

CENTRAL FUND OF CANADA LTD
Form 40-F
January 14, 2009
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 40-F

Registration statement pursuant to Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
or

Annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the fiscal year ended October 31, 2008

Commission File Number 1-9038

Central Fund of Canada Limited

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Alberta, Canada

(Province or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation or
Organization)

Not Applicable

(Primary Standard Industrial Classification Code)

Not Applicable

(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

Hallmark Estates, #805

1323-15th Avenue S.W.

Calgary, Alberta T3C 0X8, Canada

(403) 228-5861

(Address and telephone number of registrant's principal executive offices)

DL Services, Inc.

U.S. Bank Center

1420 5th Avenue, Suite 3400

Seattle, WA 98101-4010

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(206) 903-8800

(Name, address (including zip code) and telephone number (including area code) of agent for service in the United States)

Securities to be registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

<u>Title of Each Class:</u> Class A Non-Voting Shares	<u>Name of Each Exchange On Which Registered:</u> NYSE Alternext US Toronto Stock Exchange
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Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: **None**

Securities for which there is a reporting obligation pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Act: **None**

For annual reports, indicate by check mark the information filed with this form:

Annual Information Form	Audited Annual Financial Statements
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Indicate the number of outstanding shares of each of the registrant's classes of capital or common stock as of the close of the period covered by the annual report:

Class	Outstanding at October 31, 2008
Class A non-voting shares, no par value	152,467,713
Common shares, no par value	40,000

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the Registrant was required to file such reports) and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

DISCLOSURE CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

The Registrant carried out an evaluation as of the end of the period covered by the report, under the supervision and with the participation of the Registrant's senior executive officers, including the Registrant's Chief Executive Officer and Treasurer, of the effectiveness of the Registrant's disclosure controls and procedures, as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act"). Based on that evaluation, the Chief Executive Officer and Treasurer (the Registrant's Principal Financial Officer) have concluded that the Registrant's disclosure controls and procedures as of October 31, 2008 were effective to ensure that information required to be disclosed by the Registrant in reports that it files or submits under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and forms and is accumulated and communicated to the Registrant's management, including its Chief Executive Officer and Treasurer, as appropriate, to allow timely disclosure regarding required disclosure.

MANAGEMENT'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING

Senior executive officers of the Registrant are responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting. Internal control over financial reporting is a process to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of the Registrant's financial reporting for external purposes in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in Canada and in the United States of America. Internal control over financial reporting includes maintaining records that in reasonable detail accurately and fairly reflect our transactions and dispositions, if any, of the assets of the Registrant; providing reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary for preparation of our financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles; providing reasonable assurance that receipts and expenditures are made in accordance with authorizations of the senior officers and directors of the Registrant; and providing reasonable assurance that unauthorized acquisition, use or disposition of company assets that could have a material effect on the Registrant's financial statements would be prevented or detected on a timely basis. Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting is not intended to provide absolute assurance that a misstatement of our financial statements would be prevented or detected.

Further, the evaluation of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting was made as of a specific date, and continued effectiveness in future periods is subject to the risks that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or that the degree of compliance with policies and procedures may decline.

Senior executive officers conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Registrant's internal control over financial reporting based on the framework and criteria established in *Internal Control – Integrated Framework*, issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. This evaluation included review of the documentation of controls, evaluation of the design effectiveness of controls, testing of the operating effectiveness of controls and a conclusion on this evaluation. Based on this evaluation, senior executive officers concluded that the Registrant's internal control over financial reporting was effective as of October 31, 2008.

During the fiscal year ended October 31, 2008, there were no changes in the Registrant's internal control over financial reporting that have materially affected or are reasonably likely to materially affect the Company's internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rules 13(a)-15(f) and 15d-14(f) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934).

The effectiveness of the Registrant's internal control over financial reporting as of October 31, 2008 has been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their report and they have expressed an unqualified opinion thereon in their report which appears on page 16 of Exhibit 99.3 hereto.

AUDIT COMMITTEE FINANCIAL EXPERT

Douglas E. Heagle serves as Chairman and is a member of the audit committee of the Registrant's Board of Directors. The Board of Directors has reviewed the definition of "audit committee financial expert" under item 8(a) of General Instruction B

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to Form 40-F and determined that Douglas E. Heagle satisfies the criteria for an audit committee financial expert under the Exchange Act. The SEC has indicated that the designation of Douglas E. Heagle as an audit committee financial expert does not make Douglas E. Heagle an “expert” for any purpose, impose any duties, obligations or liability on Douglas E. Heagle that are greater than those imposed on members of the audit committee and board of directors who do not carry this designation or affect the duties, obligations or liability of any other member of the audit committee. The Registrant confirms all members of the audit committee are independent as disclosed in the Annual Information Form on page 13 which is incorporated herein by reference. All members of the audit committee are listed on page 13 of the Registrant’s Annual Information Form.

CODE OF ETHICS

The Registrant has adopted a code of ethics that applies to the Registrant’s principal executive officer and principal financial officer. The Registrant does not have a separate principal accounting officer. A copy of the Registrant’s code of ethics is available on their website at www.centralfund.com and without charge, upon written request made to Catherine A. Spackman, Treasurer at Hallmark Estates, #805, 1323-15th Avenue S.W., Calgary, Alberta, Canada (403) 228-5861.

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES

See page 17 of the Registrant’s Annual Information Form, which is incorporated herein by reference.

OFF-BALANCE SHEET ARRANGEMENTS

The Registrant is not a party to any off-balance sheet arrangements that have, or are reasonably likely to have, a current or future effect on the Registrant’s financial condition, changes in financial condition, revenues, expenses, results of operations, liquidity, capital expenditures or capital resources that are material to investors.

NYSE ALTERNEXT US CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Registrant’s common shares are listed on NYSE Alternext US (formerly known as the AMEX). Section 110 of the AMEX Company Guide permits NYSE Alternext US to consider the laws, customs and practices of foreign issuers in relaxing certain NYSE Alternext US listing criteria, and to grant exemptions from NYSE Alternext US listing criteria based on these considerations. A company seeking relief under these provisions is required to provide written certification from independent local counsel that the non-complying practice is not prohibited by home country law. A description of the significant ways in which the Company’s governance practices differ from those followed by domestic companies pursuant to NYSE Alternext US standards is as follows:

Shareholder Meeting Quorum Requirement: The NYSE Alternext US minimum quorum requirement for a shareholder meeting is one-third of the outstanding shares of common stock. In addition, a company listed on AMEX is required to state its quorum requirement in its bylaws. The Company’s quorum requirement is set forth in its bylaws and is one-fifth of the shares of common stock represented in person or by proxy at a shareholder meeting.

Proxy Delivery Requirement: NYSE Alternext US requires the solicitation of proxies and delivery of proxy statements for all shareholder meetings, and requires that these proxies shall be solicited pursuant to a proxy statement that conforms to SEC proxy rules. The Company is a “foreign private issuer” as defined in Rule 3b-4 under the Exchange Act, and the equity securities of the Company are accordingly exempt from the proxy rules set forth in Sections 14(a), 14(b), 14(c) and 14(f) of the Exchange Act. The Company solicits proxies in accordance with applicable rules and regulations in Canada.

The foregoing are consistent with the laws, customs and practices in Canada.

In addition, we may from time-to-time seek relief from NYSE Alternext corporate governance requirements on specific transactions under Section 110 of the AMEX Company Guide by providing written certification from independent local counsel that the non-complying practice is not prohibited by our home country law, in which case, we shall make the disclosure of such transactions available on our website at www.centuralsun.ca. Information contained on our website is not part of this annual report.

UNDERTAKINGS

The Registrant undertakes to make available, in person or by telephone, representatives to respond to inquiries made by the Commission staff, and to furnish promptly, when requested to do so by the Commission staff, information relating to the securities registered pursuant to Form 40-F; the securities in relation to which the obligation to file an annual report on Form 40-F arises; or to transactions in said securities.

TABULAR DISCLOSURE OF CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS

The Registrant confirms they do not have any outstanding contractual obligations.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Exchange Act, the Registrant certifies that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form 40-F and has duly caused this annual report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

CENTRAL FUND OF CANADA LIMITED

/s/ J.C. Stefan Spicer

J.C. Stefan Spicer

President and Chief Executive Officer

Date: January 14, 2009

EXHIBIT INDEX

The following documents are being filed with the Commission as exhibits to this annual report on Form 40-F.

<u>Exhibit</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Annual Information Form
99.2	Management's Discussion and Analysis
99.3	Annual Financial Statements
99.4	Consent of Ernst & Young LLP
99.5	Certification of Chief Executive Officer and Treasurer pursuant to Rule 13a-14 or 15d-14 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
99.6	Certification of Chief Executive Officer and Treasurer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350