fund during normal business hours.

The informed persons of PPW are Pembroke, A. Ian Aitken, Michael P. McLaughlin, Peter S. Morton and Jeffrey S. D. Tory, all of Montreal (Quebec); T. John Quinn of Toronto (Ontario).

The informed persons of Pembroke are: A. Ian Aitken, J. Matthew Beckerleg, Nicolas G. Chevalier, Michael P. McLaughlin, Douglas M. Pospisil, A. Scott Taylor, Jeffrey S. D. Tory and David W. L. Whittall, all of Montreal (Quebec) and Stephen Hui of Vancouver (British Columbia).

#### APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

Deloitte LLP are the auditors of the Fund and have held such position since the inception of the Fund. It is proposed by the management of the Fund that such firm be reappointed the auditors of the Fund at the Meeting. **The persons named in the enclosed form of proxy intend to vote FOR their re-appointment at the Meeting.** 

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information about the Fund is available in the Fund's financial statements. You may obtain a copy of the Fund's financial statements at no cost by calling PPW toll-free at 1 (800) 667-0716.

The financial statements and other information about the Fund, such as information circulars and material contracts, are also available on the PPW Internet site at <a href="https://www.pml.ca">www.pml.ca</a> or on the SEDAR internet site at <a href="https://www.sedar.com">www.sedar.com</a>.

# DATE OF INFORMATION AND DIRECTORS' APPROVAL

The information contained herein is given as of 19th January, 2018.

The contents and the sending of this management proxy circular have been approved by the board of directors of the Fund.

ANTHONY M. CALZETTA

Secretary-Treasurer