

**Attention Business Editors:**

## **Weston's New Preferred Issue "OK for Institutions" says Hymas Investment Management**

TORONTO, April 6 /CNW/ - James Hymas, President of Hymas Investment Management Inc. ("HIMI"), stated today that after examination of the prospectus supplement detailing the issue of George Weston Limited 4.75% Preferred Shares Series V (the "Issue") and comparison with existing issues, he considers them as a competitive investment for institutions at the offering level of \$25. Taxable retail investors in Ontario's highest tax-bracket, however, may reasonably expect to do better with other preferreds, he said.

"Using HIMIPref(TM), my firm's software developed specifically for preferred share analysis, I estimate that the present value of the cash flows on offer in this Issue are worth about \$23.50 when discounted similarly to other issues of comparable quality trading on the TSX. There is, as with any new issue in recent times, a liquidity premium - in this case, worth about \$1.42 at the levels investors are now paying for the privilege of buying large quantities. Institutions with no choice but to invest cash even when having to pay up for liquidity should consider this issue. Retail investors, who do not measure their trades in millions of dollars, have other, more attractive alternatives".

HIMIPref(TM) is quantitative fixed income analytical tool developed for the express purpose of analyzing Canada's preferred share market. Market prices for all issues tracked are used to construct a self-consistent yield curve, which is then used to compare issues with varying terms and features. Other adjustments produce an overall determination of the relative valuation of each issue which has proved in practice to be a useful indicator of future returns in this market. HIMIPref(TM) has recently been made available for subscription by asset managers, dealers and other institutions at [www.prefshares.com](http://www.prefshares.com), where a full description of the analytical process is available.

"The analytical judgment should not be taken as a reflection on George Weston Limited, its future prospects or its credit-worthiness other than the independent ratings reported in the prospectus supplement", Mr. Hymas stressed. "This issue, as with all other preferred shares, constitutes a loan to the issuer for which the investor is receiving a 'package' of future flows. Value is determined by comparing the various 'packages' available for purchase and their prices."

"The eight cents difference between institutional value and price represents less than two basis points of yield, given this Issue's redemption terms and credit rating - an amount that stretches the limits of analytical precision. On the other hand, retail investors with no need to pay the \$1.42 liquidity premium the analysis indicates should be offered a dividend rate of 5.07% to purchase such shares."

HIMI offers portfolio management services to accredited investors in Ontario through its flagship "Malachite Aggressive Preferred Fund".

The statements and analyses in this press release are based on material believed by HIMI to be reliable, but cannot be guaranteed to be accurate or complete. The views expressed herein should not be construed as constituting investment, legal or tax advice to any investor, nor as an offer or solicitation of an offer to buy or sell any of the securities mentioned herein. Such views are provided for information purposes only, and neither

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