CLARK WILSON

PRESS RELEASE

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Clark Wilson LLP Lawyers Support Taproot in Creating Canada's Largest Employee Ownership Trust (Vancouver, B.C.)

Clark Wilson LLP is proud to have served as legal counsel to Taproot Community Support Services in completing Canada's largest Employee Ownership Trust (EOT) deal, Canada's first 100% EOT owned business, and the first EOT in the social services sector.

This landmark deal transitioned Taproot's ownership to its 750 employees across British Columbia, Alberta, and Ontario. Through the EOT structure, each employee now holds a stake in the company, at no cost, marking a historic milestone in Canadian business succession and employee empowerment.

The significance of this transition was underscored by Canada's Minister of Finance, the Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, who called Taproot's move to an EOT "a game changer" that secures the organization's future while empowering its team.

Clark Wilson's legal team was led by David Ford and St.John McCloskey, who guided Taproot through the creation and implementation of this groundbreaking trust, ensuring that the deal aligned with Taproot's values of inclusion, community, and long-term sustainability.

Clark Wilson worked alongside Rewrite Capital Advisors, who provided strategic guidance throughout the transition, and Western Pacific Trust Company, which acted as agent for the trustees of the EOT on behalf of the employee-owners.

Taproot provides support services to adults with diverse abilities, vulnerable youth, and families. With nearly 2,000 clients served annually and over 70 program sites and approximately $54 million in annual revenue, Taproot is one of Canada's largest and most respected social service providers.

"EOTs are a transformative succession option for Canadian businesses," said David Ford, lead counsel on the deal. "By putting ownership into the hands of employees, they provide continuity for organizations, stability for communities, and meaningful participation for workers. We're proud that Clark Wilson is helping shape this important new chapter in Canadian business law."

Reflecting on the ownership transition, Taproot CEO Mike Fotheringham said: "This is the next natural step in the evolution of our company. Becoming an EOT brings our inclusive values to life and makes all our employees true partners in our success."

Together, Taproot, Clark Wilson, Rewrite Capital Advisors, and Western Pacific Trust Company have set a precedent for the future of employee ownership in Canada, marking a milestone that will shape how organizations approach succession, empowerment, and sustainability in the years ahead.

About Clark Wilson LLP

Clark Wilson LLP is a Vancouver-based business law firm with over 85 lawyers across 32 practice areas. We are recognized for our industry insight, entrepreneurial culture, and deep community ties, helping clients achieve practical results and long-term growth. As one of the first Canadian firms to advise on Employee Ownership Trusts, we continue to shape emerging areas of law while supporting businesses locally and internationally.

About Taproot

Founded in 1983, Taproot Community Support Services provides personalized and culturally responsive programs for youth, adults and families in British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario. Supporting nearly 2,000 clients a year across 70 program sites, Taproot's programs are accredited by several provincial and national bodies, including CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities). Taproot was recognized by HR Director as one of Canada's best places to work in 2025.

About Rewrite Capital

Rewrite Capital Advisors is a women-owned, women-led M&A advisory firm recognized as Canada's expert in Employee Ownership Trusts (EOTs). The firm helps business owners protect their legacy and empower their employees by transforming companies into engaged, employee-owned organizations. With deep financial expertise, operational insight, and strong industry relationships, Rewrite Capital guides businesses through complex ownership transitions that secure long-term stability and growth.

About Western Pacific Trust Company

Western Pacific Trust Company is an independent, non-deposit-taking trust company headquartered in Vancouver, British Columbia. Publicly traded on the TSX Venture Exchange, the firm has provided specialized trust, custodial, and self-administered retirement account services since 1999, serving clients across Canada's private capital markets.

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