

COTT CORP /CN/
Form PRE 14A
March 07, 2014
Table of Contents

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the

Securities Exchange Act of 1934

(Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement

Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))

Definitive Proxy Statement

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material under §240.14a-12

Cott Corporation

(Name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Edgar Filing: COTT CORP /CN/ - Form PRE 14A

(Name of person(s) filing proxy statement, if other than the registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required.

Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

(1) Title of each class of securities to which the transaction applies:

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which the transaction applies:

(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of the transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of the transaction:

(5) Total fee paid:

.. Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

.. Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

(1) Amount Previously Paid:

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

Table of Contents

Cott Corporation

6525 Viscount Road

Mississauga, Ontario, Canada L4V1H6

(905) 672-1900

5519 West Idlewild Avenue

Tampa, Florida, United States 33634

(813) 313-1800

March 10, 2014

Dear Shareowners:

We are pleased to invite you to attend our annual and special meeting of shareowners, which will be held at the Hilton Toronto Airport Hotel and Suites, 5875 Airport Road, Toronto, Ontario, Canada at 8:30 a.m. (Toronto time) on Tuesday, May 6, 2014. At this meeting, you will have the opportunity to meet our directors and members of our senior management team, learn more about our Company and our plans for the future, and receive our financial results for the 2013 fiscal year.

The notice of meeting and circular that accompany this letter describe the business to be conducted at the meeting.

This year, we are pleased to furnish our proxy materials over the Internet in accordance with applicable law. As a result, we are mailing to many of our shareowners a notice instead of paper copies of our proxy circular, form of proxy and 2013 annual report. The notice contains instructions on how to access these materials over the Internet, as well as instructions on how shareowners can receive paper copies of these materials. Employing this distribution process will conserve natural resources and reduce the costs of printing and distributing these materials.

Even if you cannot attend the meeting, it is important that your shares be represented and voted by using the form of proxy provided. We encourage you to read the circular and vote as soon as possible. We look forward to your participation.

Sincerely,

JERRY FOWDEN

Chief Executive Officer

Table of Contents

Cott Corporation

Notice of Annual and Special Meeting of Shareowners

The Annual and Special Meeting of Shareowners of Cott Corporation (**Cott**) will be held

on: Tuesday, May 6, 2014

at: 8:30 a.m. (local time in Toronto)

at the: Hilton Toronto Airport Hotel and Suites, 5875 Airport Road, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

to: receive the financial statements for the year ended December 28, 2013 and the report on those statements by Cott's independent registered certified public accounting firm,

elect directors,

approve the appointment of Cott's independent registered certified public accounting firm,

hold a non-binding advisory vote on executive compensation,

approve an amendment to Cott's Second Amended and Restated By-Laws, which requires advance notice to Cott in certain circumstances where director nominations are made by Cott shareowners, and

transact any other business that properly may be brought before the meeting and any adjournment of the meeting.

By order of the board of directors

Marni Morgan Poe

Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary

Tampa, Florida, U.S.A.

March , 2014

YOU ARE INVITED TO VOTE BY COMPLETING, DATING AND SIGNING THE FORM OF PROXY AND RETURNING IT BY MAIL OR BY FACSIMILE, OR BY FOLLOWING THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTING OVER THE INTERNET IN THE PROXY CIRCULAR. A VOTE BY PROXY WILL BE COUNTED IF IT IS COMPLETED PROPERLY AND IS RECEIVED BY OUR TRANSFER AGENT NO LATER THAN 5:00 P.M. TORONTO TIME ON MAY 2, 2014 OR THE LAST BUSINESS DAY PRIOR TO ANY POSTPONED OR ADJOURNED MEETING OR IS OTHERWISE RECEIVED BY OUR SECRETARY, AS DESCRIBED HEREIN, PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING OR ANY POSTPONED OR ADJOURNED MEETING. OUR TRANSFER AGENT'S MAILING ADDRESS IS COMPUTERSHARE INVESTOR SERVICES INC., 100 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, 9TH FLOOR, TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA, M5J 2Y1 AND FACSIMILE NUMBER IS 1-866-249-7775 or (416) 263-9524.

Table of Contents

**IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS FOR THE
ANNUAL AND SPECIAL MEETING OF SHAREOWNERS TO BE HELD ON MAY 6, 2014**

This communication is not a form for voting and presents only an overview of the more complete proxy materials, which are available on the Internet or by mail. We encourage you to access and review all of the important information contained in the proxy materials before voting.

Our proxy circular, form of proxy and 2013 annual report are available at our website (www.cott.com/en/for-investors/overview), as well as our profile on SEDAR (www.sedar.com). Our proxy circular includes information on the following matters, among other things:

The date, time and location of the Annual and Special Meeting of Shareowners;

A list of the matters being submitted to the shareowners for approval; and

Information concerning voting in person at the Annual and Special Meeting of Shareowners.

If you want to receive a paper copy or e-mail of these documents, you must request one. There is no charge to you for requesting a copy. Please make your request for a copy to Computershare Investor Services by telephone at 1-800-564-6253 or contact Cott's Investor Relations Department directly at our principal executive office: Cott Corporation, 5519 W. Idlewild Ave., Tampa, FL 33634, telephone (813) 313-1777, email InvestorRelations@cott.com.

Table of Contents

Cott Corporation
Annual and Special Meeting of Shareowners

THIS BOOKLET EXPLAINS:

details of the matters to be voted upon at the meeting, and

how to exercise your right to vote even if you cannot attend the meeting.

THIS BOOKLET CONTAINS:

the notice of the meeting,

the proxy circular for the meeting, and

a proxy form that you may use to vote your shares without attending the meeting.

REGISTERED SHAREOWNERS

A form of proxy is enclosed with this booklet. This form may be used to vote your shares if you are unable to attend the meeting in person. Instructions on how to vote using this form are found starting on page 1 of this proxy circular.

NON-REGISTERED BENEFICIAL SHAREOWNERS

If your shares are held on your behalf or for your account by a broker, securities dealer, bank, trust company or other intermediary, you will not be able to vote unless you carefully follow the instructions provided by your intermediary.

The accompanying circular and form of proxy are furnished in connection with the solicitation of proxies by or on behalf of management and the board of directors for use at the annual and special meeting of shareowners to be held on Tuesday, May 6, 2014 and any continuation of the meeting after an adjournment of such meeting.

AVAILABILITY OF QUARTERLY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

If you are a shareowner and wish to receive (or continue to receive) our quarterly interim financial statements (and the related management discussion and analysis) by mail, you must complete and return the enclosed request form. If you do not do so, quarterly financial statements will not be sent to you. Financial results are announced by media release, and financial statements are available on our website at www.cott.com, on the SEDAR website maintained by the Canadian securities regulators at www.sedar.com and on the EDGAR website maintained by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission at www.sec.gov.

Table of Contents**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	Page
<u>GENERAL INFORMATION</u>	1
<u>VOTING AT THE MEETING</u>	1
<u>Who Can Vote</u>	1
<u>Voting By Registered Shareowners</u>	1
<u>Voting By Non-Registered Beneficial Shareowners</u>	3
<u>Confidentiality of Vote</u>	4
<u>Quorum</u>	5
<u>Vote Counting Rules</u>	5
<u>Solicitation of Proxies</u>	5
<u>Say-on-Pay and Say-on-Frequency Results</u>	5
<u>Please Complete Your Proxy</u>	6
<u>PROCEDURE FOR CONSIDERING SHAREOWNER PROPOSALS</u>	6
<u>PRINCIPAL SHAREOWNERS</u>	7
<u>FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</u>	8
<u>ELECTION OF DIRECTORS</u>	8
<u>Majority Voting and Director Resignation Policy</u>	13
<u>COMPENSATION OF DIRECTORS</u>	14
<u>Directors Compensation Schedule</u>	14
<u>Share Ownership Requirements for Board Members</u>	15
<u>SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF DIRECTORS AND MANAGEMENT</u>	16
<u>Security Ownership</u>	16
<u>Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance</u>	16
<u>CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS</u>	17
<u>COMPENSATION OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS</u>	19
<u>Compensation Discussion and Analysis</u>	19
<u>Summary Compensation Table</u>	36
<u>Named Executive Officer Employment Agreements</u>	37
<u>Grants of Plan-Based Awards in Fiscal 2013</u>	39
<u>Outstanding Equity Awards at 2013 Fiscal Year End</u>	40
<u>Option Exercises and Stock Vested in Fiscal 2013</u>	41
<u>Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change of Control</u>	41
<u>THE HUMAN RESOURCES AND COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	48
<u>EQUITY COMPENSATION PLAN INFORMATION</u>	48
<u>Amended and Restated Equity Plan</u>	49
<u>Restated 1986 Common Share Option Plan</u>	50
<u>DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS INSURANCE</u>	51
<u>CORPORATE GOVERNANCE</u>	51
<u>Board and Management Roles</u>	51
<u>Allocation of Responsibility between the Board and Management</u>	51
<u>Board Oversight of Risk</u>	52
<u>Board's Expectations of Management</u>	52
<u>Board Leadership</u>	52
<u>Shareowner Communications</u>	53
<u>Composition of the Board</u>	53
<u>Independence of the Board</u>	53
<u>Board Committees</u>	53
<u>COMPENSATION COMMITTEE INTERLOCKS AND INSIDER PARTICIPATION</u>	58
<u>INDEPENDENT REGISTERED CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM</u>	58
<u>Approval of Appointment of Independent Registered Certified Public Accounting Firm</u>	58

Table of Contents

	Page
<u>Principal Accounting Fees</u>	59
<u>Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures</u>	59
<u>Audit Committee Report</u>	60
<u>ADVISORY VOTE ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION</u>	61
<u>APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO COTT CORPORATION SECOND AMENDED AND RESTATED BY-LAWS</u>	63
<u>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</u>	64
<u>Information about Cott</u>	64
<u>Householding</u>	64
<u>Approval</u>	64
<u>APPENDIX A RESOLUTION APPROVING AMENDMENT TO COTT CORPORATION SECOND AMENDED AND RESTATED BY-LAWS</u>	A-1
<u>APPENDIX B AMENDMENT TO COTT CORPORATION SECOND AMENDED AND RESTATED BY-LAWS</u>	B-1
<u>APPENDIX C MANDATE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS</u>	C-1
<u>APPENDIX D AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER</u>	D-1

Table of Contents

Cott Corporation

Proxy Circular

GENERAL INFORMATION

This proxy circular is furnished in connection with the solicitation of proxies by or on behalf of management and the board of directors of Cott Corporation (Cott or the Company) for use at the annual and special meeting of shareowners that is to be held at the time and place, and for the purposes, described in the accompanying notice of the meeting and any continuation of the meeting after an adjournment of such meeting.

We are first mailing or making available to shareowners this proxy circular, our 2013 annual report and related materials on or about March 17, 2014. All dollar amounts are in United States dollars unless otherwise stated. All information contained in this proxy circular is as of March 17, 2014, unless otherwise indicated. Our fiscal year ends on the Saturday closest to December 31 of each year. In this proxy circular, therefore, references to the year 2011 are to the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011, references to the year 2012 are to the fiscal year ended December 29, 2012, and references to the year 2013 are to the fiscal year ended December 28, 2013. As used herein, GAAP means United States generally accepted accounting principles.

VOTING AT THE MEETING

Who Can Vote

March 17, 2014 is the record date to determine shareowners who are entitled to receive notice of the meeting. Shareowners at the close of business on that date will be entitled to vote at the meeting. As of the record date, 1,000,000 common shares were outstanding. Each common share entitles the holder to one vote on all matters presented at the meeting.

Voting By Registered Shareowners

The following instructions are for registered shareowners only. **If you are a non-registered beneficial shareowner, please follow your intermediary's instructions on how to vote your shares.** See below under **Voting By Non-Registered Beneficial Shareowners.**

Voting in Person

Registered shareowners who attend the meeting may vote the shares registered in their name on resolutions put before the meeting. If you are a registered holder who will attend and vote in person at the meeting, you do not need to complete or return the form of proxy. Please register your attendance with the scrutineer, Computershare Investor Services Inc. (**Computershare**), upon your arrival at the meeting. Whether or not you plan to attend the annual and special meeting of shareowners, you are requested to complete and promptly return the enclosed proxy.

Table of Contents

Voting by Proxy

If you are a registered shareowner but do not plan to attend the meeting in person, there are four ways that you can vote your proxy:

Mail: You may vote by completing, dating and signing the enclosed form of proxy and returning it to Computershare no later than 5:00 p.m. local time in Toronto on May 2, 2014, or the last business day prior to any postponed or adjourned meeting, by mail to 100 University Avenue, 9th Floor, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5J 2Y1 using the envelope provided.

Fax: You may vote by completing, dating and signing the enclosed form of proxy and faxing it to Computershare at 1-866-249-7775 (toll free within Canada and the United States) or 1-416-263-9524 (outside Canada and the United States) no later than 5:00 p.m. local time in Toronto on May 2, 2014 or the last business day prior to any postponed or adjourned meeting.

Internet: You may vote over the Internet by accessing www.investorvote.com and following the proxy login and voting procedures described for the meeting. The enclosed form of proxy contains certain information required for the Internet voting process. Detailed voting instructions will then be conveyed electronically via the Internet to those who have completed the login procedure. You may vote (and revoke a previous vote) over the Internet at any time before 5:00 p.m. local time in Toronto on May 2, 2014 or the last business day prior to any postponed or adjourned meeting.

The Internet voting procedure, which complies with Canadian law, is designed to authenticate shareowners' identities, to allow shareowners to vote their shares and to confirm that shareowners' votes have been recorded properly. Shareowners voting via the Internet should understand that there may be costs associated with electronic access, such as usage charges from Internet access providers and telephone companies that must be borne by the shareowners. Also, please be aware that Cott is not involved in the operation of the Internet voting procedure and cannot take responsibility for any access or Internet service interruptions that may occur or any inaccurate, erroneous or incomplete information that may appear.

Other: If you have not availed yourself of any of the foregoing voting procedures by 5:00 p.m. local time in Toronto on May 2, 2014 or the last business day prior to any postponed or adjourned meeting but still wish to vote by proxy, you may vote by (i) completing, dating and signing the enclosed form of proxy and faxing it to the attention of our Secretary at (813) 881-1923, or (ii) having the person you have chosen as your proxyholder deliver it in person to our Secretary, in each case so that it is received prior to the commencement of the meeting or any postponed or adjourned meeting.

What Is a Proxy?

A proxy is a document that authorizes another person to attend the meeting and cast votes on behalf of a registered shareowner at the meeting. If you are a registered shareowner, you can use the accompanying proxy form. You may also use any other legal form of proxy.

How do You Appoint a Proxyholder?

Your proxyholder is the person you appoint to cast your votes for you at the meeting. The persons named in the enclosed form of proxy are directors or officers of Cott. You may choose those individuals or any other person to be your proxyholder. Your proxyholder does not have to be a shareowner of Cott. If you want to authorize a director or officer of Cott who is named on the enclosed proxy form as your proxyholder, please leave the line near the top of the proxy form blank, as their names are pre-printed on the form. **If you want to authorize another person as your proxyholder, fill in that person's name in the blank space located near the top of the enclosed proxy form.**

Your proxy authorizes the proxyholder to vote and otherwise act for you at the meeting, including any continuation of the meeting if it is adjourned.

Table of Contents

How Will a Proxyholder Vote?

If you mark on the proxy how you want to vote on a particular issue, your proxyholder must cast your votes as instructed. By checking WITHHOLD on the proxy form, you will be abstaining from voting.

If you do NOT mark on the proxy how you want to vote on a particular matter, your proxyholder is entitled to vote your shares as he or she sees fit. If your proxy does not specify how to vote on any particular matter, and if you have authorized a director or officer of Cott to act as your proxyholder, your shares will be voted at the meeting:

FOR the election of the nominees named in this proxy circular as directors,

FOR the approval of the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as Cott's independent registered certified public accounting firm,

FOR the approval, on a non-binding advisory basis, of the compensation of the Company's named executive officers, as such information is disclosed in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, the compensation tables and the accompanying narrative disclosure beginning on page 19 (commonly referred to as say-on-pay), and

FOR the approval of the Amendment to Cott Corporation's Second Amended and Restated By-Laws described under Approval of Amendment to Cott Corporation's Second Amended and Restated By-Laws beginning on page 63 of this proxy circular, in accordance with the resolution attached as Appendix A to this proxy circular on page A-1.

For more information on these matters, please see **Election of Directors**, beginning on page 8 **Independent Registered Certified Public Accounting Firm Approval of Appointment of Independent Registered Certified Public Accounting Firm** on page 58, **Advisory Vote on Executive Compensation** on page 61, and **Approval of Amendment to Cott Corporation's Second Amended and Restated By-Laws** on page 63.

If any amendments are proposed to these matters, or if any other matters properly arise at the meeting, your proxyholder can generally vote your shares as he or she sees fit. The notice of the meeting sets out all the matters to be presented at the meeting that are known to management as of March 17, 2014.

How do You Revoke Your Proxy?

Any proxy given pursuant to this solicitation may be revoked by the person giving it at any time before the meeting by delivering to our Secretary a written notice of revocation or a duly executed proxy bearing a later date (or voting via the Internet at a later date) or by attending the meeting and voting in person. You may send a written notice to our Secretary to the following address: 5519 West Idlewild Avenue, Tampa, Florida U.S.A. 33634.

This revocation must be received by our Secretary before the meeting (or before the date of the reconvened meeting if it is adjourned), or in any other way permitted by law.

If you revoke your proxy and do not replace it with another form of proxy that is properly deposited, you may still vote shares registered in your name in person at the meeting.

Voting By Non-Registered Beneficial Shareowners

If your common shares are not registered in your name but in the name of an intermediary (typically a bank, trust company, securities dealer or broker, or a clearing agency in which an intermediary participates), then you are a non-registered beneficial shareowner (as opposed to a registered shareowner). Copies of this document have been distributed to intermediaries who are required to deliver them to, and seek voting instructions from, our

Table of Contents

non-registered beneficial shareowners. Intermediaries often use a service company (such as Computershare or Broadridge Investor Communications (**Broadridge**)) to forward meeting materials to beneficial shareowners. Cott intends to pay for intermediaries to deliver proxy-related materials and the request for voting instructions (Form 54-101F7) to objecting beneficial owners in accordance with National Instrument 54-101. If you are a non-registered beneficial shareowner, you can vote your common shares by proxy, by following the instructions your intermediary provides to you, through your intermediary or at the meeting. As a non-registered beneficial shareowner, while you are invited to attend the meeting, you will not be entitled to vote at the meeting unless you make the necessary arrangements with your intermediary to do so.

Voting in Person

A non-registered beneficial shareowner who received a voting instruction form from the intermediary and who wishes to attend and vote at the meeting in person (or have another person attend and vote on their behalf) should strike out the proxyholders named in the voting instruction form and insert the beneficial shareowner's (or such other person's) name in the blank space provided or follow the corresponding instructions provided by the intermediary.

Voting by Proxy through Intermediary

Internet: If your intermediary is registered with Computershare or Broadridge, both of which we have retained to manage beneficial shareowner Internet voting, you may vote over the Internet by following the proxy login and voting instructions on your voting instruction form.

Through Intermediary: A beneficial shareowner who does not vote via the Internet will be given a voting instruction form or other document by his or her intermediary that must be submitted by the beneficial shareowner in accordance with the instructions provided by the intermediary. In such case, you **cannot** use the Internet voting procedures described above and **must** follow the intermediary's instructions (which in some cases may allow the completion of the voting instruction form by telephone or on the intermediary's Internet website). Occasionally, a beneficial shareowner may be given a form of proxy that has been signed by the intermediary and is restricted to the number of shares owned by the beneficial shareowner but is otherwise not completed. This form of proxy does not need to be signed by the beneficial shareowner. In this case, you can complete the form of proxy and vote by mail or facsimile only in the same manner as described above under **Voting by Registered Shareowners Voting by Proxy** on page 2 of this proxy circular.

In all cases, beneficial shareowners should carefully follow the instructions provided by the intermediary.

Proxies returned by intermediaries as non-votes because the intermediary has not received instructions from the beneficial shareowner with respect to the voting of certain shares, or because under applicable stock exchange or other rules, the intermediary does not have the discretion to vote those shares on one or more of the matters that come before the meeting, will be treated as not entitled to vote on any such matter and will not be counted as having been voted in respect of any such matter. Shares represented by such broker non-votes will, however, be counted in determining whether there is a quorum for the meeting. In addition to being able to submit to Cott or the intermediary, as applicable, a voting instruction form, beneficial shareowners are permitted to submit any other documents in writing that requests that the beneficial shareowner or a nominee thereof be appointed as a proxyholder.

Confidentiality of Vote

Computershare counts and tabulates proxies in a manner that preserves the confidentiality of your votes. Proxies will not be submitted to management unless:

there is a proxy contest,

the proxy contains comments clearly intended for management, or

Table of Contents

it is necessary to determine a proxy's validity or to enable management and/or the board of directors to meet their legal obligations to shareowners or to discharge their legal duties to Cott.

Quorum

The annual and special meeting requires a quorum, which for this meeting means:

at least two persons personally present, each being a shareowner entitled to vote at the meeting or a duly appointed proxy for an absent shareowner so entitled, and

persons owning or representing not less than a majority of the total number of our shares entitled to vote.

Vote Counting Rules

All matters that are scheduled to be voted upon at the meeting, other than as set out below, are ordinary resolutions. Ordinary resolutions are passed by a simple majority of votes: if more than half of the votes that are cast are cast in favor, the resolution passes. Eleven directors nominated must be elected by ordinary resolution of the shareowners. Pursuant to Cott's Majority Voting and Director Resignation Policy, if a nominee in an uncontested election does not receive the vote of at least the majority of the votes cast (including votes for and votes withheld), such director is required to promptly tender his or her resignation from the board of directors. Cott's Majority Voting and Director Resignation Policy is described more particularly below under the heading **Majority Voting and Director Resignation Policy** on page 13 of this proxy circular.

The approval of Cott's independent registered certified public accounting firm and the approval of the Amendment to Cott's Second Amended and Restated By-Laws (the **By-Law Amendment**) must be approved by ordinary resolution of the shareowners. Due to the non-binding advisory nature of the matter to be voted upon in respect of the compensation of Cott's executive officers, there is no minimum vote requirement for the proposal. However, the matter will be considered to have passed with the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast by shareowners that are present or represented and entitled to vote at the meeting.

Proxies may be marked FOR, AGAINST or WITHHOLD/ABSTAIN. For purposes of the resolution to approve the By-Law Amendment, proxies may be marked FOR or AGAINST. Abstentions/withholding and broker non-votes are counted for purposes of establishing a quorum, but they are not counted as votes cast for or against a proposal.

Solicitation of Proxies

The cost of soliciting proxies will be borne by Cott. In addition, Cott may reimburse brokerage firms and other persons representing beneficial owners of shares for their expenses in forwarding solicitation materials to such beneficial owners. Proxies may also be solicited by certain of our directors, officers and employees, without additional compensation, personally or by telephone, telegram, letter or facsimile. We have hired MacKenzie Partners, Inc., a professional soliciting organization, to assist us in conducting bank and broker searches, distributing proxy solicitation materials and responding to information requests from shareowners with respect to the materials. For these services, MacKenzie Partners, Inc. will be paid a fee of \$12,000, plus limited reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses.

Say-on-Pay and Say-on-Frequency Results

At the 2013 annual and special meeting of shareowners, we solicited from our shareowners an advisory vote on the compensation of our named executive officers. The shareowners voted to approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation of our named executive officers, as such information is disclosed in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, the compensation tables and the accompanying narrative disclosure, set forth in our

Table of Contents

2013 annual and special meeting proxy circular. The vote was 76,522,583 shares For (98.16% of the shares voted), 1,385,920 shares Against (1.78% of the shares voted), and 47,131 shares Withheld (0.06% of the shares voted).

The Human Resources and Compensation Committee of Cott's board of directors (the **Compensation Committee**) took into account the result of the shareowner vote in determining executive compensation policies and decisions since the 2013 annual and special meeting of shareowners. The Compensation Committee viewed the vote as an expression of the shareowners' general satisfaction with our current executive compensation programs. While the Compensation Committee considered the outcome of the advisory vote in determining to continue our executive compensation programs for fiscal 2014, decisions regarding incremental changes in individual compensation were made in consideration of the factors described in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis.

Consistent with our shareowners' preference expressed in voting at the 2011 annual meeting of shareowners, the board determined that an advisory vote on the compensation of our named executive officers will be conducted every year. The next advisory vote on the frequency of an advisory vote on executive compensation will take place at the 2017 annual meeting of shareowners.

Please Complete Your Proxy

Our management, with the support of the board of directors, requests that you fill out your proxy to ensure your votes are cast at the meeting. **This solicitation of your proxy (your vote) is made on behalf of management and the board of directors.**

PROCEDURE FOR CONSIDERING SHAREOWNER PROPOSALS

If you want to propose any matter for inclusion in our 2015 proxy circular, it must be received by our Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary no later than November 27, 2014 at Cott Corporation, 5519 West Idlewild Avenue, Tampa, Florida, U.S.A. 33634.

If shareowners confirm the By-Law Amendment as contemplated herein, the By-Law Amendment fixes a deadline by which shareowners must submit director nominations prior to any meeting of shareowners. In the case of annual meetings, advance notice must be delivered to Cott not less than 30 nor more than 60 days prior to the date of the annual meeting; provided, however, that if the annual meeting is called for a date that is less than 50 days after the date on which the first public announcement of the date of the annual meeting was made, advance notice may be made not later than the close of business on the 10th day following the date on which the public announcement of the date of the annual meeting is first made by Cott. In the case of a special meeting of shareowners (which is not also an annual meeting), advance notice must be delivered to Cott no later than the close of business on the 15th day following the day on which the public announcement of the date of the special meeting is first made by Cott. The By-Law Amendment also requires any shareowner making a director nomination to provide certain important information about its nominees with its advance notice. Only shareowners who comply with the requirements of the By-Law Amendment will be permitted to nominate directors to the board of directors unless the advance notice requirements of the By-Law Amendment are waived by the board of directors in its sole discretion. You are advised to review the By-Law Amendment, which contains additional requirements about advance notice of director nominations.

Table of Contents**PRINCIPAL SHAREOWNERS**

We are not aware of any person who, as of March 17, 2014, beneficially owned or exercised control or direction, directly or indirectly, over more than 5% of our common shares except as set forth below:

Name	Nature of Ownership or		Percentage of Class
	Control	Number of Shares	
FMR LLC ⁽¹⁾	Beneficial ownership	14,163,751	15.00%
245 Summer Street			
Boston, Massachusetts 02110			
Valinor Management, LLC ⁽²⁾	Beneficial ownership	7,041,546	7.46%
510 Madison Avenue, 25 th Floor			
New York, New York 10022			
Levin Capital Strategies, L.P. ⁽³⁾	Beneficial ownership	5,112,774	5.42%
595 Madison Avenue, 17 th Floor			
New York, New York 10022			

- (1) Based solely on information reported in an amended Schedule 13G filed by FMR LLC (FMR) on February 14, 2014 with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC). As reported in such filing, Fidelity Management & Research Company (Fidelity), a wholly-owned subsidiary of FMR and an investment adviser registered under Section 203 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, is the beneficial owner of 12,880,072 shares, or 13.641% of the shares outstanding as a result of acting as investment adviser to various investment companies registered under Section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 owning such shares (the Fidelity Funds). Edward C. Johnson 3d, as Chairman of FMR, and FMR, through its control of Fidelity, and the Fidelity Funds each has sole power to dispose of the 12,880,072 shares owned by the Fidelity Funds. Members of the family of Mr. Johnson (the Johnson Family), are the predominant owners, directly or through trusts, of Series B voting common shares of FMR, representing 49% of the voting power of FMR. The Johnson Family and all other Series B shareowners have entered into a shareowners voting agreement under which all Series B voting common shares will be voted in accordance with the majority vote of Series B voting common shares. Accordingly, through their ownership of voting common shares and the execution of the shareowners voting agreement, members of the Johnson Family may be deemed, under the Investment Company Act of 1940, to form a controlling group with respect to FMR. Neither Mr. Johnson nor FMR has the sole power to vote or direct the voting of the shares owned directly by the Fidelity Funds, which power resides with the Fidelity Funds Boards of Trustees. Fidelity carries out the voting of the shares under written guidelines established by the Fidelity Funds Boards of Trustees. Pyramis Global Advisors Trust Company (PGATC), an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of FMR and a bank as defined in Section 3(a)(6) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, is the beneficial owner of 1,283,679 shares or 1.359% of the shares outstanding as a result of its serving as investment manager of institutional accounts owning such shares. Mr. Johnson and FMR, through its control of PGATC, each has sole dispositive power over 1,283,679 shares and sole power to vote or to direct the voting of 1,187,179 shares owned by the institutional accounts managed by PGATC as reported above.
- (2) Based solely on information reported in an amended Schedule 13G filed by Valinor Management, LLC (Valinor) on February 14, 2014 with the SEC. As reported in such filing, Valinor and David Gallo have shared voting power and shared dispositive power with respect to 7,041,546 shares, constituting approximately 7.46% of the shares outstanding, and Valinor Capital Partners Offshore Master Fund, L.P. has shared voting power and shared dispositive power with respect to 4,657,540 shares, constituting approximately 4.93% of the shares outstanding. Mr. Gallo disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares owned in the aggregate by the other members of the group, except to the extent of his pecuniary interest therein.
- (3) Based solely on information reported in an amended Schedule 13G filed by Levin Capital Strategies, L.P. (Levin Capital) on January 31, 2014 with the SEC. As reported in such filing, Levin Capital is the beneficial owner of 5,122,744 shares, constituting approximately 5.4% of the shares outstanding, with sole voting power and sold dispositive power with respect to 264,862 shares, shared voting power with respect to 3,759,292 shares, and shared dispositive power with respect to 4,138,435 shares.

Table of Contents

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

At the meeting, we will submit Cott's annual consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 28, 2013, and the related report of Cott's independent registered certified public accounting firm to you. No vote will be taken regarding the financial statements.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The Corporate Governance Committee of the board of directors (the **Corporate Governance Committee**) reviews annually the qualifications of persons proposed for election to the board and submits its recommendations to the board for consideration. In the opinion of the Corporate Governance Committee and the board, each of the 11 nominees for election as a director is well qualified to act as a director of Cott and, together, the nominees bring the mix of independence, diversity, expertise and experience necessary for the board and its committees to function effectively. Our approach to corporate governance and the roles of the board and its committees are described under **Corporate Governance** on page 51 of this proxy circular.

During 2013, the board of directors held six meetings. Each of our incumbent directors who served in 2013 attended, in person or by telephone, 75% or more of the applicable meetings of the board of directors and committees on which they served in 2013.

Set forth below is certain information concerning our nominees for election as directors of Cott, including information regarding each person's service as a director, business experience, director positions held currently or at any time during the last five years, information regarding involvement in certain legal or administrative proceedings, if applicable, and the experiences, qualifications, attributes or skills that caused the Corporate Governance Committee and the board of directors to determine that the person should serve as a director of Cott. Because Cott is a Canadian corporation, we are required to have at least 25% of our directors be Canadian residents. The directors who are Canadian residents are identified below.

The board has considered the independence of each of the nominees for election as directors of Cott for purposes of the rules of the SEC, New York Stock Exchange (**NYSE**) and, where applicable, National Instrument 58-101 Disclosure of Corporate Governance Practices (**NI 58-101**) of the Canadian Securities Administrators. All nominees are independent except for Mr. Fowden, our Chief Executive Officer. See **Certain Relationships and Related Transactions** on page 17 of this proxy circular for further discussion of the board's determinations as to independence.

Nominee

Mark Benadiba, 61, of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, served as executive Vice-President, North American Operations, of Cott Corporation from 1996 until 2006. Mr. Benadiba held several roles during his tenure at Cott from 1990 through 2006, including Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer of Cott Canada from 1990 to 1998. Previously, Mr. Benadiba was a Senior Executive of Pepsi/Seven-Up, Toronto/Canada (a division of Seven-Up Canada Inc.). He has served on Cott's board since June 2008. The board nominated Mr. Benadiba to be a director because of his management experience in, and extensive knowledge of, the beverage industry. The board believes Mr. Benadiba's experience in the beverage industry, including the various positions he held within Cott, enable him to make valuable contributions to the board. Mr. Benadiba is a Canadian resident.

Committee Membership

Corporate Governance Committee