

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# ECN Capital Reports \$0.07 in After Tax Adjusted EPS in Q4-2016

# Originations Increase 31 percent over Q3-2016

**Toronto, Canada – March 7, 2017** – ECN Capital Corp. (TSX: ECN) ("ECN Capital" or the "Company") today reported financial results for the three-month period and fiscal year ending December 31, 2016. Readers should note that in this release, amounts reported for the comparable quarters ended September 30, 2016 and December 31, 2015 are presented on a carved-out basis.

For the three-month period ending December 31, 2016, ECN Capital reported **After-tax Adjusted Operating Income** of \$25.2 million or \$0.07 per share (basic) in line with the consensus of analyst estimates versus \$27.4 million or \$0.07 per share (basic) for the previous three-month period ending September 30, 2016 and \$33.5 million or \$0.09 per share (basic) for the same period last year. For the 12-month period, the Company reported After-tax Adjusted Operating Income of \$106.8 million or \$0.28 per share (basic) versus \$127.5 million or \$0.42 per share (basic) for the same period last year.

**Book Value per Common Share** as at December 31, 2016 was \$4.47 versus \$4.42 as at the end of the previous three-month period. Pro forma the February 21, 2017 announced sale of the Company's US Commercial & Vendor Finance business to PNC Financial Services Group, Book Value per Common Share as at December 31, 2016 was \$4.83.

**Originations** for the three-month period ending December 31, 2016 were \$533.8 million, an increase of 31 percent from the \$407.0 million of originations reported in the previous three-month period ending September 30, 2016.

**Total Earning Assets under Management** as at December 31, 2016 were \$7.9 billion versus \$7.5 billion as at September 30, 2016 and \$7.8 billion as at December 31, 2015. Pro forma the February 21, 2017 announced sale of the Company's US Commercial & Vendor Finance business to PNC Financial Services Group, Total Earning Assets under Management as at December 31, 2016 would be reduced to \$6.2 billion.

**Net Financial Income**, net of interest expense and provision for credit losses, for the three-month period ending December 31, 2016 increased to \$54.8 million versus \$48.5 million for the previous three-month period ending September 30, 2016 and \$61.0 million for the same period last year. Net Financial Income for the 12-month period ending December 31, 2016 was \$207.1 million versus \$217.7 million for the same period last year.

**Adjusted Operating Expenses** for the three-month period ending December 31, 2016 were \$21.4 million versus \$17.5 million reported for the previous three-month period ending September 30, 2016 and \$17.4 million for the same period last year. The increase over the previous three-month period is attributable to higher expense in salaries and wages related to the timing of variable compensation expenses.

**Net Income (Loss)** for the three-month period ending December 31, 2016 was (\$18.7) million versus \$1.2 million for the previous three-month period ending September 30, 2016 and \$31.6 million for the same period last year. For the 12-month period ending December 31, 2016 the Company reported Net Income of \$33.0 million versus \$109.8 million for the same period last year.

During the quarter, and while the Company believes that it will be successful in litigation, it took a post-tax

precautionary asset valuation reserve of US \$18 million against its litigation with the manufacturer of certain helicopters that present with manufacturer's defect. As well, the Company recorded a one-time charge of \$13.2 million relating to the separation and restructuring of ECN.

"I am very pleased with the Company's operating results over the past year which involved a twelve-month process during which we completed a value enhancing separation and a segment-by-segment business review," said Steven Hudson, ECN Capital's Chief Executive Officer. "These efforts, together with our stewardship of capital, our balance sheet readiness and our expanded management team, put us on course to deliver the next stage of ECN Capital's growth strategy," added Mr. Hudson.

"I am also very pleased to welcome Grier Colter as ECN Capital's incoming Chief Financial Officer," said Mr. Hudson. "Grier brings very strong credentials to this role with extensive public company financial reporting and treasury experience. Grier replaces Michel Beland who will take on responsibility for driving ECN Capital's strategy," added Mr. Hudson.

### **Dividends Declared**

The Company's Board of Directors has authorized and declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.01 per outstanding common share of ECN Capital for the first quarter of 2017. The dividend will be paid on April 14, 2017 to shareholders of record at the close of business on March 31, 2017. These dividends are designated to be eligible dividends for purposes of section 89(1) of the Income Tax Act (Canada).

The Company's Board of Directors also authorized and declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.52979 per outstanding Cumulative 5-Year Rate Reset Preferred Share, Series A (TSX: ECN.PR.A) payable on March 31, 2017 to shareholders of record on the close of business on March 20, 2017. The dividend payment is for the quarterly period up to but excluding March 31, 2017. These dividends are designated to be eligible dividends for purposes of section 89(1) of the Income Tax Act (Canada).

#### Webcast

The Company will host an analyst briefing to discuss these results commencing at 5:00 pm. (Eastern Time) on Tuesday March 7, 2017. **A live webcast of this briefing will be available** through the following URL: <a href="http://services.choruscall.ca/links/ecncapitalcorp201703.html">http://services.choruscall.ca/links/ecncapitalcorp201703.html</a>. Presentation slides to be referenced during the briefing will be accessible in the webcast and on the Company's website: <a href="http://www.ecncapitalcorp.com/investors/presentations">http://www.ecncapitalcorp.com/investors/presentations</a>.

The audio portion of the briefing can be accessed by dialing 1-800-319-8560 toll-free in North America or the appropriate international number from <u>http://services.choruscall.ca/public/accessnumbers.html</u> and entering the passcode 18895.

The webcast will be available until June 7, 2017. A recording of the conference call may also be accessed until April 7, 2017 by dialing 1-855-669-9658 in North America or +1-604-674-8052 and entering the passcode 1193.

#### Non-IFRS Measures

The Company's audited consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS") as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board ("IASB") and the accounting policies we adopted in accordance with IFRS.

The Company believes that certain Non-IFRS Measures can be useful to investors because they provide a means by which investors can evaluate the Company's underlying key drivers and operating performance of the business, exclusive of certain adjustments and activities that investors may consider to be unrelated to the underlying economic performance of the business of a given period. Throughout this Press Release,

management used a number of terms and ratios which do not have a standardized meaning under IFRS and are unlikely to be comparable to similar measures presented by other organizations. A full description of these measures can be found in the Management Discussion & Analysis that accompanies the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2016.

ECN Capital's management discussion and analysis as at and for the three-month and twelve-month periods ended December 31, 2016 has been filed on SEDAR (<u>www.sedar.com</u>) and is available under the investor section of the Company's website (<u>www.ecnapitalcorp.com</u>).

## About ECN Capital Corp.

With total owned and managed assets of more than \$7.5 billion, ECN Capital Corp. (TSX: ECN) is one of North America's leading equipment finance companies. ECN Capital operates across North America in three verticals of the equipment finance market (Rail Finance, Commercial & Vendor Finance, and Commercial Aviation Finance).

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#### Forward-looking Statements

This release includes forward-looking statements regarding ECN Capital and its business. Such statements are based on the current expectations and views of future events of ECN Capital's management. In some cases the forward-looking statements can be identified by words or phrases such as "may", "will", "expect", "plan", "anticipate", "intend", "potential", "estimate", "believe" or the negative of these terms, or other similar expressions intended to identify forwardlooking statements, including the future financial and operating performance of ECN Capital, the strategic advantages, business plans and future opportunities of ECN Capital and the ability of ECN Capital to access adequate funding sources, identify and execute on acquisition opportunities and transition to an asset management business. The forwardlooking events and circumstances discussed in this release may not occur and could differ materially as a result of known and unknown risk factors and uncertainties affecting ECN Capital, including risks regarding the equipment finance industry, economic factors, and many other factors beyond the control of ECN Capital. No forward-looking statement can be guaranteed. Forward-looking statements and information by their nature are based on assumptions and involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors which may cause our actual results, performance or achievements, or industry results, to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statement or information. Accordingly, readers should not place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements or information. A discussion of the material risks and assumptions associated with this outlook can be found in ECN Capital's 2016 MD&A and Alternate AIF Disclosure Document dated September 3, 2016 which has been filed on SEDAR and can be accessed at www.sedar.com. Accordingly, readers should not place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements or information. Except as required by applicable securities laws, forward-looking statements speak only as of the date on which they are made and ECN Capital does not undertake any obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise.