

BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA  
Form 424B3  
February 01, 2017  
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Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3)  
Registration Statement No. 333-215597

**Common Shares**

**Preferred Shares**

**Senior Debt Securities**

**Subordinated Debt Securities**

up to an aggregate initial offering price of US\$20,000,000,000

or the equivalent thereof in other currencies.

The Bank of Nova Scotia (the "Bank") may from time to time offer and issue common shares, preferred shares, senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities. This prospectus provides information about the Bank and describes some of the general terms that may apply to these securities. The specific terms of any securities to be offered, and any other information relating to a specific offering, will be set forth in one or more supplements to this prospectus. We may offer and sell these securities to or through one or more underwriters, dealers or agents, or directly to purchasers, on a continuous or delayed basis. The names of the underwriters, dealers or agents will be set forth in supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement carefully before you invest in any of the securities of the Bank.

The common shares of the Bank are listed on the New York Stock Exchange and the Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol "BNS".

**Investing in the securities described herein involves a number of risks. See Risk Factors on page 6 of this prospectus.**

**NEITHER THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION NOR ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION HAS APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED OF THESE SECURITIES OR PASSED UPON THE ADEQUACY OR ACCURACY OF THIS PROSPECTUS. ANY REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.**

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Prospective investors should be aware that the acquisition of the securities described herein may have tax consequences both in the United States and in Canada. Such consequences for investors who are resident in, or citizens of, Canada or the United States may not be described fully herein or in any applicable prospectus supplement.

The enforcement by investors of civil liabilities under the United States federal securities laws may be affected adversely by the fact that the Bank is a Canadian bank, that many of its officers and directors, and some or all of the underwriters or experts named in this prospectus, may be residents of Canada and that all or a substantial portion of the assets of the Bank and such persons may be located outside the United States.

The securities will not constitute deposits that are insured under the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation Act or by the United States Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other Canadian or U.S. government agency or instrumentality.

The Bank may use this prospectus in the initial sale of any securities. In addition, the Bank or any of its affiliates, may use this prospectus in a market-making or other transaction in any security after its initial sale. ***Unless the Bank or its agent informs the purchaser otherwise in the confirmation of sale, this prospectus is being used in a market-making transaction.***

**This prospectus is dated February 1, 2017.**

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**ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS**

**General**

This document is called a prospectus and is part of a registration statement that we filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) using a shelf registration or continuous offering process. Under this shelf registration, we may from time to time sell any combination of the common shares, preferred shares, senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings, and which we collectively refer to herein as the securities. The registration statement containing this prospectus, including exhibits to the registration statement, provides additional information about us and the securities offered under this prospectus. The registration statement can be read at the SEC website or at the SEC office mentioned under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell securities under this shelf registration statement we will provide one or more supplements to this prospectus containing specific information about the terms of the securities being offered. Any such supplements, which we refer to in this prospectus as the applicable prospectus supplements, may include a discussion of any additional risk factors or other special considerations that apply to those securities and may also add to, update or change the information in this prospectus. The applicable prospectus supplements relating to each series of securities will be attached to the front of this prospectus. If there is any inconsistency between the information in this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information in the most recent applicable prospectus supplement. We urge you to read carefully both this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement accompanying this prospectus, together with the information incorporated herein and in any applicable prospectus supplement by reference under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**, before deciding whether to invest in any of the securities being offered.

We are responsible for the information provided in this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplements, including the information incorporated by reference herein and therein. We have not authorized anyone to give you any other information or to make any representation different from or in addition to that contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement. We take no responsibility for and can make no assurance as to the reliability of any other information that others may give you. If you are in a jurisdiction where offers to sell, or solicitations of offers to purchase, the securities offered by this prospectus are unlawful, or if you are a person to whom it is unlawful to direct these types of activities, then the offer presented in this prospectus does not extend to you. The information contained in this prospectus speaks only as of the date of this prospectus unless the information specifically indicates that another date applies. Therefore, you should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus or any applicable prospectus supplement is accurate on any date subsequent to the date set forth on the front of the document or that any information we have incorporated by reference is correct on any date subsequent to the date of the document incorporated by reference, even though this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement is delivered or securities are sold on a later date.

We may sell securities to underwriters who will sell the securities to the public on terms fixed at the time of sale. In addition, the securities may be sold by us directly or through dealers or agents designated from time to time, some of which may be our affiliates. If we, directly or through dealers or agents, solicit offers to purchase the securities, we reserve the sole right to accept and, together with the applicable dealers or agents, to reject, in whole or in part, any of those offers. An applicable prospectus supplement will contain the names of the underwriters, dealers or agents, if any, together with the terms of the offering, the compensation of those persons and the net proceeds to us. Any underwriters, dealers or agents participating in the offering may be deemed underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act).

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In this prospectus, unless the context otherwise indicates, the Bank , we , us or our means The Bank of Nova Scotia and its subsidiaries.

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The Bank prepares its consolidated financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ( IFRS ) as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board. Additionally, the Bank publishes its consolidated financial statements in Canadian dollars. In this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement, currency amounts are stated in Canadian dollars, unless specified otherwise. References to \$, Cdn\$ and dollars are to Canadian dollars, and references to US\$ are to U.S. dollars.

The tables below set forth the high and low daily noon exchange rates, the average yearly rate and the rate at period end between Canadian dollars and U.S. dollars (in U.S. dollars per Canadian dollar) for the periods listed below. On January 31, 2017, the noon exchange rate was US\$0.7675 = \$1.00. Our reference to the noon exchange rate is the noon exchange rate as reported by the Bank of Canada on a specified date.

<b>Year Ended October 31,</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Average Rate (1)</b>	<b>At Period End</b>
2012	1.0299	0.9536	0.9968	1.0004
2013	1.0164	0.9455	0.9777	0.9589
2014	0.9602	0.8858	0.9149	0.8869
2015	0.8900	0.7455	0.7979	0.7644
2016	0.7972	0.6854	0.7550	0.7461
<b>Month of 2016</b>			<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>
November			0.7498	0.7363
December			0.7622	0.7377
<b>Month of 2017</b>			<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>
January			0.7675	0.7442

(1) The average of the noon exchange rates on the last business day of each full month during the relevant period.

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**Table of Contents****CAUTION REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement, including documents incorporated by reference herein and therein, may contain forward-looking information or forward-looking statements (collectively, forward-looking statements). All such statements are made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and any applicable Canadian securities legislation. Forward-looking statements may include, but are not limited to, statements made in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement, the Management's Discussion and Analysis in the Bank's Annual Report on Form 40-F for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2016 under the headings Overview Outlook, for Group Financial Performance Outlook, for each business segment Outlook and in other statements regarding the Bank's objectives, strategies to achieve those objectives, the regulatory environment in which the Bank operates, anticipated financial results (including those in the area of risk management), and the outlook for the Bank's businesses and for the Canadian, U.S. and global economies. Such statements are typically identified by words or phrases such as believe, expect, anticipate, intent, estimate, plan, increase, may fluctuate, and similar expressions of future or conditional verbs, such as will, may, should, would, could.

By their very nature, forward-looking statements involve numerous assumptions, inherent risks and uncertainties, both general and specific, and the risk that predictions and other forward-looking statements will not prove to be accurate. Do not unduly rely on forward-looking statements, as a number of important factors, many of which are beyond the Bank's control and the effects of which can be difficult to predict, could cause actual results to differ materially from the estimates and intentions expressed in such forward-looking statements. These factors include, but are not limited to: the economic and financial conditions in Canada and globally; fluctuations in interest rates and currency values; liquidity and funding; significant market volatility and interruptions; the failure of third parties to comply with their obligations to the Bank and its affiliates; changes in monetary policy; legislative and regulatory developments in Canada and elsewhere, including changes to, and interpretations of tax laws and risk-based capital guidelines and reporting instructions and liquidity regulatory guidance; changes to the Bank's credit ratings; operational (including technology) and infrastructure risks; reputational risks; the risk that the Bank's risk management models may not take into account all relevant factors; the accuracy and completeness of information the Bank receives on customers and counterparties; the timely development and introduction of new products and services in receptive markets; the Bank's ability to expand existing distribution channels and to develop and realize revenues from new distribution channels; the Bank's ability to complete and integrate acquisitions and its other growth strategies; critical accounting estimates and the effects of changes in accounting policies and methods used by the Bank as described in the Bank's annual financial statements (see Controls and Accounting Policies Critical accounting estimates in the Bank's Annual Report on Form 40-F for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2016, and updated by quarterly reports); global capital markets activity; the Bank's ability to attract and retain key executives; reliance on third parties to provide components of the Bank's business infrastructure; unexpected changes in consumer spending and saving habits; technological developments; fraud or other criminal behavior by internal or external parties, including the use of new technologies in unprecedented ways to defraud the Bank or its customers; increasing cyber security risks, which may include theft of assets, unauthorized access to sensitive information or operational disruption; anti-money laundering; consolidation in the financial services sector in Canada and globally; competition, both from new entrants and established competitors including through internet and mobile banking; judicial and regulatory proceedings; natural disasters, including, but not limited to, earthquakes and hurricanes, and disruptions to public infrastructure, such as transportation, communication, power or water supply; the possible impact of international conflicts and other developments, including terrorist activities and war; the effects of disease or illness on local, national or international economies; and the Bank's anticipation of and success in managing the risks implied by the foregoing. A substantial amount of the Bank's business involves making loans or otherwise committing resources to specific companies, industries or countries. Unforeseen events affecting such borrowers, industries or countries could have a material adverse effect on the Bank's financial results, businesses, financial condition or liquidity. These and other factors may

cause the Bank's actual performance to differ materially from that contemplated by forward-looking statements. For more information, see the Risk Management section starting on page 60 of the Bank's Annual Report on Form 40-F for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2016.

Material economic assumptions underlying the forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus are set out in the Bank's Annual Report on Form 40-F for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2016 under the heading Overview Outlook, as updated by quarterly reports; and for each business segment Outlook. The Outlook sections are based on the Bank's views and the actual outcome is uncertain. Readers should consider the above-noted factors when reviewing these sections.



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The preceding list of factors is not exhaustive of all possible risk factors and other factors could also adversely affect the Bank's results. When relying on forward-looking statements to make decisions with respect to the Bank and its securities, investors and others should carefully consider the preceding factors, other uncertainties and potential events. The Bank does not undertake to update any forward-looking statements, whether written or oral, that may be made from time to time by or on its behalf.

## **WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION**

In addition to the continuous disclosure obligations under the securities laws of the provinces and territories of Canada, the Bank is subject to the informational reporting requirements of the U.S. Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), and in accordance therewith files or furnishes reports and other information with the SEC. Under the multijurisdictional disclosure system adopted by the United States and Canada, such reports and other information may be prepared in accordance with the disclosure requirements of the provincial and territorial securities regulatory authorities of Canada, which requirements are different from those of the United States. As a foreign private issuer, the Bank is exempt from the rules under the Exchange Act prescribing the furnishing and content of proxy statements, and the Bank's officers and directors are exempt from the reporting and short swing profit recovery provisions contained in Section 16 of the Exchange Act. The Bank's reports and other information filed with or furnished to the SEC since November 2000 are available, and reports and other information filed or furnished in the future with or to the SEC will be available, from the SEC's Electronic Document Gathering and Retrieval System (<http://www.sec.gov>), which is commonly known by the acronym EDGAR, as well as from commercial document retrieval services. Any document the Bank files with or furnishes to the SEC may be inspected and, by paying a fee, copied at the public reference facilities maintained by the SEC at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Prospective investors may call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information regarding the public reference facilities. The Bank's common shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

The Bank has filed with the SEC, under the Securities Act, a registration statement on Form F-3 with respect to the securities and of which this prospectus forms a part. This prospectus does not contain all of the information that is set forth in the registration statement, certain parts of which are omitted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC. Statements made in this prospectus as to the contents of any contract, agreement or other document referred to are not necessarily complete, and in each instance, reference is made to an exhibit, if applicable, for a more complete description of the matter, each such statement being qualified in its entirety by such reference. For further information with respect to the Bank and the securities, reference is made to the registration statement and the exhibits thereto, which are publicly available as described in the preceding paragraph.

## **INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE**

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference into this prospectus the information in documents we file with it. This means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus and should be read with the same care. When we update the information contained in documents that have been incorporated by reference by making future filings with the SEC the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus is considered to be automatically updated and superseded. The modifying or superseding statement need not state that it has modified or superseded a prior statement or include any other information set forth in the document that it modifies or supersedes. In other words, in the case of a conflict or inconsistency between information contained in this prospectus and information incorporated by reference into this prospectus, you should rely on the information contained in the document that was filed later. The making of a modifying or superseding statement shall not be deemed an admission for any purposes that the modified or superseded statement, when made, constituted a misrepresentation, an untrue statement of a material fact or an omission to state a material fact that is required to be stated or that is necessary to make a statement not

misleading in light of the circumstances in which it was made. Any statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded to constitute a part of this prospectus.

We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and all documents which we subsequently file with the SEC (other than, in each case, documents or information deemed to have been furnished and not filed in accordance with the SEC rules) pursuant to Section 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 15(d) Exchange Act until the termination of the offering of the securities under this prospectus:

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Registration Statement on Form 40-FR12B filed on May 3, 2002;

Report on Form 6-K filed on April 9, 2015 (Acc-no: 0001193125-15-124428);

Annual Report on Form 40-F for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2016, filed on November 29, 2016;

Reports on Form 6-K filed on November 29, 2016 (five filings) (Acc-nos: 0001193125-16-778798, 0001193125-16-778851, 0001193125-16-778896, 0001193125-16-778977 and 0001102624-16-003695);

Report on Form 6-K filed on December 9, 2016;

Report on Form 6-K filed on January 6, 2017; and

Report on Form 6-K filed on January 10, 2017.

We may also incorporate any other Form 6-K that we submit to the SEC on or after the date of this prospectus and prior to the termination of this offering if the Form 6-K filing specifically states that it is incorporated by reference into the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part.

You may request a copy of these filings, other than an exhibit to a filing unless that exhibit is specifically incorporated by reference into that filing, at no cost, by writing to or telephoning us at the following address:

The Bank of Nova Scotia

Scotia Plaza

44 King Street West

Toronto, Ontario

Canada M5H 1H1

Attention: Secretary

Telephone: (416) 866-3672

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**RISK FACTORS**

Investment in these securities is subject to various risks including those risks inherent in conducting the business of a diversified financial institution. Before deciding whether to invest in any securities, you should consider carefully the risks set out herein and incorporated by reference in this prospectus (including subsequently filed documents incorporated by reference) and, if applicable, those described in the applicable prospectus supplements relating to a specific offering of securities. You should consider the categories of risks identified and discussed in the Bank's Annual Report on Form 40-F for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2016, which is incorporated herein by reference, including credit risk, market risk, liquidity risk, operational risk, reputational risk, environmental risk, insurance risk and strategic risk, those summarized under **Caution Regarding Forward-Looking Statements** above, as well as the following:

**Enforceability of U.S. Civil Liability Claims**

The Bank is incorporated under the federal laws of Canada under the *Bank Act* (Canada) (the **Bank Act**). Substantially all of our directors and executive officers, and all or a substantial portion of our assets and the assets of such persons are located outside the United States. As a result, it may be difficult for you to effect service of process within the United States upon such persons, or to realize upon judgments rendered against us or such persons by the courts of the United States predicated upon, among other things, the civil liability provisions of the federal securities laws of the United States. In addition, it may be difficult for you to enforce, in original actions brought in courts in jurisdictions located outside the United States, among other things, civil liabilities predicated upon such securities laws. Based on the foregoing, it may not be possible for U.S. investors to enforce against us any judgments obtained in U.S. courts in civil and commercial matters, including judgments under the U.S. federal securities laws.

**Foreign Accounts Tax Compliance Act Withholding**

Sections 1471 through 1474 of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or similar law implementing an intergovernmental approach thereto (**FATCA**) may affect payments on the securities. See **United States Taxation Foreign Accounts Tax Compliance Act Withholding** for a discussion of the effects of FATCA on the ownership of the securities.

**Bank Recapitalization Regime**

On June 22, 2016, the Federal Government passed legislation to implement a **bail-in** regime, in accordance with regulations to the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation Act that have not yet been prescribed (the **CDIC Act Regulations**), for the largest six Canadian banks, including the Bank, designated as domestic systemically important banks (**D-SIBs**). The legislation aims to enhance the resolution toolkit for D-SIBs, including the framework for the conversion of certain eligible shares and liabilities of the D-SIB into common equity of the bank (or any of its affiliates) in the event the D-SIB becomes non-viable. This bail-in regime is aimed at ensuring that in the unlikely event of a failure of a D-SIB, it is the D-SIB's shareholders and creditors that are responsible for the institution's risks and not the taxpayers. D-SIBs would also be subject to minimum loss absorbency requirements to ensure they can withstand significant losses and emerge from a conversion well capitalized, as well as comprehensive disclosure and reporting requirements. The regime would apply only to eligible shares and liabilities issued after the implementation of the proposed regime with no retroactive application to existing debt.

The types of eligible shares and liabilities subject to the statutory conversion power will be set out in the CDIC Act Regulations, and while these regulations have not yet been prescribed, in its previous consultation paper, the Federal Government had proposed that certain unsecured debt would be subject to the conversion power and customer

deposits would be excluded. Thus, any senior debt securities issued after the implementation of the proposed bail-in regime would likely be subject to statutory conversion in the event that the Bank ceases or is about to cease being viable and holders of such senior debt securities may receive common shares of the Bank in exchange for their senior debt securities. As a result, holders of our common shares, and holders of subordinated debt securities or preferred shares who receive common shares following the occurrence of a trigger event under the NVCC Provisions (as defined in Description of The Debt Securities We May Offer Non-Viability Contingent Capital Provisions ), may sustain substantial dilution following the conversion of such senior debt securities or other eligible liabilities into common equity. The conversion rate of such senior debt securities or other eligible liabilities may be more favorable to the holders of such obligations than the rate applicable to holders of subordinated debt securities or preferred shares.

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The proposed bail-in regime has not yet been finalized, much of the detail will be set out in the CDIC Act Regulations, and timing for implementation has yet to be determined, but these proposed changes could adversely impact the Bank's cost of funding.

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**THE BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA**

The Bank is a Canadian chartered bank under the Bank Act. The Bank Act is the charter of the Bank and governs its operations.

The Bank is Canada's international bank and a leading financial services provider in North America, Latin America, the Caribbean and Central America, and Asia-Pacific. Through its team of more than 88,000 employees and assets of \$896 billion (as at October 31, 2016), the Bank and its affiliates offer a broad range of advice, products and services, including personal and commercial banking, wealth management and private banking, corporate and investment banking, and capital markets to its 23 million customers. The Bank's common shares trade on the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX:BNS) and New York Stock Exchange (NYSE: BNS).

A list of the principal subsidiaries directly or indirectly owned or controlled by the Bank as at October 31, 2016 is incorporated by reference from the Bank's Annual Report on Form 40-F for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2016.

The registered and head office of the Bank is located at 1709 Hollis Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J 1W1 and its executive offices are located at Scotia Plaza, 44 King Street West, Toronto, Ontario, M5H 1H1 and its telephone number is (416) 866-3672.

**Certain Matters Relating to the Bank's Board of Directors**

Under the Bank Act, the Bank's board of directors must have at least seven members and the Bank's board of directors may establish by by-law a minimum and maximum number of directors. Under the Bank's by-laws, the minimum number of directors is the minimum required by the Bank Act and the maximum number of directors is 35. The Bank's by-laws also provide that the number of directors to be elected at any annual meeting of shareholders of the Bank will be fixed by the board of directors before the meeting. The Bank currently has 17 directors. The Bank Act requires that no more than two-thirds of the directors may be affiliated with the Bank, and no more than 15% of the directors may be employees of the Bank or a subsidiary of the Bank, except that up to four employees may be directors if they constitute not more than 50% of the directors. Under the Bank Act, a majority of the directors of the Bank must be resident Canadians and, except in limited circumstances, directors may not transact business at a meeting of directors or a committee of directors at which a majority of the directors present are not resident Canadians. Under the Bank Act, the directors may not transact business at a meeting of the directors unless at least one of the directors who is not affiliated with the Bank is present unless an unaffiliated director subsequently approves the business transacted at the meeting. Subject to the Bank Act, a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the board of directors shall consist of a majority of directors. The Bank Act also requires the directors of a bank to appoint from their members a chief executive officer who must ordinarily be resident in Canada.

Under the Bank Act, any director or the entire board of directors may be removed, with or without cause, with the approval of a majority of the votes cast at a special meeting of shareholders. A vacancy created by such removal may be filled at the meeting or by a quorum of the directors. In accordance with the Bank's governance policy, directors appointed or elected before December 3, 2010 must retire on the earlier of (1) April 1, 2021, or (2) when they turn 70. However, if at age 70 a director appointed before December 3, 2010 has not served 10 years, their term is extended and they must retire by the end of a 10 year term. Directors appointed or elected between December 3, 2010 and July 1, 2015 must retire on the earlier of (1) the completion of a 15 year term, or (2) when they turn 70. However, if at age 70 a director elected between December 3, 2010 and July 1, 2015 has not served 10 years, their term is extended and they must retire by the end of a 10 year term. Directors appointed or elected after July 1, 2015 may serve on the board for a twelve year term.

***Conflicts of Interest***

The Bank Act contains detailed provisions with regard to a director's power to vote on a material contract or material transaction in which the director is interested. These provisions include procedures for: disclosure of the conflict of interest and the timing for such disclosure; the presence of directors at board meetings where the contract or transaction giving rise to the conflict of interest is being considered, and voting with respect to the contract or transaction giving rise to the conflict of interest; and other provisions for dealing with such conflicts of interest. The Bank Act also contains detailed provisions regarding transactions with persons who are related parties of the Bank, including directors of the Bank. See Borrowing Powers.



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***Compensation***

The by-laws of the Bank have provisions with regard to remuneration of directors. The board of directors may, from time to time, by resolution determine their remuneration that may be paid, but such remuneration may not exceed in each year an aggregate cap set out in the by-laws, and individually may be in such amounts as the board may determine by resolution. The directors may also be paid their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in attending meetings of the board, shareholders or committees of the board.

Directors are required to hold common shares and/or directors' deferred stock units ( DDSU ) with a value of not less than \$600,000. The redemption value of a DDSU is equal to the market value of a common share at the time of redemption. The value of DDSUs is tied to the future value of the common shares. However, DDSUs do not entitle the holder to voting or other shareholder rights.

***Borrowing Powers***

The directors of the Bank may, without authorization of the shareholders, authorize the Bank to borrow money. The Bank Act, however, prohibits the Bank from entering into transactions with persons who are deemed to be related parties of the Bank, subject to certain exceptions. Related party transactions may include loans made on the credit of the Bank.

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The following table sets forth the consolidated capitalization of the Bank at October 31, 2016. This table should be read in conjunction with the Bank's audited consolidated financial statements and the management's discussion and analysis filed as exhibits to our Annual Report on Form 40-F for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2016 filed on November 29, 2016 and which is incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

	<b>As at</b>
	<b>October 31, 2016</b>
	<b>(In millions of</b>
	<b>Canadian Dollars)</b>
<b>Subordinated Debentures</b>	\$ 7,633
<b>Equity</b>	
Common Equity	
Common Shares	15,513
Retained Earnings	34,752
Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income	2,240
Other Reserves	152
Total Common Equity	52,657
Preferred Shares	3,594
Total Equity Attributable to Equity Holders of the Bank	56,251
Non-controlling Interests	
Non-controlling Interests in Subsidiaries	1,570
Total Equity	57,821
<b>Total Capitalization</b>	<b>\$ 65,454</b>

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The following table provides the Bank's consolidated ratios of earnings to fixed charges, based upon financial information calculated in accordance with IFRS for each of the years in the five year period ended October 31, 2016.

	<b>Years Ended October 31,</b>				
	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>Consolidated Ratios of Earnings to Fixed Charges</b>					
Excluding interest on deposits	8.18	7.90	8.52	7.42	7.43
Including interest on deposits	2.12	2.18	2.21	2.01	2.03
<b>Consolidated Ratios of Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Dividends</b>					
Excluding interest on deposits	7.22	7.07	7.29	6.03	6.02
Including interest on deposits	2.07	2.14	2.15	1.94	1.96
For purposes of computing these ratios:					

earnings represent income from continuing operations plus income taxes and fixed charges (excluding capitalized interest and net income from investments in associated corporations);

fixed charges, excluding interest on deposits, represent interest (including capitalized interest), estimated interest within rent, and amortization of debt issuance costs; and

fixed charges, including interest on deposits, represent all interest.

**Table of Contents****COMPARATIVE PER SHARE MARKET PRICE**

The Bank's common shares are listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange (the "TSX") and the New York Stock Exchange (the "NYSE") under the trading symbol "BNS".

The table below sets forth, for the periods indicated, the per share high and low closing sales prices for the Bank's common shares as reported on the NYSE and the TSX. TSX closing prices of the Bank's common shares are presented in Canadian dollars, and the NYSE closing prices of the Bank's common shares are presented in U.S. dollars.

	BNS shares TSX (in C\$)		BNS shares NYSE (in US\$)	
	High	Low	High	Low
<b>Annual information for the past fiscal years</b>				
2012	57.05	47.89	57.32	45.90
2013	63.54	52.80	60.77	52.50
2014	74.35	60.24	68.33	54.36
2015	70.85	55.88	62.49	42.20
2016	72.23	51.87	54.95	35.80
<b>Quarterly information for the past two fiscal years and subsequent quarters:</b>				
<b>2015, quarter ended</b>				
January 31	70.85	61.06	62.49	48.04
April 30	67.37	62.05	56.03	49.13
July 31	67.13	61.07	55.52	46.86
October 31	63.81	55.88	48.48	42.20
<b>2016, quarter ended</b>				
January 31	61.91	51.87	47.45	35.80
April 30	65.80	52.06	52.45	37.36
July 31	67.07	61.69	52.66	47.62
October 31	72.23	65.51	54.95	49.96
<b>2017, quarter ended</b>				
January 31	78.71	69.88	60.01	51.58
<b>Monthly information for the most recent six months</b>				
August 2016	69.93	65.51	53.46	49.96
September 2016	71.10	68.64	54.95	52.09
October 2016	72.23	69.43	54.00	52.32
November 2016	74.14	69.88	55.25	51.58
December 2016	77.09	74.09	58.70	55.64
January 2017	78.71	75.76	60.01	56.38

Fluctuations in the exchange rate between the Canadian dollar and the U.S. dollar will affect any comparisons of the Bank's common shares traded on the TSX and the Bank's common shares traded on the NYSE.

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**USE OF PROCEEDS**

Unless otherwise specified in an applicable prospectus supplement, the net proceeds to the Bank from the sale of securities will be added to the general funds of the Bank and utilized for general banking purposes.

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**DESCRIPTION OF COMMON SHARES AND PREFERRED SHARES**

*Set forth below is a summary of the material terms of the Bank's share capital and certain provisions of the Bank Act and the Bank's amended and restated by-laws as they relate to the Bank's share capital. The following summary is not complete and is qualified in its entirety by the Bank Act, the Bank's amended and restated by-laws and the actual terms and conditions of such shares.*

**Capital Stock**

The authorized capital of the Bank consists of an unlimited number of common shares, without nominal or par value, and an unlimited number of preferred shares, without nominal or par value, issuable in series, in each case the aggregate consideration for which is also unlimited.

**Common Shares**

*Voting.* Holders of the Bank's common shares are entitled to vote at all meetings of the Shareholders of the Bank, except meetings at which only the holders of preferred shares of the Bank are entitled to vote. Holders of common shares are entitled to one vote per share on all matters to be voted on by holders of common shares. Unless otherwise required by the Bank Act, any matter to be voted on by holders of common shares shall be decided by a majority of the votes cast on the matter.

*Liquidation Rights.* Upon the liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the Bank, whether voluntary or involuntary, the holders of common shares are entitled to receive the remaining property of the Bank available after the payment of all debts and other liabilities and subject to the prior rights of holders of any outstanding preferred shares.

*Preemptive, Subscription, Redemption and Conversion Rights.* Holders of common shares, as such, have no preemptive, subscription, redemption or conversion rights.

*Dividends.* Holders of common shares are entitled to receive dividends as and when declared by the board of directors of the Bank, subject to the preference of the holders of the preferred shares of the Bank. The Bank's dividends have historically been declared on a quarterly basis in Canadian dollars. As a matter of practice, at the request of a shareholder to the transfer agent or broker, the Bank will pay dividends to a U.S. holder of common shares, if and when a dividend is declared, in U.S. dollars. The declaration and payment of dividends and the amount of the dividends is subject to the discretion of the board of directors, and will be dependent upon the results of operations, financial condition, cash requirements and future regulatory restrictions on the payment of dividends by the Bank and other factors deemed relevant by the board of directors.

**Preferred Shares**

This section describes the general terms and provisions of our preferred shares. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the specific terms of the preferred shares offered through that prospectus supplement, as well as any general terms described in this section that will not apply to those preferred shares.

*General.* The board of directors is authorized, subject to the provisions of the Bank Act, without shareholder approval, to divide any unissued preferred shares into series and fix the number of shares in each series and the rights, privileges, restrictions and conditions of each such series, and to change the rights, privileges, restrictions and conditions attached to unissued preferred shares of any series.

*NVCC Provisions.* Effective January 1, 2013, in accordance with capital adequacy requirements adopted by the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions (Canada) ( OSFI ), non-common capital instruments issued after January 1, 2013, including preferred shares, must include terms providing for the full and permanent conversion of such securities into common shares upon the occurrence of certain trigger events relating to financial viability (see Description of The Debt Securities We May Offer Non-Viability Contingent Capital Provisions ) in order to qualify as regulatory capital. As of January 1, 2013, all outstanding capital instruments that do not meet the NVCC requirement will be considered non-qualifying capital instruments and will be phased out beginning January 1, 2013.

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*Priority.* The preferred shares, as a class, are entitled to preference over common shares and over any other shares ranking junior to the preferred shares with respect to the payment of dividends and distribution of assets in the event of the liquidation, dissolution or winding-up of the Bank, or any other distribution of the assets among shareholders for the purpose of winding-up the affairs of the Bank, provided that a trigger event has not occurred as contemplated under the specific NVCC Provisions (as described above) applicable to such preferred shares. The preferred shares of each series rank on a parity with the preferred shares of every other series with respect to priority in payment of dividends and in the distribution of assets in the event of liquidation, dissolution or winding-up of the Bank, or any other distribution of the assets among shareholders for the purpose of winding-up the affairs of the Bank. However, in the event of the occurrence of a trigger event under the NVCC Provisions, the priority of the preferred shares will not be relevant since all preferred shares will be converted into our common shares which will rank on a parity with all other common shares issued by us.

*Restriction.* Under the terms of the Bank Act, the approval of the holders of the preferred shares is required for the creation of any class of shares ranking prior to or on a parity with the preferred shares.

*Voting.* Except as required under the Bank Act or in the rights, privileges, restrictions or conditions attached to any series before the issue thereof, the holders of preferred shares are not entitled to receive notice, to attend or to vote at any meeting of the shareholders of the Bank. Any approval to be given by the holders of preferred shares may be given by a resolution carried by the affirmative vote of not less than  $66\frac{2}{3}\%$  of the votes cast at a meeting of holders of preferred shares at which a majority of the outstanding preferred shares is represented or, if no quorum is present at such meeting, at any adjourned meeting at which no quorum requirements would apply.

**Limitations Affecting Holders of Common and Preferred Shares*****Restraints on Bank Shares Under the Bank Act***

In accordance with the Bank Act, no person or group of associated persons may own more than 10% of any class of shares of the Bank without the approval of the Minister of Finance (Canada) (the Minister). No person may be a major shareholder of a bank if the bank has equity of \$12 billion or more (which would include the Bank). A person is a major shareholder of a bank if: (a) the aggregate number of shares of any class of voting shares beneficially owned by that person and that are beneficially owned by any entities controlled by that person is more than 20% of that class of voting shares; or (b) the aggregate number of shares of any class of non-voting shares beneficially owned by that person and that are beneficially owned by any entities controlled by that person is more than 30% of that class of non-voting shares. Ownership of the Bank's shares by Canadian or foreign governments is prohibited under the Bank Act. However, in 2009 certain amendments were made to the Bank Act that would permit the Canadian federal government to acquire shares of a bank, including the Bank, if the Minister and Governor in Council were to conclude that to do so was necessary to promote stability of the financial system in Canada. While the government holds any shares of a bank, including the Bank, the Minister may impose certain terms and conditions, including conditions on the payment by the Bank of dividends on any of its shares.

The Minister may only approve the acquisition of up to 30% of the shares of any class of non-voting shares and up to 20% of the shares of a class of voting shares of the Bank, provided, in each case, that the person acquiring those shares does not have direct or indirect influence over the Bank that, if exercised, would result in that person having control in fact of the Bank. No person may have a significant interest in any class of shares of a bank, including the Bank, unless the person first receives the approval of the Minister. In addition, the Bank is not permitted to record any transfer or issue of any shares of the Bank if the transfer or issue would cause the person to have a significant interest in a class of shares, unless the prior approval of the Minister is obtained. No person who has a significant interest in the Bank may exercise any voting rights attached to the shares held by that person, unless the prior approval of the



Minister for the acquisition of the significant interest is obtained. For purposes of the Bank Act, a person has a significant interest in a class of shares of a bank where the aggregate of any shares of the class beneficially owned by that person, by entities controlled by that person and by any person associated or acting jointly or in concert with that person exceeds 10% of all of the outstanding shares of that class of shares of such bank. If a person contravenes any of these restrictions, the Minister may, by order, direct that person to dispose of all or any portion of those shares. Holders of securities of the Bank may be required to furnish declarations relating to ownership in a form prescribed by the Bank.

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### ***Bank Act and Government Restrictions and Approvals***

Under the Bank Act, the Bank cannot redeem or purchase any of its shares, including its common shares, unless the consent of OSFI has been obtained. In addition, the Bank Act prohibits a payment to purchase or redeem any shares or the declaration and payment of a dividend if there are reasonable grounds for believing that the Bank is, or the payment would cause the Bank to be, in contravention of the capital adequacy and liquidity regulations of the Bank Act or any capital or liquidity directions of OSFI. The Bank is prohibited from declaring dividends on its preferred or common shares when it would be, as a result of paying such a dividend, in contravention of the capital adequacy and liquidity regulations of the Bank Act or any capital or liquidity directions of OSFI.

The government of Canada placed a moratorium on mergers among Canada's largest financial institutions in 2003, including the Bank and its peers, pending a further review of Canada's bank merger policy. A review of the government's bank merger policy is not currently a priority and as a result, it is unlikely that the Minister would grant an approval for a merger between any large Canadian financial institutions at this time.

The restrictions contained in the Bank Act and the Canadian government's policies may deter, delay or prevent a future amalgamation involving the Bank and will prevent the acquisition of control of the Bank, including transactions that could be perceived as advantageous to the Bank's shareholders.

### **Amendments to the Rights, Privileges, Restrictions and Conditions of the Bank's Share Capital**

Under the Bank Act, the rights of holders of the Bank's shares can be changed by the board of directors of the Bank by making, amending or repealing the by-laws of the Bank. The board of directors of the Bank must submit such a by-law, or amendment to or repeal of a by-law, to the shareholders of the Bank in accordance with the procedures of the Bank Act and the Bank's by-laws, and the shareholders must approve the by-law, amendment to or repeal of the by-law by special resolution to be effective. Under the Bank Act, a special resolution is a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the votes cast by or on behalf of the shareholders who voted in respect of that resolution or signed by all the shareholders entitled to vote on that resolution. In some circumstances, the Bank Act mandates that holders of shares of a class or a series are entitled to vote separately as a class or series on a proposal to amend the by-laws of the Bank.

### **Meetings of the Shareholders**

#### ***Quorum***

The Bank Act permits a bank to establish by by-law the quorum requirement for meetings of shareholders. The Bank's by-laws provide that a quorum at any meeting of shareholders will be any shareholders present in person or represented by proxy of at least 25% of the outstanding shares of the Bank entitled to vote at the meeting.

#### ***Annual Meetings; Shareholder Proposals***

The Bank is required to hold an annual meeting of shareholders not later than six months after the end of each financial year on such day and at such time as its directors shall determine.

Proposals by shareholders of a bank may be made by certain registered or beneficial holders of shares that are entitled to vote at an annual meeting of shareholders. To be eligible to submit any shareholder proposal, a shareholder must satisfy certain eligibility criteria set forth in the Bank Act. Under the Bank Act, shareholder proposals may only be submitted at annual meetings of shareholders. A shareholder eligible to submit a proposal and entitled to vote at an

annual meeting of shareholders may submit to the Bank notice of any matter that the shareholder proposes to raise at the meeting provided that, among other things, the proposal is submitted to the Bank at least 90 days before the anniversary date of the notice of meeting that was sent to shareholders in respect of the Bank's previous annual meeting of shareholders.

If the Bank solicits proxies for such annual meeting, it is required to set out in the management proxy a proposal submitted by a shareholder for consideration at such meeting. If so requested by a shareholder who submits a proposal to the Bank, the Bank is required to include in the management proxy circular, or attach thereto, a statement by the shareholder in support of the proposal and the name and address of the shareholder. The proposal and the statement together are not to exceed 500 words. Under the Bank Act, a proposal may include nominations for the election of directors if it is signed by one or more holders of shares representing in the aggregate not less than 5% of the issued and outstanding shares of the Bank or 5% of the issued and outstanding shares of a class of shares of the Bank entitled to vote at the meeting at which the proposal is to be presented.

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The Bank is not required to comply with the obligations to include the proposal, or a statement of the shareholder submitting a proposal, in its management proxy circular, if

the proposal is not submitted to the Bank at least 90 days before the anniversary date of the notice of meeting that was sent to shareholders in respect of the previous annual meeting of shareholders;

it clearly appears that the primary purpose of the proposal is to enforce a personal claim or redress a personal grievance against the Bank or its directors, officers or security holders;

it clearly appears that the proposal does not relate in a significant way to the business or affairs of the Bank;

the person submitting the proposal failed within the prescribed period before the Bank receives their proposal to present, in person or by proxy, at a meeting of shareholders a proposal that at their request had been set out in or attached to a management proxy circular;

substantially the same proposal was set out in or attached to a management proxy circular or dissident's proxy circular relating to, and presented to shareholders at, a meeting of shareholders of the Bank held within the prescribed period before the receipt of the proposal and did not receive the prescribed minimum amount of support at the meeting; or

the rights to submit a proposal as described above are being abused to secure publicity.

If the Bank refuses to include a proposal in a management proxy circular, it is obligated to notify the shareholder in writing of such refusal and its reasons for such refusal. The shareholder may apply to a court if such shareholder claims it has been aggrieved by such refusal, and the court may restrain the holding of the meeting at which the proposal is sought to be presented and may make such further order it thinks fit. In addition, if the Bank claims to be aggrieved by the proposal, it may apply to a court for an order permitting the Bank to omit the proposal from the management proxy circular.

## ***Special Meetings***

Under the Bank Act, special meetings of shareholders may be called at any time by the board of directors. In addition, subject to certain provisions of the Bank Act, the holders of not less than 5% of the issued and outstanding shares of the Bank that carry the right to vote at a meeting may requisition that the directors call a meeting of shareholders for the purpose stated in the requisition and may call the special meeting if the directors do not do so within 21 days after receiving the request.

## **Size of Board of Directors**

The Bank Act requires that the number of directors on the Bank's board of directors be at least seven. All directors of the Bank are elected annually. The Bank Act also requires that at least a majority of the directors must be, at the time of each director's election or appointment, resident Canadians.

### **Anti-Takeover Provisions and Ownership Provisions**

Rules and policies of certain Canadian securities regulatory authorities, including Multilateral Instrument 61-101 Protection of Minority Security Holders in Special Transactions, contain requirements in connection with related party transactions. A related party transaction means, among other things, any transaction in which an issuer directly or indirectly engages in the following with a related party: acquires, sells, leases or transfers an asset, acquires the related party, acquires or issues securities, amends the terms of a security if the security is owned by the related party or assumes or becomes subject to a liability or takes certain other actions with respect to debt.

Related party includes directors, senior officers and holders of more than 10% of the voting rights attached to all outstanding voting securities of the issuer or holders of a sufficient number of any securities of the issuer to materially affect control of the issuer.

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If a transaction is determined to be a related party transaction, Multilateral Instrument 61-101 requires, subject to certain exceptions, the preparation of a formal valuation relating to certain aspects of the transaction and more detailed disclosure in the proxy material sent to security holders in connection with the related party transaction, including disclosure related to the valuation.

Multilateral Instrument 61-101 also requires, subject to certain exceptions, that an issuer not engage in a related party transaction unless the shareholders of the issuer, other than the related parties, approve the transaction by a simple majority of the votes cast.

In addition, under the Bank Act, a sale of all or substantially all of the Bank's assets to another financial institution or an amalgamation must also be approved by the shareholders by a vote of not less than two-thirds of the votes cast by shareholders who voted in respect of the special resolution, with each share carrying the right to vote whether or not it otherwise carries the right to vote. The holders of each class or series of shares which is affected differently by the sale from the shares of any other class or series are entitled to vote separately as a class or series. The Minister must also approve any such sale or amalgamation involving the Bank.

These restrictions, in addition to those imposed by the Bank Act relating to the purchase or other acquisition, issue, transfer and voting of shares of the Bank's common shares may deter, delay or prevent a future amalgamation involving the Bank and will prevent the acquisition of control of the Bank, including transactions that could be perceived as advantageous to the Bank's shareholders. See Limitations Affecting Holders of Common and Preferred Shares.

## **Rights of Inspection**

Any person is entitled to a basic list of the Bank's shareholders and may request the Bank to furnish such list within 10 days after receipt by the Bank of an affidavit, swearing that the list will not be used except in accordance with a permitted purpose, and payment of a reasonable fee. Further, shareholders and creditors of the Bank and their personal representatives may examine certain limited records of the Bank during its usual business hours and may take extracts therefrom, free of charge, or have copies made thereof on payment of a reasonable fee.

## **Transfer Agent and Registrar**

The registrar and transfer agent for the Bank's common and preferred shares is Computershare Trust Company of Canada at the following addresses: Computershare Trust Company of Canada, 100 University Ave., 8th Floor, Toronto, Ontario, M5J 2Y1 and Computershare Trust Company, National Association, 250 Royall Street, Canton, Massachusetts, 02021.

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**DESCRIPTION OF THE DEBT SECURITIES WE MAY OFFER**

References to the Bank, us, we or our in this section mean The Bank of Nova Scotia, and do not include the subsidiaries of The Bank of Nova Scotia. Also, in this section, references to holders mean those who own debt securities registered in their own names, on the books that we or the applicable trustees maintain for this purpose, and not those who own beneficial interests in debt securities registered in street name or in debt securities issued in book-entry form through one or more depositaries. When we refer to you in this prospectus, we mean all purchasers of the debt securities being offered by this prospectus, whether they are the holders or only indirect owners of those debt securities. Owners of beneficial interests in the debt securities should read the section below entitled Description of Certain Provisions Relating to the Debt Securities we may Offer Legal Ownership and Book-Entry Issuance.

The following description sets forth certain general terms and provisions of the debt securities. We will provide particular terms and provisions of a series of debt securities and a description of how the general terms and provisions described below may apply to that series in a prospectus supplement. Prospective investors should rely on information in the applicable prospectus supplement if it is different from the following information.

**Debt Securities May Be Senior or Subordinated**

We may issue debt securities which may be senior or subordinated in right of payment. Neither the senior debt securities nor the subordinated debt securities will be secured by any of our property or assets or the property or assets of our subsidiaries. Thus, by owning a debt security, you are one of our unsecured creditors.

The senior debt securities will be issued under our senior debt securities indenture described below and will be unsubordinated obligations that rank equally with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated debt, including deposit liabilities, other than certain governmental claims in accordance with applicable law. The subordinated debt securities will be issued under one of our subordinated debt securities indentures described below and will be subordinate in right of payment to all of our senior indebtedness, as set forth in the applicable subordinated debt securities indenture. None of the indentures limit our ability to incur additional indebtedness.

In the event we become insolvent, our governing legislation provides that priorities among payments of our deposit liabilities (including payments in respect of the senior debt securities) and payments of all of our other liabilities (including payments in respect of the subordinated debt securities) are to be determined in accordance with the laws governing priorities and, where applicable, by the terms of the indebtedness and liabilities. In addition, our right to participate in any distribution of the assets of our banking or non-banking subsidiaries, upon a subsidiary's dissolution, winding-up, liquidation or reorganization or otherwise, and thus your ability to benefit indirectly from such distribution, is subject to the prior claims of creditors of that subsidiary, except to the extent that we may be a creditor of that subsidiary and our claims are recognized. There are legal limitations on the extent to which some of our subsidiaries may extend credit, pay dividends or otherwise supply funds to, or engage in transactions with, us or some of our other subsidiaries. Accordingly, the debt securities will be structurally subordinated to all existing and future liabilities of our subsidiaries, and holders of debt securities should look only to our assets for payments on the debt securities.

**Neither the senior debt securities nor the subordinated debt securities will constitute deposits insured under the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation Act (Canada) or by the United States Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other Canadian or United States governmental agency or instrumentality.**

When we refer to debt securities or debt security in this section, we mean both the senior debt securities and the subordinated debt securities.

**The Senior and Subordinated Debt Securities Indentures**

The senior debt securities and the subordinated debt securities are each governed by indentures – the senior debt securities indenture, in the case of the senior debt securities, and either the subordinated debt securities indenture or the subordinated debt securities indenture (Non-Viability Contingent Capital)(NVCC) (the NVCC subordinated debt securities indenture ), in the case of the subordinated debt securities. When we refer to the indentures, we



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mean the senior debt securities indenture, the subordinated debt securities indenture and the NVCC subordinated debt securities indenture, collectively, when we refer to the indenture, we mean the senior debt securities indenture, the subordinated debt securities indenture or the NVCC subordinated debt securities indenture, as applicable, and when we refer to the subordinated debt securities indentures, we mean either the subordinated debt securities indenture or the NVCC subordinated debt securities indenture, as applicable. Each indenture is a contract between us, Computershare Trust Company, National Association, as U.S. trustee, and Computershare Trust Company of Canada, as Canadian trustee, which act as trustees. When we refer to the trustees, we mean both the U.S. trustee and the Canadian trustee, and when we refer to the trustee, we mean either the U.S. trustee or the Canadian trustee, as applicable. The indentures are subject to and governed by the U.S. Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, and applicable Canadian trust indenture legislation. The indentures are substantially identical, except for the provisions relating to:

the events of default, which are more limited in the subordinated debt securities indentures;

subordination, which are included only in the subordinated debt securities indentures; and

the non-viability contingent capital provisions, which are included only in the NVCC subordinated debt securities indenture, unless otherwise included in the subordinated debt securities indentures by way of supplemental indenture.

Reference to the indenture or the trustees, with respect to any debt securities, means the indenture under which those debt securities are issued and the trustees under that indenture.

The trustees have two main roles:

The trustees can enforce the rights of holders against us if we default on our obligations under the terms of the indenture or the debt securities. There are some limitations on the extent to which the trustees act on behalf of holders, described below under **Events of Default Remedies If an Event of Default Occurs**.

The trustees perform administrative duties for us, such as sending interest payments and notices to holders and transferring a holder's debt securities to a new buyer if a holder sells.

The indentures and their associated documents contain the full legal text of the matters described in this section. The indentures and the debt securities will be governed by New York law, except for the subordination provisions in the subordinated debt securities indentures, the non-viability contingent capital provisions in the NVCC subordinated debt securities indenture (or in the subordinated debt securities indenture pursuant to any amendment or supplement thereto) and certain provisions relating to the status of the senior debt securities, which will be governed by the laws of the Province of Ontario and the laws of Canada applicable therein. A copy of each of the senior debt securities indenture, the subordinated debt securities indenture and the NVCC subordinated debt securities indenture is an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. See **Where You Can Find More Information** above for information on how to obtain a copy.

## **General**

We may issue as many distinct series of debt securities as we wish under each indenture. The provisions of the senior debt securities indenture and the subordinated debt securities indentures allow us not only to issue debt securities with terms different from those previously issued under the applicable indenture, but also to re-open a previous issue of a series of debt securities and issue additional debt securities of that series. We may issue debt securities in amounts that exceed the total amount specified on the cover of your applicable prospectus supplement at any time without your consent and without notifying you. In addition, we may issue additional debt securities of any series at any time without your consent and without notifying you. We may also issue other securities at any time without your consent and without notifying you. The indentures do not limit our ability to incur other indebtedness or to issue other securities, and we are not subject to financial or similar restrictions under the indentures.

This section summarizes the material terms of the debt securities that are common to all series, subject to any modifications contained in an applicable prospectus supplement. Most of the specific terms of your series will be described in the applicable prospectus supplements accompanying this prospectus. As you read this section, please remember that the specific terms of your debt security as described in the applicable prospectus supplements will

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supplement and, if applicable, may modify or replace the general terms described in this section. If there are any differences between the information in the applicable prospectus supplements and this prospectus, the information in the most recent applicable prospectus supplement will control. Accordingly, the statements we make in this section may not apply to your debt securities. Because this section is a summary, it does not describe every aspect of the debt securities. This summary is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to all the provisions of the indentures and the applicable series of debt securities, including definitions of certain terms used in the indentures and the applicable series of debt securities. In this summary, we describe the meaning of only some of the more important terms. You must look to the indentures or the applicable series of debt securities for the most complete description of what we describe in summary form in this prospectus.

We may issue the debt securities as original issue discount securities, which will be offered and sold at a substantial discount below their stated principal amount. An applicable prospectus supplement relating to the original issue discount securities will describe U.S. federal income tax consequences and other special considerations applicable to them. The debt securities may also be issued as indexed debt securities or debt securities denominated in foreign currencies or currency units, as described in more detail in an applicable prospectus supplement relating to any of the particular debt securities. An applicable prospectus supplement relating to specific debt securities will also describe any special considerations and any additional material tax considerations applicable to such debt securities.

When we refer to a series of debt securities, we mean a series issued under the indenture pursuant to which the debt securities will be issued. Each series is a single distinct series under the indenture pursuant to which they will be issued and we may issue debt securities of each series in such amounts, at such times and on such terms as we wish. The debt securities of each series will differ from one another, and from any other series, in their terms, but all debt securities of a series together will constitute a single series for all purposes under the indenture pursuant to which they will be issued.

We may issue debt securities up to an aggregate principal amount as we may authorize from time to time. The applicable prospectus supplements will describe the terms of any debt securities being offered, including:

the title of the series of debt securities;

whether it is a series of senior debt securities or a series of subordinated debt securities;

any limit on the aggregate principal amount of the series of debt securities;

the person to whom interest, if any, on a debt security is payable, if other than the holder on the regular record date;

the date or dates, if any, on which the series of debt securities will mature;

the rate or rates (which may be fixed or variable) per annum, at which the series of debt securities will bear interest, if any, how to calculate the interest rate or rates and the date or dates from which that interest, if

any, will accrue;

the dates on which such interest, if any, will be payable and the regular record dates for such interest payment dates;

provisions, if any, for the cancellation of any interest payment at our discretion or under other circumstances;

the place or places where the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on the debt securities is payable;

any mandatory or optional sinking funds or similar provisions or provisions for redemption at our option or the option of the holder;

if applicable, the date after which, the price at which, the periods within which and the terms and conditions upon which the debt securities may, pursuant to any optional or mandatory redemption provisions, be redeemed and other detailed terms and provisions of those optional or mandatory redemption provisions, if any;

if applicable, the terms and conditions upon which the debt securities may be repayable prior to final maturity at the option of the holder thereof (which option may be conditional);

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the portion of the principal amount of the debt securities, if other than the entire principal amount thereof, payable upon acceleration of maturity thereof;

if the debt securities may be converted into or exercised or exchanged for other of our securities, the terms on which conversion, exercise or exchange may occur, including whether conversion, exercise or exchange is mandatory, at the option of the holder or at our option, the period during which conversion, exercise or exchange may occur, the initial conversion, exercise or exchange price or rate and the circumstances or manner in which the amount of our securities issuable upon conversion, exercise or exchange may be adjusted;

if other than denominations of US\$2,000 and integral multiples of US\$1,000 in excess thereof, the denominations in which the series of debt securities will be issuable;

the currency of payment of principal, premium, if any, and interest on the series of debt securities;

if the currency of payment for principal, premium, if any, and interest on the series of debt securities is subject to our election or that of a holder, the currency or currencies in which payment can be made and the period within which, and the terms and conditions upon which, the election can be made;

any index, formula or other method used to determine the amount of payment of principal or premium, if any, and/or interest on the series of debt securities;

the applicability of the provisions described under **Defeasance** below;

any event of default under the series of debt securities if different from those described under **Events of Default** below;

if the series of debt securities will be issuable only in the form of a global debt security, the depositary or its nominee with respect to the series of debt securities and the circumstances under which the global debt security may be registered for transfer or exchange in the name of a person other than the depositary or the nominee; and

any other special feature of the series of debt securities.

**Market-Making Transactions**

One or more of our subsidiaries may purchase and resell debt securities in market-making transactions after their initial issuance. We may also, subject to applicable law and any required regulatory approval, purchase debt securities in the open market or in private transactions to be held by us or cancelled.

## **Covenants**

Except as described in this sub-section or as otherwise provided in an applicable prospectus supplement with respect to any series of debt securities, we are not restricted by the indentures from incurring, assuming or becoming liable for any type of debt or other obligations, from paying dividends or making distributions on our capital stock or purchasing or redeeming our capital stock. The indentures do not require the maintenance of any financial ratios or specified levels of net worth or liquidity, nor do they contain any covenants or other provisions that would limit our or our subsidiaries' right to incur additional indebtedness, enter into any sale and leaseback transaction or grant liens on our or our subsidiaries' assets. The indentures do not contain any provisions that would require us to repurchase or redeem or otherwise modify the terms of any of the debt securities upon a change in control or other events that may adversely affect the creditworthiness of the debt securities, for example, a highly leveraged transaction, except as otherwise specified in this prospectus or any applicable prospectus supplement.

## **Mergers and Similar Events**

Each of the indentures provide that we are permitted to merge, amalgamate, consolidate or otherwise combine with another entity, or to sell or lease substantially all of our assets to another entity, as long as the following conditions are met:

When we merge, amalgamate, consolidate or otherwise are combined with another entity, or sell or lease substantially all of our assets, the surviving, resulting or acquiring entity is a duly organized entity and is legally responsible for and assumes, either by agreement, operation of law or otherwise, our obligations under such indenture and the debt securities issued thereunder.

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The merger, amalgamation, consolidation, other combination, or sale or lease of assets, must not result in an event of default under such indenture. A default for this purpose would include any event that would be an event of default if the requirements for giving us default notice or our default having to exist for a specified period of time were disregarded.

If the conditions described above are satisfied, we will not need to obtain the consent of the holders of the debt securities in order to merge, amalgamate, consolidate or otherwise combine with another entity or to sell or lease substantially all of our assets.

We will not need to satisfy the conditions described above if we enter into other types of transactions, including:

any transaction in which we acquire the stock or assets of another entity but in which we do not merge, amalgamate, consolidate or otherwise combine;

any transaction that involves a change of control but in which we do not merge, amalgamate, consolidate or otherwise combine; or

any transaction in which we sell less than substantially all of our assets.

It is possible that this type of transaction may result in a reduction in our credit rating, may reduce our operating results or may impair our financial condition. Holders of debt securities, however, will have no approval right with respect to any transaction of this type.

## **Modification and Waiver of the Debt Securities**

There are four types of changes we can make to the indenture and the debt securities issued under that indenture. However, any deletion, addition or variation to the terms and conditions of the subordinated debt securities which might affect the classification afforded the subordinated debt securities under the capital adequacy requirements pursuant to the Bank Act and the regulations and guidelines thereunder will require the prior written approval of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions (Canada) (the Superintendent).

*Changes Requiring Consent of All Holders.* First, there are changes that cannot be made to the indenture or the debt securities without the consent of each holder of a series of debt securities affected in any material respect by the change under a particular indenture. The following is a list of those types of changes:

change the stated maturity, if any, of the principal of a debt security;

reduce the interest on a debt security, except as may be permitted by the indenture;

reduce any amounts due on a debt security;

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reduce the amount of principal payable upon acceleration of the maturity of a debt security (including the amount payable on an original issue discount security) following a default;

change the currency of payment on a debt security;

change the place of payment for a debt security;

impair a holder's right to sue for payment;

impair a holder's right to require repurchase on the original terms of those debt securities that provide a right of repurchase;

reduce the percentage of holders of debt securities whose consent is needed to modify or amend the indenture;

reduce the percentage of holders of debt securities whose consent is needed to waive compliance with certain provisions of the indenture or to waive certain defaults; or

modify any other aspect of the provisions dealing with modification and waiver of the indenture.

*Changes Requiring a Majority Consent.* The second type of change to the indenture and the debt securities is the kind that requires the consent of holders of debt securities owning not less than a majority of the principal amount of the particular series affected. Most changes fall into this category, except for clarifying changes and certain other



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changes that would not adversely affect in any material respect holders of the debt securities. We may also obtain a waiver of a past default from the holders of debt securities owning a majority of the principal amount of the particular series affected. However, we cannot obtain a waiver of a payment default or any other aspect of the indenture or the debt securities listed in the first category described above under **Changes Requiring Consent of All Holders** unless we obtain the individual consent of each holder to the waiver.

*Changes Not Requiring Consent.* The third type of change to the indenture and the debt securities does not require the consent by holders of debt securities. This type is limited to the issuance of new series of debt securities under the indenture, clarifications and certain other changes that would not adversely affect in any material respect the interests of the holders of the debt securities of any series.

We may also make changes or obtain waivers that do not adversely affect in any material respect a particular debt security, even if they affect other debt securities. In those cases, we do not need to obtain the consent of the holder of the unaffected debt security; we need only obtain any required approvals from the holders of the affected debt securities.

*Modification of Subordination Provisions.* The fourth type of change to the indenture and the debt securities is the kind that requires the consent of the holders of a majority of the principal amount of all affected series of subordinated debt securities, voting together as one class. We may not modify the subordination provisions of the subordinated debt securities indentures in a manner that would adversely affect in any material respect the outstanding subordinated debt securities of any one or more series without the consent of the holders of a majority of the principal amount of all affected series of subordinated debt securities, voting together as one class.

*Further Details Concerning Voting.* When seeking consent, we will use the following rules to decide how much principal amount to attribute to a debt security:

For original issue discount securities, we will use the principal amount that would be due and payable on the voting date if the maturity of the debt securities were accelerated to that date because of a default.

For debt securities whose principal amount is not known, we will use a special rule for that debt security described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

For debt securities denominated in one or more non-U.S. currencies or currency units, we will use the U.S. dollar equivalent.

Debt securities will not be considered outstanding, and therefore not eligible to vote or take other action under the applicable indenture, if we have given a notice of redemption and deposited or set aside in trust for the holders money for the payment or redemption of those debt securities. Debt securities will also not be considered outstanding, and therefore not eligible to vote or take other action under the applicable indenture, if they have been fully defeased as described below under **Defeasance Full Defeasance** or if we or one of our affiliates is the beneficial owner of the debt securities.

We will generally be entitled to set any day as a record date for the purpose of determining the holders of outstanding debt securities that are entitled to vote or take other action under the applicable indenture. In certain limited circumstances, the trustees will be entitled to set a record date for action by holders. If the trustees or we set a record

date for a vote or other action to be taken by holders of a particular series, that vote or action may be taken only by persons who are holders of outstanding debt securities of that series on the record date. We or the trustees, as applicable, may shorten or lengthen this period from time to time. This period, however, may not extend beyond the 180th day after the record date for the action.

Book-entry and other indirect holders should consult their banks, brokers or other financial institutions for information on how approval may be granted or denied if we seek to change the indenture or the debt securities or request a waiver.

### **Special Provisions Related to the Subordinated Debt Securities**

The subordinated debt securities issued under the subordinated debt securities indentures will be our direct unsecured obligations constituting subordinated indebtedness for the purpose of the Bank Act and will therefore rank subordinate to our deposits. Holders of subordinated debt securities should recognize that contractual provisions in the subordinated debt securities indentures may prohibit us from making payments on these debt securities.

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If we become insolvent or are wound-up, the subordinated debt securities will rank subordinate in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all indebtedness of the Bank then outstanding, other than liabilities which, by their terms, rank in right of payment equally with or subordinate to the subordinated indebtedness, and in accordance with the terms of such liabilities or such other indebtedness under certain circumstances and, except as otherwise provided in an applicable prospectus supplement with respect to any series of subordinated debt securities, will rank equally with, but not prior to, all other Subordinated indebtedness.

For these purposes, indebtedness at any time means:

- (1) all deposit liabilities of the Bank; and
- (2) all other liabilities and obligations of the Bank which in accordance with the accounting rules established for Canadian chartered banks issued under the authority of the Superintendent appointed pursuant to OSFI pursuant to the Bank Act (Canada) or with International Financial Reporting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board, as the case may be, would be included in determining the total liabilities of the Bank at such time, other than liabilities for paid-up capital, contributed surplus, retained earnings and general reserves of the Bank.

Subordinated indebtedness at any time means:

- (1) the liability of the Bank in respect of the principal of and premium, if any, and interest on its outstanding subordinated indebtedness;
- (2) any indebtedness which ranks equally with and not prior to the outstanding subordinated indebtedness, in right of payment in the event of the insolvency or winding up of the Bank and which, pursuant to the terms of the instrument evidencing or creating the same, is expressed to be subordinate in right of payment to all indebtedness to which the outstanding subordinated indebtedness is subordinate in right of payment to at least the same extent as the outstanding subordinated indebtedness is subordinated thereto pursuant to the terms of the instrument evidencing or creating the same; and
- (3) any indebtedness which ranks subordinate to and not equally with or prior to the outstanding subordinated indebtedness, in right of payment in the event of the insolvency or winding-up of the Bank and which, pursuant to the terms of the instrument evidencing or creating the same, is expressed to be subordinate in right of payment to all indebtedness to which the outstanding subordinated indebtedness is subordinate in right of payment to at least the same extent as the outstanding subordinated indebtedness is subordinate pursuant to the terms of the instrument evidencing or creating the same.

The subordination provisions of the subordinated debt securities indentures are governed by the laws of the Province of Ontario and the federal laws of Canada applicable therein.

*Non-Viability Contingent Capital Provisions*

In accordance with capital adequacy requirements adopted by the OSFI, in order to qualify as regulatory capital, non-common capital instruments issued after January 1, 2013, including subordinated debt securities, must include terms providing for the full and permanent conversion of such securities into common shares of the Bank upon the occurrence of a Trigger Event (as defined herein) (the NVCC Provisions ).

Trigger Event has the meaning set out in the OSFI Guideline for Capital Adequacy Requirements (CAR), Chapter 2 Definition of Capital, dated December 2016, as such term may be amended or superseded by OSFI from time to time, which term currently provides that each of the following constitutes a Trigger Event:

the Superintendent publicly announces that the Bank has been advised, in writing, that the Superintendent is of the opinion that the Bank has ceased, or is about to cease, to be viable and that, after the conversion or write-off, as applicable, of all contingent instruments and taking into account any other factors or circumstances that are considered relevant or appropriate, it is reasonably likely that the viability of the Bank will be restored or maintained; or

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a federal or provincial government in Canada publicly announces that the Bank has accepted or agreed to accept a capital injection, or equivalent support, from the federal government or any provincial government or political subdivision or agent or agency thereof without which the Bank would have been determined by the Superintendent to be non-viable.

The specific terms of any NVCC Provisions for any subordinated debt securities that we issue under this prospectus will be described in one or more prospectus supplements relating to such subordinated debt securities.

If subordinated debt securities issued under the subordinated debt securities indentures are converted into common shares in accordance with NVCC Provisions, the rights, terms and conditions of such securities, including with respect to priority and rights on liquidation, will no longer be relevant (except under limited circumstances) as all such securities will have been converted on a full and permanent basis into common shares ranking on parity with all other outstanding common shares of the Bank.

The NVCC Provisions of the NVCC subordinated debt securities indenture (or in the subordinated debt securities indenture pursuant to any amendment or supplement thereto) will be governed by the laws of the Province of Ontario and the federal laws of Canada applicable therein.

The NVCC Provisions do not apply to senior debt securities offered under this prospectus.

## **Conversion or Exchange of Debt Securities**

If and to the extent mentioned in the applicable prospectus supplements, any debt securities may be optionally or mandatorily convertible or exchangeable for other securities of the Bank, into the cash value therefor or into any combination of the above. The specific terms on which any debt securities may be so converted or exchanged will be described in the applicable prospectus supplements. These terms may include provisions for conversion or exchange, either mandatory, at the holder's option or at our option, in which case the amount or number of securities the holders of the debt securities would receive would be calculated at the time and manner described in the applicable prospectus supplements.

## **Defeasance**

The following discussion of full defeasance and covenant defeasance will be applicable to each series of debt securities that is denominated in U.S. dollars and has a fixed rate of interest and will apply to other series of debt securities if we so specify in the applicable prospectus supplements. The following discussion of full defeasance and covenant defeasance will not be applicable to subordinated debt securities issued under the NVCC subordinated debt securities indenture.

*Full Defeasance.* If there is a change in U.S. federal income tax law, as described below, we can legally release ourselves from any payment or other obligations on the debt securities of a series, called full defeasance, if we put in place the following other arrangements for holders to be repaid:

We must deposit in trust for the benefit of all holders of the debt securities of that series a combination of money and notes or bonds of (i) the U.S. government or (ii) a U.S. government agency or U.S. government-sponsored entity, the obligations of which, in each case, are backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government, that will generate enough cash to make interest, principal and any other payments on the debt securities of that series on their various due dates.

There must be a change in current U.S. federal income tax law or a ruling by the United States Internal Revenue Service that lets us make the above deposit without causing the holders to be taxed on the debt securities of that series any differently than if we did not make the deposit and just repaid the debt securities of that series ourselves. (Under current U.S. federal income tax law, the deposit and our legal release from the obligations pursuant to the debt securities would be treated as though we took back your debt securities and gave you your share of the cash and notes or bonds deposited in trust. In that event, you could recognize gain or loss on the debt securities you give back to us.)

We must deliver to the trustees a legal opinion of our counsel confirming the tax-law change described above and that the holders of the debt securities of that series will not recognize income, gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a result of such deposit, defeasance and discharge and will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on the same amounts and in the same manner and at the same times as would be the case if such deposit, defeasance and discharge had not occurred.

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In the case of the subordinated debt securities, the following requirement must also be met:

No event or condition may exist that, under the provisions described under Special Provisions Related to the subordinated debt securities above, would prevent us from making payments of principal, premium or interest on those subordinated debt securities on the date of the deposit referred to above or during the 90 days after that date.

If we ever did accomplish full defeasance, as described above, you would have to rely solely on the trust deposit for repayment on the debt securities. You could not look to us for repayment in the event of any shortfall.

*Covenant Defeasance.* Even without a change in current U.S. federal income tax law, we can make the same type of deposit as described above, and we will be released from the restrictive covenants under the debt securities of a series that may be described in the applicable prospectus supplements. This is called covenant defeasance. In that event, you would lose the protection of these covenants but would gain the protection of having money and U.S. government, U.S. government agency or U.S. government-sponsored entity notes or bonds set aside in trust to repay the debt securities. In order to achieve covenant defeasance, we must do the following:

Deposit in trust for the benefit of all holders of the debt securities of that series a combination of money and notes or bonds of (i) the U.S. government or (ii) a U.S. government agency or U.S. government-sponsored entity, the obligations of which, in each case, are backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government, that will generate enough cash to make interest, principal and any other payments on the debt securities of that series on their various due dates

Deliver to the trustees a legal opinion of our counsel confirming that the holders of the debt securities of that series will not recognize income, gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a result of such deposit and covenant defeasance and will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on the same amounts and in the same manner and at the same times as would be the case if such deposit and covenant defeasance had not occurred.

If we accomplish covenant defeasance, certain provisions of the indentures and the debt securities would no longer apply:

Covenants applicable to the series of debt securities and described in the applicable prospectus supplements.

Any events of default relating to breach of those covenants.

If we accomplish covenant defeasance, you can still look to us for repayment of the debt securities if there were a shortfall in the trust deposit. In fact, if one of the remaining events of default occurs (such as a bankruptcy) and the debt securities become immediately due and payable, there may be such a shortfall.

## **Events of Default**

You will have special rights if an event of default occurs and is not cured, as described later in this subsection.

*What is an Event of Default?*

Under the senior debt securities indenture, the term *event of default* means in respect of any series of debt securities any of the following:

We do not pay the principal of or any premium on a debt security of that series within five days of its due date.

We do not pay interest on a debt security of that series for more than 30 days after its due date.

We file for bankruptcy or certain other events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization occur.

Any other event of default described in an applicable prospectus supplement occurs.



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Under the subordinated debt securities indenture, the term "event of default" in respect of any series of debt securities means any of the following:

We file for bankruptcy or certain other events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization occur.

Any other event of default described in an applicable prospectus supplement occurs.

Under the NVCC subordinated debt securities indenture, the term "event of default" in respect of any series of debt securities means we file for bankruptcy or certain other events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization occur. Neither the conversion of subordinated debt securities into common shares in accordance with NVCC Provisions, nor a default in the performance in any covenant of the Bank under such indenture, will constitute an event of default under the NVCC subordinated debt securities indenture or under the subordinated debt securities indenture (if the NVCC Provisions are included in the subordinated debt securities indenture pursuant to any amendment or supplement thereto).

*Remedies if an Event of Default Occurs.* If an event of default occurs, the trustees will have special duties. In that situation, the trustees will be obligated to use those of their rights and powers under the applicable indenture, and to use the same degree of care and skill in doing so, that a prudent person would use in that situation in conducting his or her own affairs.

With respect to the senior debt securities indenture and the subordinated debt securities indenture, if an event of default has occurred and has not been cured, the trustees or the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the debt securities of the affected series may declare the entire principal amount of (or, in the case of original issue discount securities, the portion of the principal amount that is specified in the terms of the affected debt security) and accrued and unpaid interest on all of the debt securities of that series to be due and immediately payable. This is called a declaration of acceleration of maturity. The declaration of acceleration of maturity is not, however, an automatic right upon the occurrence of an event of default, and for such acceleration to be effective, the trustees must take the aforementioned action or the holders must direct the trustees to act as described in this section below. Furthermore, a declaration of acceleration of maturity may be cancelled, but only before a judgment or decree based on the acceleration has been obtained, by the holders of at least a majority in principal amount of the debt securities of the affected series.

With respect to the NVCC subordinated debt securities indenture, if an event of default has occurred, and a Trigger Event has not occurred, the entire principal amount of and accrued and unpaid interest on all of the subordinated debt securities will become immediately due and payable without any declaration or other act on the part of the trustees or any holders of the subordinated debt securities.

If you are the holder of a subordinated debt security, the principal amount of the subordinated debt security will not be paid and may not be required to be paid at any time prior to the relevant maturity date, except in the event of our insolvency or winding-up

If any provisions of the Bank Act or any rules, regulations, orders or guidelines passed pursuant thereto or in connection therewith or guidelines issued by the Superintendent in relation thereto limit the payment of such unpaid principal and interest under the debt securities before a specified time, our obligation to make such payment will be subject to such limitation.

You should read carefully the applicable prospectus supplements relating to any series of debt securities which are original issue discount securities for the particular provisions relating to acceleration of the maturity of a portion of the principal amount of original issue discount securities upon the occurrence of an event of default and its continuation.

Except in cases of default in which the trustees have the special duties described above, the trustees are not required to take any action under the indenture at the request of any holders unless the holders offer the trustees reasonable protection from expenses and liability, called an indemnity, reasonably satisfactory to the trustees. If such an indemnity is provided, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the relevant series may direct the time, method and place of conducting any lawsuit or other formal legal action seeking any remedy available to the trustees. These majority holders may also direct the trustees in performing any other action under the applicable indenture with respect to the debt securities of that series.

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Before you bypass the trustees and bring your own lawsuit or other formal legal action or take other steps to enforce your rights or protect your interests relating to the debt securities the following must occur:

the holder of the debt security must give the trustees written notice that an event of default has occurred and remains uncured;

the holders of not less than 25% in principal amount of all outstanding debt securities of the relevant series, treated as one class, must make a written request that the trustees take action because of such event of default;

such holder or holders must offer reasonable indemnity to the trustees against the cost and other liabilities of taking that action;

the trustees must have not taken action for 90 days after receipt of the above notice and offer of indemnity; and

the trustees have not received any direction from a majority in principal amount of all outstanding debt securities that is inconsistent with such written request during such 90-day period.

However, you are entitled at any time to bring a lawsuit for the payment of money due on your debt security on or after its due date.

**BOOK-ENTRY AND OTHER INDIRECT HOLDERS SHOULD CONSULT THEIR BANKS, BROKERS OR OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO GIVE NOTICE OR DIRECTION TO OR MAKE A REQUEST OF THE TRUSTEES AND TO MAKE OR CANCEL A DECLARATION OF ACCELERATION**

We will give to the trustees every year a written statement of certain of our officers certifying that to their knowledge we are in compliance with the applicable indenture and the debt securities issued under it, or else specifying any default.

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**DESCRIPTION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE DEBT SECURITIES WE MAY OFFER**

**Form, Exchange and Transfer**

Unless we specify otherwise in an applicable prospectus supplement, the debt securities will be issued:

only in fully-registered form;

without interest coupons; and

in denominations of US\$2,000 and integral multiples of US\$1,000 in excess thereof.

If a debt security is issued as a registered global debt security, as the case may be, only the depository such as DTC, Euroclear and Clearstream, each as defined below under Legal Ownership and Book-Entry Issuance will be entitled to transfer and exchange the debt security, as described in this subsection because the depository will be the sole registered holder of such debt security and is referred to below as the holder. Those who own beneficial interests in a global debt security do so through participants in the depository's securities clearance system, and the rights of these indirect owners will be governed by the applicable procedures of the depository and its participants. We describe book-entry procedures below under Legal Ownership and Book-Entry Issuance.

Holders of debt securities issued in fully-registered form may have their debt securities broken into more debt securities of smaller authorized denominations or combined into fewer debt securities of larger authorized denominations, as long as the total principal amount is not changed. This is called an exchange.

Holders may exchange or register the transfer of debt securities at the office of the applicable trustee. Debt securities may be transferred by endorsement. Holders may also replace lost, stolen or mutilated debt securities at that office. The trustees act as our agents for registering debt securities in the names of holders and registering the transfer of debt securities. We may change this appointment to another entity or perform it ourselves. The entity performing the role of maintaining the list of registered holders is called the security registrar. It will also record transfers. The applicable trustee may require an indemnity before replacing any debt securities.

Holders will not be required to pay a service charge to register the transfer or exchange of debt securities, but holders may be required to pay for any tax or other governmental charge associated with the exchange or transfer. The registration of a transfer or exchange will only be made if the security registrar is satisfied with your proof of ownership.

If we designate additional agents, they will be named in the applicable prospectus supplements. We may cancel the designation of any particular agent. We may also approve a change in the office through which any agent acts.

If the debt securities are redeemable and we redeem less than all of the debt securities of a particular series, we may block the registration of transfer or exchange of debt securities during the period beginning 15 days before the day we mail the notice of redemption and ending on the day of that mailing, in order to freeze the list of holders entitled to receive the mailing. We may also refuse to register transfers or exchanges of debt securities selected for redemption, except that we will continue to permit registration of transfers and exchanges of the unredeemed portion of any debt security being partially redeemed.

## **The Trustees**

Computershare Trust Company, National Association and Computershare Trust Company of Canada serve as the trustees for our senior debt securities.

Computershare Trust Company, National Association and Computershare Trust Company of Canada also serve as the trustees for the subordinated debt securities.

The trustees make no representation or warranty, whether express or implied, with respect to the Bank, the debt securities and other matters described in this prospectus. The trustees have not prepared or reviewed any of the information included in this prospectus, except the trustees have consented to the use of their names. Such approval does not constitute a representation or approval by the trustees of the accuracy or sufficiency of any information contained in this prospectus.

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### **Payment and Paying Agents**

In accordance with and subject to the specific terms of any debt securities, we will pay interest to the person listed in the trustees' records at the close of business on a particular day in advance of each due date for interest, even if that person no longer owns the debt security on the interest due date. That particular day, usually about two weeks in advance of the interest due date, is called the regular record date and will be stated in an applicable prospectus supplement. Holders buying and selling debt securities must work out between them how to compensate for the fact that we will pay all the interest for an interest period to the one who is the registered holder on the regular record date. The most common manner is to adjust the sale price of the debt securities to prorate interest fairly between buyer and seller. This prorated interest amount is called accrued interest.

We will pay interest, principal and any other money due on the debt securities at the corporate trust office of Computershare Trust Company, National Association or such other office as may be agreed upon. Holders must make arrangements to have their payments picked up at or wired from that office or such other office as may be agreed upon. We may also choose to pay interest by mailing checks.

### **BOOK-ENTRY AND OTHER INDIRECT HOLDERS SHOULD CONSULT THEIR BANKS, BROKERS OR OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS FOR INFORMATION ON HOW THEY WILL RECEIVE PAYMENTS**

We may also arrange for additional payment offices and may cancel or change these offices, including our use of the trustees' corporate trust offices. These offices are called paying agents. We may also choose to act as our own paying agent or choose one of our subsidiaries to do so. We must notify holders of changes in the paying agents for any particular series of debt securities.

### **Notices**

We and the trustees will send notices regarding the debt securities only to registered holders, using their addresses as listed in the trustees' records. With respect to who is a registered holder for this purpose, see [Legal Ownership and Book-Entry Issuance](#).

Regardless of who acts as paying agent, all money paid by us to a paying agent that remains unclaimed at the end of two years after the amount is due to holders will be repaid to us. After that two-year period, holders may look to us for payment and not to the trustees or any other paying agent.

### **LEGAL OWNERSHIP AND BOOK-ENTRY ISSUANCE**

In this section, we describe special considerations that will apply to registered debt securities issued in global i.e., book-entry, form. First we describe the difference between registered ownership and indirect ownership of registered debt securities. Then we describe special provisions that apply to global debt securities.

#### **Who is the Legal Owner of a Registered Security?**

Each debt security will be represented either by a certificate issued in definitive form to a particular investor or by one or more global debt securities representing debt securities. We refer to those who have debt securities registered in their own names, on the books that we or the trustees maintain for this purpose, as the registered holders of those debt securities. Subject to limited exceptions, we and the trustees are entitled to treat the registered holder of a debt security as the person exclusively entitled to vote, to receive notices, to receive any interest or other payment in respect of the

debt security and to exercise all the rights and power as an owner of the debt security. We refer to those who own beneficial interests in debt securities that are not registered in their own names as indirect owners of those debt securities. As we discuss below, indirect owners are not registered holders, and investors in debt securities issued in book-entry form or in street name will be indirect owners.

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*Book-Entry Owners.* Unless otherwise noted in an applicable prospectus supplement, we will issue each debt security in book-entry form only. This means debt securities will be represented by one or more global debt securities registered in the name of a financial institution that holds them as depository on behalf of other financial institutions that participate in the depository's book-entry system. These participating institutions, in turn, hold beneficial interests in the debt securities on behalf of themselves or their customers.

Under each indenture (and the Bank Act in the case of subordinated indebtedness), subject to limited exceptions and applicable law, only the person in whose name a debt security is registered is recognized as the holder of that debt security. Consequently, for debt securities issued in global form, we will recognize only the depository as the holder of the debt securities and we will make all payments on the debt securities, including deliveries of any property other than cash, to the depository. The depository passes along the payments it receives to its participants, which in turn pass the payments along to their customers who are the beneficial owners. The depository and its participants do so under agreements they have made with one another or with their customers; they are not obligated to do so under the terms of the debt securities.

As a result, investors will not own debt securities directly. Instead, they will own beneficial interests in a global debt security, through a bank, broker or other financial institution that participates in the depository's book-entry system or holds an interest through a participant. As long as the debt securities are issued in global form, investors will be indirect owners, and not registered holders, of the debt securities.

*Street Name Owners.* We may issue debt securities initially in non-global form or we may terminate an existing global debt security, as described below under *Holder's Option to Obtain a Non-Global Debt Security; Special Situations When a Global Debt Security Will Be Terminated*. In these cases, investors may choose to hold their debt securities in their own names or in street name. Debt securities held by an investor in street name would be registered in the name of a bank, broker or other financial institution that the investor chooses, and the investor would hold only a beneficial interest in those debt securities through an account he or she maintains at that institution.

For debt securities held in street name, we will, subject to limited exceptions and applicable law, recognize only the intermediary banks, brokers and other financial institutions in whose names the debt securities are registered as the holders of those debt securities, and we will make all payments on those debt securities, including deliveries of any property other than cash, to them. These institutions pass along the payments they receive to their customers who are the beneficial owners, but only because they agree to do so in their customer agreements or because they are legally required to do so. Investors who hold debt securities in street name will be indirect owners, not registered holders, of those debt securities.

*Registered Holders.* Subject to limited exceptions, our obligations, as well as the obligations of the trustees under any indenture and the obligations, if any, of any other third parties employed by us, run only to the registered holders of the debt securities. We do not have obligations to investors who hold beneficial interests in global debt securities, in street name or by any other indirect means. This will be the case whether an investor chooses to be an indirect owner of a debt security or has no choice because we are issuing the debt securities only in global form.

For example, once we make a payment or give a notice to the registered holder, we have no further responsibility for that payment or notice even if that holder is required, under agreements with depository participants or customers or by law, to pass it along to the indirect owners but does not do so. Similarly, if we want to obtain the approval of the holders for any purpose—for example, to amend the indenture for a series of debt securities or to relieve us of the consequences of a default or of our obligation to comply with a particular provision of an indenture—we would seek the approval only from the registered holders, and not the indirect owners, of the relevant debt securities. Whether and how the registered holders contact the indirect owners is up to the registered holders.



When we refer to *you* in this prospectus, we mean all purchasers of the debt securities being offered by this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplements, whether they are the registered holders or only indirect owners of those debt securities. When we refer to *your debt securities* in this prospectus, we mean the debt securities in which you will hold a direct or indirect interest.

*Special Considerations for Indirect Owners.* If you hold debt securities through a bank, broker or other financial institution, either in book-entry form or in street name, you should check with your own institution to find out:

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how it handles securities payments and notices;

whether it imposes fees or charges;

how it would handle a request for the holders' consent, if ever required;

how it would exercise rights under the debt securities if there were a default or other event triggering the need for holders to act to protect their interests; and

if the debt securities are in book-entry form, how the depository's rules and procedures will affect these matters.

**What is a Global Debt Security?**

Unless otherwise noted in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will issue each debt security in book-entry form only. Each debt security issued in book-entry form will be represented by a global debt security that we deposit with and register in the name of one or more financial institutions or clearing systems, or their nominees, which we select. A financial institution or clearing system that we select for any debt security for this purpose is called the depository for that debt security. A debt security will usually have only one depository but it may have more. Each series of debt securities will have one or more of the following as the depositories:

The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York, which is known as DTC ;

Euroclear Bank S.A./N.V., as operator of the Euroclear System, which is known as Euroclear ;

Clearstream Banking, *société anonyme*, which is known as Clearstream ; or

any other clearing system or financial institution named in the applicable prospectus supplements.

The depositories named above may also be participants in one another's systems. Thus, for example, if DTC is the depository for a global debt security, investors may hold beneficial interests in that debt security through Euroclear or Clearstream, as DTC participants. The depository or depositories for your debt securities will be named in the applicable prospectus supplements; if none is named, the depository will be DTC.

A global debt security may represent one or any other number of individual debt securities. Generally, all debt securities represented by the same global debt security will have the same terms. We may, however, issue a global debt security that represents multiple debt securities of the same kind, such as debt securities that have different terms and are issued at different times. We call this kind of global debt security a master global debt security. The applicable prospectus supplements will not indicate whether your debt securities are represented by a master global debt security.

A global debt security may not be transferred to or registered in the name of anyone other than the depositary or its nominee, unless special termination situations arise. We describe those situations below under **Holder's Option to Obtain a Non-Global Debt Security; Special Situations When a Global Debt Security Will Be Terminated**. As a result of these arrangements, the depositary, or its nominee, will be the sole registered owner and holder of all debt securities represented by a global debt security, and investors will be permitted to own only indirect interests in a global debt security. Indirect interests must be held by means of an account with a broker, bank or other financial institution that in turn has an account with the depositary or with another institution that does. Thus, an investor whose debt security is represented by a global debt security will not be a holder of the debt security, but only an indirect owner of an interest in the global debt security.

If an applicable prospectus supplement for a particular debt security indicates that the debt security will be issued in global form only, then the debt security will be represented by a global debt security at all times unless and until the global debt security is terminated. We describe the situations in which this can occur below under **Holder's Option to Obtain a Non-Global Debt Security; Special Situations When a Global Debt Security Will Be Terminated**. If termination occurs, we may issue the debt securities through another book-entry clearing system or decide that the debt securities may no longer be held t