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China Maple Leaf Educational Systems Limited

中國楓葉教育集團有限公司*

(Incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability)

(Stock code: 1317)

APPOINTMENT OF NON-EXECUTIVE VICE CHAIRMAN

The board (the “**Board**”) of directors (“**Directors**”) of China Maple Leaf Educational Systems Limited (the “**Company**”) is pleased to announce that Mr. Howard Robert Balloch (“**Mr. Balloch**”), a non-executive Director and a member of the remuneration committee of the Company, was appointed as vice chairman of the Board with effect from 3 January 2017. Mr. Balloch continues to supervise the overall management and strategic planning of the Company.

Mr. Balloch, aged 65, has been a Director since March 2008. He was re-designated as a non-executive Director and was appointed as member of the remuneration committee of the Company effective on 28 November 2014. Mr. Balloch is a retired Canadian diplomat. Prior to joining the Company, he served as Canadian ambassador to the PRC and Mongolia from April 1996 to July 2001, and to the democratic People’s Republic of Korea from March 2000 to July 2001. Subsequently, he served as the president and chief executive officer of the Canada China Business Council, a private, non-profit business association that facilitates and promotes trade and investment between Canada and China, from 2001 to 2006, and subsequently as its vice chairman. Mr. Balloch founded and served as president and Chairman of The Balloch Group from 2001 to 2011, a boutique investment bank that advised domestic and multinational corporations in China. The Balloch Group was acquired in 2011 by Canaccord Genuity Group Inc., a Canadian company listed on both the Toronto Stock exchange (“**TSX**”) (stock code: CF) and the London Stock exchange (stock code: CF). Mr. Balloch served as Chairman of Canaccord Genuity Asia, the Asian subsidiary of Canaccord Genuity Group Inc. from 2011 to 2013. From January 2002 to January 2015, he served as a director of Ivanhoe Energy Inc., a company involved in heavy oil exploration and production technology and listed on the TSX (stock code: IE) and NASDAQ (stock code: IVAN) until it was delisted in March 2015. Mr. Balloch has also served as the director of several companies outside the Group. He has been a director of Methanex Corp. Since December 2004, a company listed on both the TSX (stock code: MX) and NASDAQ (stock code: MEOH), which is engaged in the supply, distribution and marketing of methanol to major international markets. He has also served as a director of Sinopec Canada, a non-public subsidiary of Sinopec International Petroleum Exploration and Production Corporation, since April 2014.

Mr. Balloch received a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Master of Arts degree from McGill University, Canada in June 1973 and June 1974, respectively.

As at the date of this announcement, Mr. Balloch was interested in 5,352,493 shares of the Company (“**Shares**”) of which 4,251,822 Shares were held by Balloch Investment Holdings Limited (“**Balloch Investment**”), a company which is owned as to 50% by each of Mr. Balloch and his spouse. Accordingly, Mr. Balloch is deemed to be interested in all the Shares held by Balloch Investment.

Mr. Balloch will sign a new appointment letter with the Company for a period from 3 January 2017 to 31 August 2019 to replace the previous appointment letter with the Company. Mr. Balloch is subject to retirement by rotation and re-election at the annual general meetings of the Company in accordance with the Company’s articles of association. Mr. Balloch is entitled to a basic fee of HK\$500,000 per annum, which has been determined with reference to his experience, duties and responsibilities with the Company and the prevailing market conditions.

Save as disclosed above, Mr. Balloch (i) does not hold any other position with any members of the Company (ii) is not related to any Director, senior management, substantial shareholder or controlling shareholder of the Company or other members of the Company, (iii) is not interested in other Shares within the meaning of Part XV of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Chapter 571 of the Laws of Hong Kong) and, (iv) did not hold any directorships in other listed public companies in the last three years.

Save as disclosed above, there is no information which is discloseable nor is Mr. Balloch involved in any of the matters required to be disclosed pursuant to any of the requirements under Rules 13.51(2)(h) to 13.51(2)(v) of the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities of The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited and there are no other matters concerning Mr. Balloch that need to be brought to the attention of the shareholders of the Company.

The Board would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mr. Balloch on his new appointment.

By order of the Board
China Maple Leaf Educational Systems Limited
Shu Liang Sherman Jen
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

Hong Kong, 3 January 2017

As at the date of this announcement, the Board comprises Mr. Shu Liang Sherman Jen, Ms. Jingxia Zhang and Mr. James William Beeke as executive Directors; Mr. Howard Robert Balloch as non-executive Director; and Mr. Peter Humphrey Owen, Mr. Chak Kei Jack Wong and Mr. Lap Tat Arthur Wong as independent non-executive Directors.

* *For identification purposes only*