

IDEAS. GROWTH. OPPORTUNITY.

### MAINSTREET EQUITY CORP. (TSX: MEQ)

**Last Close:** \$69.00

SPECIAL SITUATIONS RESEARCH

**12-Month Target:** \$82.00↑ **Recommendation:** BUY **Implied Total Return:** 18.8%

**COMPANY DESCRIPTION:** Mainstreet Equity Corp. ("Mainstreet", the "Company", or "MEQ") owns a diversified portfolio of multifamily residential properties in six main markets in Western Canada. The company has grown to more than 13,300 revenue producing units focused on the older, mid-market rental category. Mainstreet identifies and acquires under-performing units at attractive prices and increases the asset value through renovations in order to improve operational efficiencies and operating income.

Jim Byrne, P.Eng., CFA | Equity Analyst | 403.571.0530 | <u>ibyrne@acumencapital.com</u>
Daniel Toft | Research Associate | 403.571.0319 | dtoft@acumencapital.com

June 23, 2020

Event. Q2/F20 Results.

Impact. Slightly Negative.

#### Highlights.

- Mainstreet reported Q2/F20 results that were below our estimates and analysts' consensus mainly due to higher operating costs and higher than expected G&A expenses.
- Revenue in Q2 of \$37.2M was in line with our estimate of \$37.4M and consensus of \$37.6M. Revenue is up 10.4% year over year (3% on a same-asset basis) despite MEQ still having nearly 11% of its portfolio unstabilized.
- Net operating income of \$21.7M was below our estimate of \$23.2M mainly due to higher salaries and wages. NOI was up ~8% from Q2/F19 levels, and ~1% on a same-asset basis.
- FFO of \$9.1M or \$0.97 per share, was below our estimate of \$1.19 per share and consensus of \$1.15 per share.
- The company acquired 279 units for a total of \$40.6M in new assets in Q2 and after the end of Q2, MEQ has purchased 61 units at a cost of \$5.4M (~\$88K/door).
- MEQ raised ~\$76M in funds in the quarter by financing five matured mortgages and 18 clear-title properties.
   The latest re-financing was done at just 1.66%.
- While the Q2 financial results are slightly below our estimates we believe MEQ is well positioned to generate value given its counter-cyclical and proven growth strategy. The company remains well funded with ~\$170M in liquidity, and we anticipate the company will add to their portfolio given the current environment.
- We reiterate our BUY rating and have increased our target slightly to \$82.00 from \$80.00 owing to the roll forward of our next 12-month NOI assumption. With nearly 11% of MEQ's portfolio unstabilized and record low interest rates, we believe MEQ is attractively valued at current levels.

S/O (b.): S/O (f.d.): Market Cap: Current EV: NAVPS: BVPS:	9.38M 9.38M \$647.3M \$1,731.0M \$82.00 \$85.90	Implied	Last Close: Total Return: Year End:	\$69.00 18.8% Sept. 30
	2018	2019E	2020E	2021E
Revenue	\$115.7M	\$137.6M	\$150.5M	\$162.5M
Y/Y Growth	10.5%	19.0%	9.4%	8.0%
Net Operating Income	\$72.2M	\$86.3M	\$92.9M	\$101.6M
Y/Y Growth	12.2%	19.5%	7.7%	9.3%
FFOPS (f.d.)	\$3.18	\$4.18	\$4.63	\$5.59
AFFOPS (f.d.)	\$1.99	\$2.84	\$3.21	\$4.16
Net Earnings	\$11.3M	\$31.8M	\$38.0M	\$37.6M
EPS (f.d.)	\$1.21	\$3.40	\$4.06	\$4.02
	2018	2019E	2020E	2021E
P/E	20.3x	20.3x	17.0x	17.2x
P/FFO	21.7x	16.5x	14.9x	12.3x
P/AFFO	34.7x	24.3x	21.5x	16.6x
EV/EBITDA	27.4x	23.3x	22.0x	20.0x

**Key Personnel** 

Navjeet (Bob) Dhillon President & Chief Executive Officer

Johnny LamChief Operating OfficerTrina CuiChief Financial Officer

Source: Acumen Capital Partners, Sedar

Figures subject to rounding



DEAS. GROWTH. OPPORTUNITY.

### **DISCUSSION**

**Q2/F20 Results.** Results versus our estimates for the quarter are outlined in Figure 1. While revenue was in line with our expectations, NOI was negatively impacted by higher utility, insurance, and wages & benefits. The company's G&A expenses more than offset slightly lower finance expenses, which resulted in lower FFO and FFO per share. We believe some of these costs will continue into Q3 due to the COVID-19 pandemic but should moderate later in the calendar year. As we noted in our initiating coverage report, we anticipate higher property taxes and wages to be partially offset by lower utility and interest expense over the course of fiscal 2020 and 2021.

**FIGURE 1: RESULTS VS. ESTIMATES** 

	Q2/20 Act.	Q2/20 Est.	Variance	Q2/19 Act.	Variance
Revenue	\$37.2M	\$37.4M	(0.6%)	\$33.7M	10.4%
Net Operating Income	\$21.7M	\$23.2M	(6.5%)	\$20.2M	7.7%
FFO	\$9.1M	\$11.2M	(18.6%)	\$8.3M	9.9%
FFO per share	\$0.97	\$1.19	(18.6%)	\$0.88	9.9%
AFFO per share	\$0.61	\$0.84	(26.7%)	\$0.55	11.1%
Net Income	\$7.0M	\$8.6M	(18.1%)	\$5.0M	40.6%
EPS (f.d.)	\$0.75	\$0.91	(18.1%)	\$0.53	40.6%

Source: Company Report, Acumen Capital Partners

**Estimate Changes.** Figure 2 summarizes the changes to our estimates following the Q2/F20 results. Our NOI for 2020 remains largely unchanged while our FFO assumption comes down to account for the lower Q2 results. Our 2021 estimates remain generally the same. We believe the pandemic will open further opportunities for acquisitions, particularly in Alberta, as smaller property owners face liquidity issues along with an anticipated drop in property value. MEQ is well funded to take advantage of these opportunities while lowering its cost of borrowing in today's historically low interest rate environment. With ~\$100M in mortgages maturing before the end of 2021 at an average interest rate of ~4%, the company could achieve savings of ~\$2.0-\$2.5M in annual interest expense.

FIGURE 2: OLD VS. NEW ESTIMATES

	2020 New	2020 Old	Change	2021 New	2021 Old	Change
Revenue	\$150.5M	\$149.3M	0.8%	\$162.5M	\$160.9M	1.0%
Net Operating Income	\$92.9M	\$93.9M	(1.0%)	\$101.6M	\$101.0M	0.6%
FFO	\$43.4M	\$45.6M	(5.0%)	\$52.3M	\$52.3M	(0.0%)
FFO per share	\$4.63	\$4.87	(5.0%)	\$5.59	\$5.59	(0.0%)
AFFO per share	\$3.21	\$3.46	(7.2%)	\$4.16	\$4.17	(0.3%)
Net Income	\$38.0M	\$39.7M	(4.4%)	\$37.6M	\$37.8M	(0.5%)
EPS (f.d.)	\$4.06	\$4.25	(4.4%)	\$4.02	\$4.04	(0.5%)

Source: Company Report, Acumen Capital Partners

#### **VALUATION**

**Relative Valuation.** Figures 3 provides a summary of the financial metrics for MEQ and its peer group. MEQ's shares currently trade at 14.9x on a P/FFO in 2020 compared to the peer group average of 19.2x. Similarly, on an Adjusted FFO basis, MEQ trades at 21.5x 2020E AFFO, below its peer group. We believe the valuation discount for MEQ is too wide and has been driven by perceived weakness in Western Canadian economies, rather than fundamentals. With continued execution and solid financial performance, we expect that discount to narrow.

IDEAS. GROWTH. OPPORTUNITY.

**FIGURE 3: PEER GROUP** 

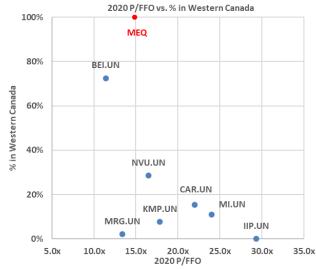
Company	Ticker	Shares	Share Price	Market Cap	FFO pe	r Share	P/F	FO	AFFO pe	er Share	P/A	FFO
Company	TICKET	Outstanding	6/22/2020	IVIAI KET CAP	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021
Boardwalk Real Estate	BEI.UN	46.1M	\$28.53	\$1,315M	\$2.50	\$2.52	11.4x	11.3x	\$1.90	\$1.89	15.0x	15.1x
Canadian Apartment Properties REIT	CAR.UN	169.5M	\$49.82	\$8,444M	\$2.26	\$2.39	22.0x	20.9x	\$1.90	\$2.01	26.3x	24.8x
InterRent Real Estate Investment Trust	IIP.UN	137.5M	\$14.54	\$2,000M	\$0.50	\$0.56	29.3x	25.9x	\$0.43	\$0.49	33.6x	29.6x
Killam Apartment Real Estate	KMP.UN	97.6M	\$17.50	\$1,709M	\$0.98	\$1.04	17.9x	16.9x	\$0.81	\$0.86	21.7x	20.4x
Northview Apartment REIT	NVU.UN	67.1M	\$34.45	\$2,311M	\$2.09	\$2.15	16.5x	16.0x	\$1.65	\$1.72	20.9x	20.1x
Minto Apartment REIT	MI.UN	35.4M	\$20.74	\$734M	\$0.86	\$0.93	24.0x	22.2x	\$0.75	\$0.82	27.8x	25.4x
Morguard NA Residential REIT	MRG.UN	39.0M	\$14.87	\$579M	\$1.11	\$1.21	13.4x	12.3x	\$0.93	\$0.97	16.1x	15.3x
Average							19.2x	17.9x			23.1x	21.5x
MEQ - Acumen Estimates	MEQ	9.4M	\$69.00	\$647.3M	\$4.63	\$5.59	14.9x	12.3x	\$3.21	\$4.16	21.5x	16.6x

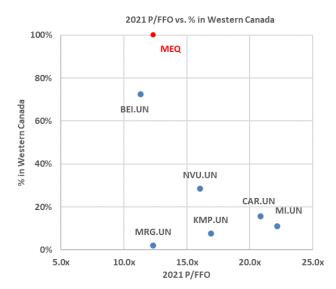
Company	Ticker	Shares	Share Price	Market Cap	EV/E	BITDA	P,	/E	Price/Bo	ok Value	Debt to GBV
Company	lickei	Outstanding	6/22/2020	Iviai ket Cap	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	Debt to GDV
Boardwalk Real Estate	BEI.UN	46.1M	\$29.92	\$1,379M	19.3x	18.8x	nmf	12.7x	0.5x	0.4x	45.5%
Canadian Apartment Properties REIT	CAR.UN	169.5M	\$47.19	\$7,998M	24.1x	23.1x	n/a	n/a	1.0x	1.0x	36.1%
InterRent Real Estate Investment Trust	IIP.UN	121.0M	\$14.62	\$1,768M	31.1x	26.9x	n/a	n/a	0.9x	0.8x	33.4%
Killam Apartment Real Estate	KMP.UN	97.6M	\$16.93	\$1,653M	21.5x	20.3x	27.3x	12.9x	1.1x	1.1x	44.4%
Northview Apartment REIT	NVU.UN	67.1M	\$33.22	\$2,228M	21.2x	20.6x	n/a	n/a	1.1x	n/a	52.0%
Minto Apartment REIT	MI.UN	35.4M	\$20.00	\$708M	17.7x	16.5x	23.8x	n/a	0.9x	0.9x	42.6%
Morguard NA Residential REIT	MRG.UN	39.0M	\$14.51	\$565M	18.5x	16.7x	nmf	15.5x	0.4x	n/a	44.0%
Average					21.9x	20.4x	25.6x	13.7x	0.8x	0.8x	42.6%
MEQ - Acumen Estimates	MEQ	9.4M	\$69.00	\$647.3M	22.0x	20.0x	17.0x	17.2x	0.8x	0.7x	54.0%

Source: Company Report, Acumen Capital Partners

Given its Western Canada exposure, MEQ is viewed as vulnerable to the energy downturn in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Boardwalk (BEI.UN, Not Rated) has higher than average Western Canada exposure at ~76% of its portfolio and trades at similar levels to MEQ (with 100% exposure) on most metrics. We believe this valuation gap reflects market perception rather than fundamentals.

FIGURE 4: P/FFO vs. WESTERNN CANADA EXPOSURE



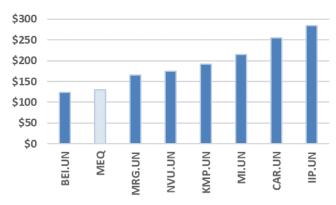


Source: Bloomberg, Acumen Capital Partners

DEAS, GROWTH, OPPORTUNITY,

If we examine the implied value per door for the various companies, we can see that BEI and MEQ once again trade well below their residential peers. Northview Apartment REIT (NVU.UN, Not Rated) has agreed to be acquired at ~\$36.25/unit and with the uncertainty associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the units are currently trading below the acquisition price at \$34.45/unit. At today's value, NVU.UN still trades at ~\$174K per door, a significant premium to MEQ despite having significantly lower margins (~400 bps below MEQ).

### FIGURE 5: IMPLIED VALUE PER DOOR



Source: Bloomberg, Acumen Capital Partners

**Target Price.** Figure 6 shows our NAV calculation which uses a 5.25% cap rate assumption and our estimate for NOI over the next 12 months. Currently the shares are trading at an implied cap rate of ~5.62%, which we believe is an attractive entry point. With ~21% of its portfolio in B.C. along with significant residual land value, and still 11% of the portfolio to be stabilized, we believe the valuation is compelling. MEQ has shown in the past it can withstand the ups and downs of the Western Canadian economy. We believe investor sentiment is far too bearish toward those with exposure to the region and outweighs the fundamental drivers of increasing demand for housing and limited supply growth. We believe the shares offer significant long-term upside, and we reiterate our BUY rating and are increasing our target slightly to \$82.00 from \$80.00.

**FIGURE 6: VALUATION** 

Net Asset Value	
NOI - NTM	\$98,950
Cap Rate	5.25%
Gross Property Value	\$1,884,765
Other Assets	\$13,522
Total Assets	\$1,898,287
Net Debt	\$1,128,288
NAV	\$769,999
NAV per share	\$82.00

Source: Acumen Capital Partners, Figures subject to rounding

DEAS, GROWTH, OPPORTUNITY

Figure 7 shows our NAV estimate assuming various changes in next 12-month NOI and several cap rate assumptions.

### FIGURE 7: VALUATION SENSITIVITY

			Change in NOI							
NAVPS:	\$82.00	-6.0%	-4.0%	-2.0%	0.0%	2.0%	4.0%	6.0%		
	4.50%	\$101.00	\$106.00	\$111.00	\$116.00	\$120.00	\$125.00	\$130.00		
	4.75%	\$90.00	\$94.00	\$99.00	\$103.00	\$108.00	\$112.00	\$117.00		
Rate	5.00%	\$79.00	\$84.00	\$88.00	\$92.00	\$96.00	\$101.00	\$105.00		
g %	5.25%	\$70.00	\$74.00	\$78.00	\$82.00	\$86.00	\$90.00	\$94.00		
Сар	5.50%	\$61.00	\$65.00	\$69.00	\$73.00	\$77.00	\$81.00	\$84.00		
	5.75%	\$54.00	\$57.00	\$61.00	\$65.00	\$68.00	\$72.00	\$76.00		
	6.00%	\$46.00	\$50.00	\$53.00	\$57.00	\$60.00	\$64.00	\$68.00		

Source: Acumen Capital Partners, Figures subject to rounding

DEAS, GROWTH, OPPORTUNITY.

### **ISSUER: MAINSTREET EQUITY CORP. (TSX: MEQ)**

#### **Disclosure Requirements**

Is this an issuer related or industry related publication?	Issuer	$\boxtimes$	Industry	
Does the Analyst/Associate have a financial interest in securities of the subject issuer?	Yes	$\boxtimes$	No	
If yes, nature of interest: Analyst Owns Shares				
Is Acumen Capital Partners a market maker in the issuer's securities at the date of this report?	Yes		No	
Does Acumen Capital Partners beneficially own more than 1% of any class of common equity of the issuer?	Yes		No	$\boxtimes$
Does Acumen Capital Partners or the Analyst/Associate have any actual material conflicts of interest with the issuer? Explanation:	Yes		No	
Does the Analyst/Associate or Household member serve as a Director, Officer, or Advisory Board Member of the issuer?	Yes		No	
Has the Analyst/Associate received any direct compensation from the subject Company in the past 12 months?*	Yes		No	$\boxtimes$
Has Acumen Capital Partners managed or co-managed an offering of securities by the issuer in the past 12 months?	Yes		No	$\boxtimes$
Has Acumen Capital Partners received compensation for investment banking and related services from the issuer in the past 12 months?	Yes		No	$\boxtimes$

#### Other disclosures:

\*Acumen has a pool for compensation purposes, which includes research analysts, investment banking personnel, sales people and institutional traders. Revenue in the pool includes trading commissions, advisory fees, new issue commissions and broker warrant proceeds.

For U.S. persons only: This research report is a product of Acumen Capital Finance Partners Limited ("Acumen"), which is the employer of the research analyst(s) who has prepared the research report. The research analyst(s) preparing the research report is/are resident outside the United States (U.S.) and are not associated persons of any U.S. regulated broker-dealer and therefore the analyst(s) is/are not subject to supervision by a U.S. broker-dealer, and is/are not required to satisfy the regulatory licensing requirements of FINRA or required to otherwise comply with U.S. rules or regulations regarding, among other things, communications with a subject company, public appearances and trading securities held by a research analyst account.

This report is intended for distribution by Acumen only to "Major Institutional Investors" as defined by Rule 15a-6(b)(4) of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Act, 1934 (the Exchange Act) and interpretations thereof by U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in reliance on Rule 15a 6(a)(2). If the recipient of this report is not a Major Institutional Investor as specified above, then it should not act upon this report and return the same to the sender. Further, this report may not be copied, duplicated and/or transmitted onward to any U.S. person, which is not the Major Institutional Investor.

In reliance on the exemption from registration provided by Rule 15a-6 of the Exchange Act and interpretations thereof by the SEC in order to conduct certain business with Major Institutional Investors, Acumen has entered into an agreement with a U.S. registered broker-dealer. Transactions in securities discussed in this research report should be effected through a U.S. registered broker dealer.

Acumen Recommendation Structure: Buy, Speculative Buy, Hold, Reduce, Under Review, Tender Full Recommendation Structure explanation can be found at the Acumen Capital Partners website: www.acumencapital.com

The information transmitted is privileged, confidential, may be subject to copyright and is intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to which the transmission is addressed. This transmission is provided for informational purposes only, and does not constitute an offer or solicitation to buy or sell any securities discussed herein in any jurisdiction where such would be prohibited, nor in any jurisdiction where Acumen is not registered to do so. The views expressed are those of the sender and not necessarily those of Acumen Capital Finance Partners Limited or its subsidiaries. Any unauthorized use, distribution, review or disclosure is prohibited. If you received this in error, please notify the sender and delete or destroy this message and any copies. Acumen does or seeks to do business with companies covered in our research comments and reports. As a result, investors should be aware that the firm may be in a conflict of interest. Investors should consider this report as only a single factor in making their investment decision.

IDEAS. GROWTH. OPPORTUNITY.

	ACUMEN CAPITAL   S7	AFF LIST	
RESEARCH			
Trevor Reynolds	VP Research & Equity Analyst	(403) 410-6842	treynolds@acumencapital.com
Nick Corcoran	Equity Analyst	(403) 410-6840	ncorcoran@acumencapital.com
Jim Byrne	Equity Analyst	(403) 571-0530	jbyrne@acumencapital.com
Daniel Toft	Research Associate	(403) 571-0319	dtoft@acumencapital.com
NSTITUTIONAL SALES			
Brian Parker	President & CEO, Institutional Sales	(403) 571-2514	bparker@acumencapital.com
Robert Cooper, CFA	Vice President, Institutional Sales	(403) 571-0324	rcooper@acumencapital.com
Jason Sawatzky	Institutional Sales	(403) 571-0685	jsawatzky@acumencapital.com
Samuel Baba	Associate	(403) 571-0148	sbaba@acumencapital.com
Emma Selleck	Associate	(403) 571-0303	eselleck@acumencapital.com
RADING			
David Waite	Vice President, Head of Institutional Trading	(403) 410-6730	dwaite@acumencapital.com
David Lovsin	Institutional Trading	(403) 571-0318	dlovsin@acumencapital.com
Crystal Bellefountaine	Associate	(403) 571-0314	cbellefountaine@acumencapital.co
NVESTMENT BANKING			
Kelly Hughes	Head of Investment Banking	(403) 571-5036	khughes@acumencapital.com
Nancy Dai	Investment Banking Associate	(403) 571-0307	ndai@acumencapital.com
RETAIL SALES			
Robert Laidlaw	Vice President	(403) 571-2522	rlaidlaw@acumencapital.com
lmran Mulji	Investment Advisor	(403) 571-0112	imulji@acumencapital.com
Loredana Alaia	Associate Investment Advisor	(403) 441-0536	lalaia@acumencapital.com
Sheldon LeLievre	Vice President, Sr. Investment Advisor	(403) 571-0315	sheldon@acumencapital.com
Craig Madill	Sr. Investment Advisor	(403) 410-6018	cmadill@acumencapital.com
Erin Williams	Investment Advisor Assistant	(403) 571-2416	ewilliams@acumencapital.com
Donny Woo	Vice President, Portfolio Manager	(403) 571-2510	donny@acumencapital.com
Darren Fong	Investment Advisor	(403) 441-2754	dfong@acumencapital.com
Leanne Bectold	Investment Advisor Assistant	(403) 441-5672	lbectold@acumencapital.com
Jason Stefanuk	Investment Advisor	(403) 571-2195	jstefanuk@acumencapital.com
Diana Ilic	Investment Advisor Assistant	(403) 571-0301	dilic@acumencapital.com
Darcia Siryjenko	Investment Advisor	(403) 571-0306	dsiryjenko@acumencapital.com
Alan Tolg	Investment Advisor	(403) 410-2042	atolg@acumencapital.com
Ron Cairns	Investment Advisor	(403) 410-2040	rcairns@acumencapital.com
Scott Barnett	Investment Advisor	(403) 571-0532	sbarnett@acumencapital.com
Curtis Schirrmacher	Investment Advisor	(403) 571-0113	curtiss@acumencapital.com
Grant Gowland	Investment Advisor	(403) 441-0537	ggowland@acumencapital.com
Bob Zarchekoff	Vice President, Sr. Investment Advisor	(403) 571-2500	bzarchekoff@acumencapital.com
Rod Zarchekoff	Investment Advisor	(403) 571-2501	rzarchekoff@acumencapital.com
Jane McKenna	Investment Advisor Assistant	(403) 571-2502	jmckenna@acumencapital.com
REASURY AND OPERATIONS			
Cindy Marthaller	Operations Manager	(403) 571-8045	cindy@acumencapital.com
Myja Miller	CFO, COO	(403) 571-0308	mmiller@acumencapital.com
Govind Achyuthan	Chief Compliance Officer	(403) 571-0689	govind@acumencapital.com
Ashleigh Boyechko	Client Services	(403) 571-0300	aboyechko@acumencapital.com
Acumen Capit	tal Finance Partners Limited   Main Phone: 403-57   Suite 800, 500 4th Avenue SW Calg		oll Free: 1-866-410-9039
	www.acumencapital.	•	
	·		
	ACUMEN CAPITAL   PA	ANTINEKS	