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Mullen Group Ltd. Reports 2021 First Quarter Financial Results

(Okotoks, Alberta April 21, 2021) (TSX: MTL) Mullen Group Ltd. ("**Mullen Group**", "**We**", "**Our**" and/or the "**Corporation**"), one of Canada's largest logistics providers with a wide range of service offerings including less-than-truckload, truckload, warehousing, logistics, transload, oversized and specialized hauling transportation, today reported its financial and operating results for the period ended March 31, 2021, with comparisons to the same period last year. Full details of our results may be found within our First Quarter Interim Report, which is available on SEDAR at www.sedar.com or on our website at www.mullen-group.com.

"The quarter was dominated by two main themes. Unfortunately, COVID-19 continued to capture the headlines remaining the major impediment to a return to economic growth in Canada. Government mandated business closures, disruptions to the supply chain, as well as multiple examples of manufacturing capacities being curtailed had a negative impact on freight demand, and our revenues, particularly during the first two months of the year. The frustrating part is that other countries that were more aggressive in addressing how the virus spread and secured vaccines well in advance of Canadian authorities, have seen a sharp rebound in economic activity. Until this situation is rectified, it is difficult to see any recovery in the Canadian economy.

"The second, and more positive point, relates to acquisitions. Since the start of 2021 we have announced two significant transactions, one which closed in April and the other we expect to close in the second quarter. Both companies, Bandstra Transportation Group, based in British Columbia, and APPS Transport Group, based in Ontario, are brand names easily recognizable in the Canadian transportation industry. These are precisely the type of companies we have waited to come to market, reinforcing our patient approach to acquisitions. Not only will we have two new platforms that will accelerate our growth in the near term, these companies when combined with our existing network provide our organization with an excellent opportunity to capture market share growth and enhance our bottom line.

"I am both excited and positive about the future of our company for a couple of reasons. It is only a matter of time before a sharp recovery in the Canadian economy takes place because the necessary conditions, including significant capital resources and consumer pent up demand, are waiting for COVID-19 to be brought under control. And, of course, the opportunities the new acquisitions bring to our company. In addition, I am of the view that the logistics and freight industry are ripe for further consolidation which we will be well positioned to capture, particularly "tuck-in" purchases," commented Mr. Murray K. Mullen, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer.

Key financial highlights for the first quarter of 2021 with comparison to 2020 are as follows:

(unaudited) (\$ millions)	Three month periods ended		
	March 31		
	2021	2020	Change
	\$	\$	%
Revenue			
Less-Than-Truckload	120.7	112.9	6.9
Logistics & Warehousing	91.3	96.2	(5.1)
Specialized & Industrial Services	79.3	111.3	(28.8)
Corporate and intersegment eliminations	(0.8)	(2.2)	-
Total Revenue	290.5	318.2	(8.7)
Operating income before depreciation and amortization ⁽¹⁾			
Less-Than-Truckload	19.3	13.3	45.1
Logistics & Warehousing	15.9	16.4	(3.0)
Specialized & Industrial Services	15.0	17.4	(13.8)
Corporate	(3.1)	(1.9)	-
Total Operating income before depreciation and amortization ⁽¹⁾	47.1	45.2	4.2

⁽¹⁾ Refer to notes section of Summary

Mullen Group operates a diversified business model combined with a highly adaptable and variable cost structure. The financial results for the three month period ended March 31, 2021, are as follows:

→ generated consolidated revenue of \$290.5 million, a decrease of \$27.7 million, or 8.7 percent, as compared to \$318.2 million in 2020 due to the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic ("**COVID-19**") resulting in:

- an increase of \$7.8 million to \$120.7 million in the Less-Than-Truckload segment
- a decrease of \$4.9 million to \$91.3 million in the Logistics & Warehousing segment
- a decrease of \$32.0 million to \$79.3 million in the Specialized & Industrial Services segment

→ earned consolidated operating income before depreciation and amortization ("**OIBDA**") of \$47.1 million, an increase of \$1.9 million as compared to \$45.2 million in 2020 due to cost control initiatives and \$6.0 million received from the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy ("**CEWS**") resulting in:

- an increase of \$6.0 million to \$19.3 million in the Less-Than-Truckload segment
- a decrease of \$0.5 million to \$15.9 million in the Logistics & Warehousing segment
- a decrease of \$2.4 million to \$15.0 million in the Specialized & Industrial Services segment

First Quarter Financial Results

Revenue decreased by \$27.7 million, or 8.7 percent, to \$290.5 million and is summarized as follows:

- Less-Than-Truckload segment up \$7.8 million, or 6.9 percent, to \$120.7 million - revenue improved by \$7.8 million due to the \$5.9 million of incremental revenue generated from the acquisition of Pacific Coast Express Limited ("**PCX**") and the steady nature of consumer demand being partially offset by COVID-19 and \$0.2 million of lower fuel surcharge revenue.
- Logistics & Warehousing segment down \$4.9 million, or 5.1 percent, to \$91.3 million - revenue declined by \$4.9 million due to COVID-19 and government restrictions which led to plant closures and supply chain disruptions resulting in lower freight volumes and spot prices along with \$1.7 million of lower fuel surcharge revenue.

- Specialized & Industrial Services segment down \$32.0 million, or 28.8 percent, to \$79.3 million - revenue declined by \$32.0 million due to lower demand for specialized services including large diameter pipeline hauling and stringing services as well as fluid hauling and drilling related services resulting from a decline in the rig count in the Western Canadian Sedimentary Basin. Revenue also declined due to lower demand for civil construction services in northern Manitoba at Smook Contractors Ltd.

OIBDA increased by \$1.9 million, or 4.2 percent, to \$47.1 million and is summarized as follows:

- Less-Than-Truckload segment up \$6.0 million, or 45.1 percent, to \$19.3 million - OIBDA improved due to cost control initiatives, \$1.1 million of incremental OIBDA generated by PCX, and CEWS. Operating margin increased to 16.0 percent (CEWS adjusted - 15.2 percent) from 11.8 percent in 2020 due to cost control initiatives.
- Logistics & Warehousing segment down \$0.5 million, or 3.0 percent, to \$15.9 million - OIBDA declined due to a \$1.3 million negative variance in foreign exchange resulting from the strengthening of the Canadian dollar relative to the U.S. dollar and a higher cost of subcontractors in certain markets being partially offset by cost control initiatives and CEWS. Operating margin improved to 17.4 percent (CEWS and foreign exchange adjusted - 16.2 percent) from 17.0 percent (CEWS and foreign exchange adjusted - 15.8 percent) in 2020 due to the continued focus on cost controls.
- Specialized & Industrial Services segment down \$2.4 million, or 13.8 percent, to \$15.0 million - OIBDA declined due to lower OIBDA from those Business Units providing specialized services including pipeline stockpiling and stringing services and from those involved in the transportation of fluids and servicing of wells. Operating margin improved to 18.9 percent (CEWS adjusted - 14.1 percent) from 15.6 percent in 2020 due to CEWS. Adjusted for CEWS, operating margin decreased due to a change in revenue mix.

Net income increased by \$8.3 million to \$13.0 million, or \$0.13 per Common Share due to:

- A \$2.9 million positive variance in net foreign exchange, a \$1.9 million increase in OIBDA, a \$1.9 million positive variance in the fair value of investments, a \$0.7 million decrease in depreciation of property, plant and equipment, a \$0.6 million decrease in income tax expense, a \$0.2 million decrease in finance costs and a \$0.2 million increase in the gain on sale of property, plant and equipment.
- The above was partially offset by a \$0.1 million increase in depreciation of right-of-use assets.

A summary of Mullen Group's results for the three month periods ended March 31, 2021 and 2020 are as follows:

SUMMARY			
<i>(unaudited)</i> (\$ millions, except per share amounts)	Three month periods ended March 31		
	2021	2020	Change
	\$	\$	%
Revenue	290.5	318.2	(8.7)
Operating income before depreciation and amortization ⁽¹⁾	47.1	45.2	4.2
Net foreign exchange (gain) loss	(0.1)	2.8	(103.6)
Decrease (increase) in fair value of investments	(0.4)	1.5	(126.7)
Net income	13.0	4.7	176.6
Net Income - adjusted ⁽²⁾	11.8	9.5	24.2
Earnings per share ⁽³⁾	0.13	0.04	225.0
Earnings per share - adjusted ⁽²⁾	0.12	0.09	33.3
Net cash from operating activities	39.0	40.2	(3.0)
Net cash from operating activities per share ⁽³⁾	0.40	0.38	5.3
Cash dividends declared per Common Share	0.12	0.15	(20.0)

Notes:

- (1) Operating income before depreciation and amortization ("OIBDA") is defined as net income before depreciation of right-of-use assets and of property, plant and equipment, amortization of intangible assets, finance costs, net foreign exchange gains and losses, other (income) expense and income taxes.
- (2) Net income - adjusted and earnings per share - adjusted are calculated by adjusting net income and basic earnings per share by the amount of any net foreign exchange gains and losses, and the change in fair value of investments.
- (3) Earnings per share and net cash from operating activities per share are calculated based on the weighted average number of Common Shares outstanding for the period.

Non-GAAP Terms - Mullen Group reports on certain financial performance measures that are described and presented in order to provide shareholders and potential investors with additional measures to evaluate Mullen Group's ability to fund its operations and information regarding its liquidity. In addition, these measures are used by management in its evaluation of performance. These financial performance measures ("Non-GAAP Terms") are not recognized financial terms under Canadian generally accepted accounting principles ("Canadian GAAP"). For publicly accountable enterprises, such as Mullen Group, Canadian GAAP is governed by principles based on IFRS and interpretations of IFRIC. Management believes these Non-GAAP Terms are useful supplemental measures. These Non-GAAP Terms do not have standardized meanings and may not be comparable to similar measures presented by other entities. Specifically, operating margin, net income - adjusted and earnings per share - adjusted are not recognized terms under IFRS and do not have standardized meanings prescribed by IFRS. Management believes these measures are useful supplemental measures. Investors should be cautioned that these indicators should not replace net income and earnings per share as an indicator of performance.

Financial Position

The following summarizes our financial position as at March 31, 2021, along with some key changes that occurred during the first quarter of 2021:

- Working capital of \$247.1 million including \$117.7 million of cash and cash equivalents and an undrawn Bank Credit Facility of \$150.0 million.
- Total net debt (\$459.4 million) to operating cash flow (\$221.2 million) of 2.08:1 as defined per our Private Placement Debt agreement.
- Private Placement Debt of \$458.2 million with no scheduled maturities until 2024 (average fixed rate of 3.93 percent per annum). Private Placement Debt decreased by \$3.6 million due to the foreign exchange gain on our U.S. \$229.0 million debt.
- Book value of Derivative Financial Instruments down \$3.5 million to \$34.4 million, which swaps our \$229.0 million of U.S. dollar debt at an average foreign exchange rate of \$1.1096.
- Net book value of property, plant and equipment of \$932.7 million, which includes \$592.2 million of carrying costs of owned real property.
- Repurchased 304,028 Common Shares at an average price of \$12.21 per share under our normal course issuer bid.

About Mullen Group Ltd.

Mullen Group is one of Canada's largest logistics providers. Our network of independently operated businesses provide a wide range of service offerings including less-than-truckload, truckload, warehousing, logistics, transload, oversized and specialized hauling transportation. In addition, we provide a diverse set of specialized services related to the energy, mining, forestry and construction industries in western Canada, including water management, fluid hauling and environmental reclamation. The corporate office provides the capital and financial expertise, legal support, technology and systems support, shared services and strategic planning to its independent businesses.

Mullen Group is a publicly traded corporation listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol "MTL". Additional information is available on our website at www.mullen-group.com or on SEDAR at www.sedar.com.

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Disclaimer

This news release may contain forward-looking statements that are subject to risk factors associated with the oil and natural gas business and the overall economy. Mullen Group believes that the expectations reflected in this news release are reasonable, but results may be affected by a variety of variables. The forward-looking information contained herein is made as of the date of this news release and Mullen Group disclaims any intent or obligation to update publicly any such forward-looking information, whether as a result of new information, future events or results or otherwise, other than as required by applicable Canadian securities laws. Mullen Group relies on litigation protection for "forward-looking" statements. Additional information regarding the forward-looking statements is found on pages 1, 40 and 41 of Mullen Group's Management's Discussion and Analysis.