

BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA  
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(To Prospectus dated December 1, 2014)

and Prospectus Supplement dated December 1, 2014)

July 31, 2015

### **STEP Income Securities<sup>®</sup> Linked to a Single Equity Security**

The STEP Income Securities<sup>®</sup> (the “**notes**”) are unsecured senior debt securities issued by The Bank of Nova Scotia (the “**Bank**”). All payments due on the notes, including any repayment of principal, will be subject to the credit risk of the Bank.

The notes do not guarantee the return of principal at maturity. Instead, the return on the notes will be based on the performance of an underlying “**Market Measure**,” which will be the common equity securities of a company other than us, the agents, and our respective affiliates (the “**Underlying Stock**”).

The notes pay a fixed interest rate over their term and provide an opportunity to earn an additional fixed payment at maturity (the “**Step Payment**”). However, your payment at maturity will be exposed to any negative performance of the Underlying Stock below the Threshold Value (as defined below) on a 1-to-1 basis.

If the value of the Underlying Stock increases from its Starting Value to an Ending Value (each as defined below) that is greater than or equal to a specified “**Step Level**,” the cash payment per unit at maturity (the “**Redemption Amount**”) will equal the principal amount plus the Step Payment. Your maximum return on the notes will equal the interest payments plus the Step Payment, if any.

If the Ending Value is less than the Step Level, but greater than or equal to the Threshold Value, you will receive your principal amount at maturity. However, if the Ending Value is less than the Threshold Value, you will be subject to 1-to-1 downside exposure to the decrease of the Underlying Stock below the Threshold Value. In such case, you may lose all or a significant portion of the principal amount of your notes.

This product prospectus supplement describes the general terms of the notes, the risk factors to consider before investing, the general manner in which they may be offered and sold, and other relevant information.

For each offering of the notes, we will provide you with a pricing supplement (which we refer to as a “**term sheet**”) that will describe the specific terms of that offering, including the specific Underlying Stock, the Threshold Value, the Step Level, the Step Payment, the interest rate, the interest payment dates, and certain related risk factors. The term sheet will identify, if applicable, any additions or changes to the terms specified in this product prospectus supplement.

The notes will be issued in denominations of whole units. Unless otherwise set forth in the applicable term sheet, each unit will have a principal amount of \$10. The term sheet may also set forth a minimum number of units that you must purchase.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable term sheet, the notes will not be listed on a securities exchange or quotation system.

Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated (“**MLPF&S**”) and one or more of its affiliates may act as our agents to offer the notes and will act in a principal capacity in such role.

*The notes are unsecured and are not savings accounts or insured deposits of a bank. The notes are not insured by the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation, the U.S. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (the “**FDIC**”) or any other governmental agency of the United States, Canada, or any other jurisdiction. Potential purchasers of the notes should*

*consider the information in “Risk Factors” beginning on page PS-6 of this product prospectus supplement, page S-2 of the accompanying prospectus supplement, and page 6 of the accompanying prospectus. **You may lose all or a significant portion of your principal amount of the notes.***

*None of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”), any state securities commission, or any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this product prospectus supplement, the prospectus supplement, or the prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.*

**Merrill Lynch & Co.**

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“STEP Income Securities®” and “STEPS” are registered service marks of Bank of America Corporation, the parent corporation of MLPF&S.

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## SUMMARY

The information in this “Summary” section is qualified in its entirety by the more detailed explanation set forth elsewhere in this product prospectus supplement, the prospectus supplement, and the prospectus, as well as the applicable term sheet. Neither we nor MLPF&S have authorized any other person to provide you with any information different from the information set forth in these documents. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information about the notes, you should not rely on it.

### Key Terms:

The notes are senior unsecured debt securities issued by the Bank, are not guaranteed or insured by the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation or the FDIC, and are not, either directly or indirectly, an obligation of any third party. They rank equally with all of our other unsecured senior debt from time to time outstanding. **All payments due on the notes, including any repayment of principal, are subject to our credit risk.**

### General:

The return on the notes will be based on the performance of an Underlying Stock, and there is no guaranteed return of principal at maturity. Therefore, you may lose all or a significant portion of your principal amount if the value of the Underlying Stock decreases from the Starting Value to an Ending Value that is less than the Threshold Value.

### Underlying Stock:

Each issue of the notes will mature on the date set forth in the applicable term sheet. We cannot redeem the notes at any earlier date; however, the maturity date of the notes may be accelerated under the limited circumstances set forth below. We will make periodic interest payments on the notes at the fixed rate specified in the applicable term sheet.

The common equity securities of a company (the “**Underlying Company**”) represented either by a class of equity securities registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “**Exchange Act**”), or by American Depositary Receipts (“**ADRs**”) registered under the Exchange Act. The performance of the Underlying Stock will be measured according to the percentage change of the Underlying Stock from its Starting Value to its Ending Value.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable term sheet:

The “**Starting Value**” will be the price of the Underlying Stock on the date when the notes are priced for initial sale to the public (the “**pricing date**”), determined as set forth in the applicable term sheet.

**Underlying Stock Performance:** The “**Threshold Value**” will be a price of the Underlying Stock that equals a specified percentage (100% or less) of the Starting Value. The Threshold Value will be determined on the pricing date and set forth in the term sheet. If the Threshold Value is equal to 100% of the Starting Value, you will be exposed to any decrease in the value of the Underlying Stock from the Starting Value to the Ending Value on a 1-to-1 basis, and you may lose all of your principal amount of the notes.

The “**Ending Value**” will equal the Closing Market Price (as defined below) of the Underlying Stock on the valuation date multiplied by the Price Multiplier (as defined below) on that day.

If a Market Disruption Event (as defined below) occurs and is continuing on the

valuation date, or if certain other events occur, the calculation agent will determine the Ending Value as set forth in the section “Description of the Notes—The Starting Value and the Ending Value—Ending Value.”

**Price Multiplier:** Unless otherwise set forth in the term sheet, the “**Price Multiplier**” for the Underlying Stock will be 1, and will be subject to adjustment for certain corporate events relating to the Underlying Stock described below under “Description of the Notes—Anti-Dilution Adjustments.” **Redemption Amount at Maturity:**

At maturity, you will receive a Redemption Amount that will equal the principal amount plus the Step Payment if the Ending Value is greater than or equal to the Step Level. If the Ending Value is less than the Step Level, but is greater than or equal to the Threshold Value, then the Redemption Amount will equal the principal amount. If the Ending Value is less than the Threshold Value, you will be subject to 1-to-1 downside exposure to the decrease of the Underlying Stock below the Threshold Value, and will receive a Redemption Amount that is less than the principal amount.

**All payments due on the notes, including any repayment of principal, are subject to our credit risk as issuer of the notes.**

The Redemption Amount, denominated in U.S. dollars, will be calculated as follows:

**Principal at Risk:** You may lose all or a significant portion of the principal amount of the notes. Further, if you sell your notes prior to maturity, you may find that the market value per note is less than the price that you paid for the notes. **Calculation Agent:** The calculation agent will make all determinations associated with the notes. Unless otherwise set forth in the applicable term sheet, we will appoint MLPF&S or one of its affiliates to act as calculation agent for the notes. See the section entitled

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“Description of the Notes—Role of the Calculation Agent.” **Agents:**MLPF&S and one or more of its affiliates will act as our agents in connection with each offering of the notes and will receive an underwriting discount based on the number of units of the notes sold. None of the agents is your fiduciary or advisor solely as a result of the making of any offering of the notes, and you should not rely upon this product prospectus supplement, the term sheet, or the accompanying prospectus or prospectus supplement as investment advice or a recommendation to purchase the notes. **Listing:**Unless otherwise specified in the applicable term sheet, the notes will not be listed on a securities exchange or quotation system.

This product prospectus supplement relates only to the notes and does not relate to the Underlying Stock described in any term sheet. You should read carefully the entire prospectus, prospectus supplement, and product prospectus supplement, together with the applicable term sheet, to understand fully the terms of your notes, as well as the tax and other considerations important to you in making a decision about whether to invest in any notes. In particular, you should review carefully the sections in this product prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus supplement and prospectus entitled “Risk Factors,” which highlight a number of risks of an investment in the notes, to determine whether an investment in the notes is appropriate for you. If information in this product prospectus supplement is inconsistent with the prospectus or prospectus supplement, this product prospectus supplement will supersede those documents. However, if information in any term sheet is inconsistent with this product prospectus supplement, that term sheet will supersede this product prospectus supplement.

Neither we nor any agent is making an offer to sell the notes in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. This product supplement and the accompanying prospectus supplement and prospectus are not an offer to sell these notes to anyone and are not soliciting an offer to buy these notes from anyone in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Certain capitalized terms used and not defined in this product prospectus supplement have the meanings ascribed to them in the prospectus supplement and prospectus. Unless otherwise indicated or unless the context requires otherwise, all references in this product prospectus supplement to “we,” “us,” “our,” or similar references are to the Bank.

You are urged to consult with your own attorneys and business and tax advisors before making a decision to purchase any notes.

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## RISK FACTORS

*Your investment in the notes is subject to investment risks, many of which differ from those of a conventional debt security. Your decision to purchase the notes should be made only after carefully considering the risks, including those discussed below, in light of your particular circumstances. The notes are not an appropriate investment for you if you are not knowledgeable about the material terms of the notes or investments in equity or equity-based securities in general.*

### General Risks Relating to the Notes

**Your investment may result in a loss; there is no guaranteed return of principal.** There is no fixed principal repayment amount on the notes at maturity. The return on the notes will be based on the performance of the Underlying Stock and therefore, you may lose all or a significant portion of your principal amount if the value of the Underlying Stock decreases from the Starting Value to an Ending Value that is less than the Threshold Value. The historical prices of the Underlying Stock are not indicative of its future performance or the performance of your notes.

**You will not receive a Step Payment at maturity unless the Ending Value of the Underlying Stock is greater than or equal to the Step Level on the valuation date.** If the Ending Value of your notes is less than the Step Level on the valuation date, you will not receive a Step Payment on the maturity date. This will be the case even if the value of the Underlying Stock to which your notes are linked is equal to or greater than the Step Level at certain points during the term of the notes.

**Your return on the notes may be less than the yield on a conventional fixed or floating rate debt security of comparable maturity.** The return that you receive on the notes may be less than the return you would earn if you purchased a conventional debt security with the same maturity date. As a result, your investment in the notes may not reflect the full opportunity cost to you when you consider factors, such as inflation, that affect the time value of money.

**Your investment return is limited to the return represented by the periodic interest payments over the term of the notes and the Step Payment, if any, and may be less than a comparable investment directly in the Underlying Stock.** Your return on the notes is based on the periodic interest payments over the term of the notes and on the performance of the Underlying Stock from the Starting Value to the Ending Value. However, your return on the notes will never exceed the sum of (i) the periodic interest payments over the term of the notes and (ii) the Step Payment, if any, at maturity, regardless of the extent to which the Ending Value exceeds the Step Level. In contrast, a direct investment in the Underlying Stock would allow you to receive the full benefit of any appreciation in the value of the Underlying Stock.

In addition, unless otherwise set forth in the applicable term sheet or in this product prospectus supplement under “Description of the Notes—Anti-Dilution Adjustments,” the Ending Value will not reflect the value of dividends paid, or distributions made, on the Underlying Stock, or any other rights associated with the Underlying Stock. Your return on the notes will not reflect the return you would realize if you actually owned shares of the Underlying Stock.

**Payments on the notes are subject to our credit risk, and actual or perceived changes in our creditworthiness are expected to affect the value of the notes.** The notes are our senior unsecured debt securities, and are not, either directly or indirectly, an obligation of any third party. As a result, your receipt of the interest payments on the notes and the

Redemption Amount at maturity is dependent upon our ability to repay our obligations on the payment dates, regardless of whether the Underlying Stock increases from the Starting Value to the Ending Value. No assurance can be given as to what our financial condition will be on any payment date. If we become unable to meet our financial obligations as they become due, you may not receive the amounts payable under the terms of the notes.

In addition, our credit ratings are an assessment by ratings agencies of our ability to pay our obligations. Consequently, our perceived creditworthiness and actual or anticipated decreases in our credit ratings or increases in the spread between the yield on our securities and the yield on U.S. Treasury securities (the “**credit spread**”) prior to the maturity date may adversely affect the market value of the notes. However, because your return on the notes depends upon factors in addition to our ability to pay our obligations, such as the value of the Underlying Stock, an improvement in our credit ratings will not reduce the other investment risks related to the notes.

**The notes may be subject to write-off, write-down or conversion under current and proposed Canadian resolution powers.** The Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation, Canada’s resolution authority, was granted additional powers in 2009 to transfer certain assets and liabilities of a bank to a newly created “bridge bank” for such consideration as it determines in the event of a bank getting into distress, presumably to facilitate a sale of the bank to another financial institution as a going concern. Upon exercise of such power, any remaining assets and liabilities would remain with the “bad bank” which would then be wound up. In this scenario, any liabilities of the Bank, such as the notes, that remain with the “bad bank” would be effectively written off or subject to only partial repayment in the ensuing winding-up.

On August 1, 2014, the Canadian Department of Finance issued for comment the “Taxpayer Protection and Bank Recapitalization Regime: Consultation Paper” which outlines a proposed bail-in regime applicable to Canada’s domestic systemically important banks (“**D-SIBs**”), which include the Bank, in line with key international standards such as the Financial Stability Board’s “Key Attributes of Effective Resolution Regimes for Financial Institutions”. This consultation paper follows a previous announcement made in Canada’s federal budget released on March 21, 2013. Under the proposed regime, the Government of Canada would be granted two significant conversion powers (the “**Bail-In Conversion Powers**”) with respect to D-SIBs’ outstanding capital and debt: (i) first, the Government would be granted the power to permanently convert “eligible liabilities” of the D-SIB (“eligible liabilities” consisting solely of long term senior debt, which is senior unsecured debt that is tradable and transferable with an original term of over 400 days) into common equity, and (ii) the Government would be granted the power to permanently cancel existing shares of the D-SIB. Each of those powers would only be exercisable if two preconditions were met: (a) the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions would need to have determined that the D-SIB has ceased or is about to cease being viable and (b) the full conversion of the D-SIB’s outstanding nonviable contingent capital instruments (such as the notes), following the occurrence of a Trigger Event (as that term is defined in the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions Canada Guideline for Capital Adequacy Requirements, Chapter 2 – Definition of Capital, dated December 2014, as such term may be amended or superseded from time to time) would need to have occurred. The Bail-In Conversion Powers would apply only to “eligible liabilities” issued after the implementation of the proposed regime with no retroactive application to existing debt.

In the federal budget plan released on April 21, 2015, the GOC confirmed its intention to move forward with the Taxpayer Protection and Bank Recapitalization Regime, although no firm timetable was provided. If this proposed regime is implemented as currently proposed, any notes issued after such implementation that fall within the scope of eligible liabilities would be subject to the conversion powers described above and holders of such notes may receive



common shares of the Bank in exchange for their notes in the event that the Bank ceases or is about to cease being viable. The implementation of the proposed bail-in regime could adversely affect the Bank's cost of funding and the value of notes. However, the proposed regime has not yet been finalized and is subject to change.

**Our initial estimated value of the notes will be lower than the public offering price of the notes.** Our initial estimated value of the notes is only an estimate. The public offering price of the notes will exceed our initial estimated value because it includes costs associated with selling and structuring the notes, as well as hedging our obligations under the notes with a third party, which may include MLPF&S or one of its affiliates. These costs include the underwriting discount and an expected hedging related charge.

**Our initial estimated value of the notes does not represent future values of the notes and may differ from others' estimates.** Our initial estimated value of the notes is determined by reference to our internal pricing models when the terms of notes are set. These pricing models consider certain factors, such as our internal funding rate (which is the rate we would pay to borrow funds through the issuance of market-linked notes, such as the notes) on the pricing date, the expected term of the notes, market conditions and other relevant factors existing at that time, and our assumptions about market parameters, which can include volatility, dividend rates, interest rates and other factors. Different pricing models and assumptions could provide valuations for the notes that are different from our initial estimated value. In addition, our pricing models are proprietary and rely in part on certain forecasts about future market conditions and other relevant factors, which may change in the future, and any of our assumptions may prove to be incorrect. On future dates, the market value of the notes could change significantly based on, among other things, the performance of the Underlying Stock, changes in market conditions, our creditworthiness, interest rate movements and other relevant factors. These factors, together with various credit, market and economic factors over the term of the notes, are expected to reduce the price at which you may be able to sell the notes in any secondary market and will affect the value of the notes in complex and unpredictable ways.

**Our initial estimated value is not determined by reference to credit spreads or the borrowing rate we would pay for our conventional fixed-rate debt securities.** The internal funding rate used in the determination of our initial estimated value of the notes generally represents a discount from the credit spreads for our conventional fixed-rate debt securities and the borrowing rate we would pay for our conventional fixed-rate debt securities. If we were to use the interest rate implied by the credit spreads for our conventional fixed-rate debt securities, or the borrowing rate we would pay for our conventional fixed-rate debt securities, we would expect the economic terms of the notes to be more favorable to you. Consequently, our use of an internal funding rate for the notes would have an adverse effect on the economic terms of the notes, the initial estimated value of the notes on the pricing date, and the price at which you may be able to sell the notes in any secondary market.

**The initial estimated value of the notes on the pricing date does not represent the price at which we, MLPF&S, or any of our respective affiliates would be willing to purchase your notes in the secondary market at any time.** Assuming no changes in market conditions or our creditworthiness and other relevant factors, the price, if any, at which, we, MLPF&S, or any of our respective affiliates would be willing to purchase the notes from you in secondary market transactions, if at all, would generally be lower than both the public offering price and the initial estimated value of the notes on the pricing date. MLPF&S has advised us that any repurchases by them or their affiliates are expected to be made at prices determined by reference to their pricing models and at their discretion. These prices will reflect MLPF&S's trading commissions and mark-ups and may differ materially from the initial

estimated value of the notes determined by reference to our internal funding rate and pricing models.

**We cannot assure you that there will be a trading market for your notes.** If a secondary market exists, we cannot predict how the notes will trade, or whether that market will be liquid or illiquid. The development of a trading market for the notes will depend on various factors, including our financial performance and changes in the value of the Underlying Stock. The number of potential buyers of your notes in any secondary market may be limited. There is no assurance that any party will be willing to purchase your notes at any price in any secondary market.

We anticipate that one or more of the agents will act as a market-maker for the notes, but none of them is required to do so and may cease to do so at any time. Any price at which an agent may bid for, offer, purchase, or sell any notes may be higher or lower than the applicable public offering price, and that price may differ from the values determined by pricing models that it may use, whether as a result of dealer discounts, mark-ups, or other transaction costs. These bids, offers, or transactions may adversely affect the prices, if any, at which those notes might otherwise trade in the market. In addition, if at any time any agent were to cease acting as a market-maker for any issue of the notes, it is likely that there would be significantly less liquidity in that secondary market. In such a case, the price at which those notes could be sold likely would be lower than if an active market existed.

Unless otherwise stated in the term sheet, we will not list the notes on any securities exchange. Even if an application were made to list your notes, we cannot assure you that the application will be approved or that your notes will be listed and, if listed, that they will remain listed for their entire term. The listing of the notes on any securities exchange will not necessarily ensure that a trading market will develop, and if a trading market does develop, that there will be liquidity in the trading market.

**The Redemption Amount will not reflect changes in the value of the Underlying Stock other than on the valuation date.** Changes in the value of the Underlying Stock during the term of the notes other than on the valuation date will not be reflected in the calculation of the Redemption Amount. To calculate the Redemption Amount, the calculation agent will compare only the Ending Value to the Step Level or the Threshold Value, as applicable. No other values of the Underlying Stock will be taken into account. As a result, even if the value of the Underlying Stock has increased at certain times during the term of the notes, you will receive a Redemption Amount that is less than the principal amount if the Ending Value is less than the Threshold Value.

**If you attempt to sell the notes prior to maturity, their market value, if any, will be affected by various factors that interrelate in complex ways, and their market value may be less than the principal amount.** The notes are not designed to be short-term trading instruments. The limited protection, if any, against the risk of losses provided by the Threshold Value will only apply if you hold the notes to maturity. You have no right to have your notes redeemed prior to maturity. If you wish to liquidate your investment in the notes prior to maturity, your only option would be to sell them. At that time, there may be an illiquid market for the notes or no market at all. Even if you were able to sell the notes, there are many factors outside of our control that may affect their market value, some of which, but not all, are stated below. The impact of any one factor may be offset or magnified by the effect of another factor. The following paragraphs describe a specific factor's expected impact on the market value of the notes, assuming all other conditions remain constant.

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**Value of the Underlying Stock.** We anticipate that the market value of the notes prior to maturity generally will depend to a significant extent on the value of the Underlying Stock. In general, it is expected that the market value of the notes will decrease as the value of the Underlying Stock decreases, and increase as the value of the Underlying Stock increases (up to the Step Level). However, as the value of the Underlying Stock increases or decreases, the market value of the notes is not expected to increase or decrease at the same rate. If you sell your notes when the value of the Underlying Stock is less than, or not sufficiently above, the Threshold Value, then you may receive less than the principal amount of your notes.

In addition, we do not expect that the notes will trade in any secondary market at a price that is greater than the sum of the principal amount, the value of any remaining interest payments and the Step Payment.

**Volatility of the Underlying Stock.** Volatility is the term used to describe the size and frequency of market fluctuations. Increases or decreases in the volatility of the Underlying Stock may have an adverse impact on the market value of the notes. Even if the value of the Underlying Stock increases after the applicable pricing date, if you are able to sell your notes before their maturity date, you may receive substantially less than the amount that would be payable at maturity based on that value because of the anticipation that the value of the Underlying Stock will continue to fluctuate until the Ending Value is determined.

**Economic and Other Conditions Generally.** The general economic conditions of the capital markets in the United States, as well as geopolitical conditions and other financial, political, regulatory, and judicial events and related uncertainties that affect stock markets generally, may adversely affect the value of the Underlying Stock and the market value of the notes.

**Interest Rates.** We expect that changes in interest rates will affect the market value of the notes. In general, if U.S. interest rates increase, we expect that the market value of the notes will decrease, and conversely, if U.S. interest rates decrease, we expect that the market value of the notes will increase. In general, we expect that the longer the amount of time that remains until maturity, the more significant the impact of these changes will be on the value of the notes. The level of interest rates also may affect the U.S. economy and any applicable market outside of the U.S., and, in turn, the value of the Underlying Stock, and, thus, the market value of the notes may be adversely affected. If the Underlying Stock is an ADR, the level of interest rates in the relevant foreign country may affect the economy of that foreign country and, in turn, the value of the ADR, and, thus, the market value of the notes may be adversely affected.

**Dividend Yields.** In general, if the cumulative dividend yield on the Underlying Stock increases, we anticipate that the market value of the notes will decrease; conversely, if that dividend yield decreases, we anticipate that the market value of your notes will increase.

**Our Financial Condition and Creditworthiness.** Our perceived creditworthiness, including any increases in our credit spreads and any actual or anticipated decreases in our credit ratings, may adversely affect the market value of the notes. In general, we expect the longer the amount of time that remains until maturity, the more significant the impact will be on the value of the notes. However, a decrease in our credit spreads or an improvement in our credit ratings will not necessarily increase the market value of the notes.

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**Time to Maturity.** There may be a disparity between the market value of the notes prior to maturity and their value at maturity. This disparity is often called a time “value,” “premium,” or “discount,” and reflects expectations concerning the value of the Underlying Stock prior to the maturity date. As the time to maturity decreases, this disparity may decrease, such that the value of the notes will approach the expected Redemption Amount and the interest payment to be paid at maturity.

**Trading and hedging activities by us, the agents, and our respective affiliates may affect your return on the notes and their market value.** We, the agents, and our respective affiliates may buy or sell shares of the Underlying Stock, futures or options contracts on the Underlying Stock, or other listed or over-the counter derivative instruments linked to the Underlying Stock. We may execute such purchases or sales for our own or their own accounts, for business reasons, or in connection with hedging our obligations under the notes. These transactions could adversely affect the value of the Underlying Stock in a manner that could be adverse to your investment in the notes. On or before the applicable pricing date, any purchases by us, the agents, and our respective affiliates, or others on our or their behalf may increase the value of the Underlying Stock. Consequently, the value of the Underlying Stock may decrease subsequent to the pricing date of an issue of the notes, adversely affecting the market value of the notes.

We, the agents, or one or more of our respective affiliates may also engage in hedging activities that could increase the value of the Underlying Stock on the applicable pricing date. In addition, these activities may decrease the market value of your notes prior to maturity, including on the valuation date, and may reduce the Redemption Amount. We, the agents, or one or more of our respective affiliates may purchase or otherwise acquire a long or short position in the notes, and may hold or resell the notes. For example, the agents may enter into these transactions in connection with any market making activities in which they engage. We cannot assure you that these activities will not adversely affect the value of the Underlying Stock, the market value of your notes prior to maturity or the Redemption Amount.

**Our trading, hedging and other business activities, and those of the agents, may create conflicts of interest with you.** We, the agents, or one or more of our respective affiliates may engage in trading activities related to the Underlying Stock that are not for your account or on your behalf. We, the agents, or one or more of our respective affiliates also may issue or underwrite other financial instruments with returns based upon the Underlying Stock. These trading and other business activities may present a conflict of interest between your interest in the notes and the interests we, the agents and our respective affiliates may have in our proprietary accounts, in facilitating transactions, including block trades, for our or their other customers, and in accounts under our or their management. These trading and other business activities, if they influence the value of the Underlying Stock or secondary trading in your notes, could be adverse to your interests as a beneficial owner of the notes.

We, the agents, and our respective affiliates expect to enter into arrangements or adjust or close out existing transactions to hedge our obligations under the notes. We, the agents, or our respective affiliates also may enter into hedging transactions relating to other notes or instruments that we or they issue, some of which may have returns calculated in a manner related to that of a particular issue of the notes. We may enter into such hedging arrangements with one or more of our subsidiaries or affiliates, or with one or more of the agents or their affiliates. Such a party may enter into additional hedging transactions with other parties relating to the notes and the Underlying Stock. This hedging activity is expected to result in a profit to those engaging in the hedging activity, which could be more or less than initially expected, but could also result in a loss. We, the agents, and our respective affiliates will price these hedging transactions with the intent to realize a profit, regardless of whether

the value of the notes increases or decreases. Any profit in connection with such hedging activities will be in addition to any other compensation that we, the agents, and our respective affiliates receive for the sale of the notes, which creates an additional incentive to sell the notes to you.

**There may be potential conflicts of interest involving the calculation agent. We have the right to appoint and remove the calculation agent.** We expect to appoint MLPF&S or one of its affiliates as the calculation agent for the notes and, as such, it will determine the Starting Value, the Threshold Value, the Step Level, the Ending Value and the Redemption Amount. As the calculation agent, MLPF&S or one of its affiliates will have discretion in making various determinations that affect your notes, such as the anti-dilution adjustments. The exercise of this discretion by the calculation agent could adversely affect the value of your notes and may present the calculation agent with a conflict of interest of the kind described under “—Trading and hedging activities by us, the agents, and our respective affiliates may affect your return on the notes and their market value” and “—Our trading, hedging and other business activities, and those of the agents, may create conflicts of interest with you” above.

**The U.S. federal income tax consequences of an investment in the notes are uncertain, and may be adverse to a holder of the notes.** No statutory, judicial, or administrative authority directly addresses the characterization of the notes or securities similar to the notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes. As a result, significant aspects of the U.S. federal income tax consequences of an investment in the notes are not certain. Under the terms of the notes, you will have agreed with us to treat the notes as income-bearing pre-paid cash-settled derivative contracts, as described under “Supplemental Discussion of U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences—Supplemental U.S. Tax Considerations.” If the Internal Revenue Service (the “IRS”) were successful in asserting an alternative characterization for the notes, the timing and character of income, gain or loss with respect to the notes may differ. No ruling will be requested from the IRS with respect to the notes and no assurance can be given that the IRS will agree with the statements made in the section entitled “Supplemental Discussion of U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences.”

**You are urged to consult with your own tax advisor regarding all aspects of the U.S. federal income tax consequences of investing in the notes.**

**Any conclusion that no portion of the interest paid or credited or deemed to be paid or credited on a note will be “Participating Debt Interest” (as defined below) subject to Canadian withholding tax is based in part on the current published administrative position of the Canada Revenue Agency (the “CRA”).** There cannot be any assurance that CRA’s current published administrative practice will not be subject to change, including potential expansion in the current administrative interpretation of Participating Debt Interest subject to Canadian withholding tax. If, at any time, the interest paid or credited or deemed to be paid or credited on a note is subject to Canadian withholding tax, you will receive an amount that is less than the Redemption Amount. **You should consult your own adviser as to the potential for such withholding and the potential for reduction or refund of part or all of such withholding, including under any bilateral Canadian tax treaty the benefits of which you may be entitled.**

### **Risks Relating to the Underlying Stock**

**You must rely on your own evaluation of the merits of an investment linked to the Underlying Stock.** In the ordinary course of business, we, the agents, and our respective affiliates may have expressed views on expected movements in an Underlying Stock, and may do so in the future. These views or reports may be communicated to our clients and clients of

these entities. However, these views are subject to change from time to time. Moreover, other professionals who deal in markets relating to an Underlying Stock may at any time have significantly different views from our views and the views of these entities. For these reasons, you are encouraged to derive information concerning an Underlying Stock from multiple sources, and you should not rely on our views or the views expressed by these entities.

**You will have no rights as a security holder, you will have no rights to receive any shares of the Underlying Stock, and you will not be entitled to dividends or other distributions by the Underlying Company.** The notes are our debt securities. They are not equity instruments, shares of stock, or securities of any other issuer. Investing in the notes will not make you a holder of the Underlying Stock. You will not have any voting rights, any rights to receive dividends or other distributions, or any other rights with respect to the Underlying Stock, or any positions that we, MLPF&S or any of our respective affiliates may take in connection with our hedging activities with respect to the notes. As a result, the return on your notes may not reflect the return you would realize if you actually owned shares of the Underlying Stock and received the dividends paid or other distributions made in connection with them. Your notes will be paid in cash and you have no right to receive delivery of shares of the Underlying Stock.

**If shares of the Underlying Company are also listed on a foreign exchange, your return may be affected by factors affecting international securities markets.** The value of securities traded outside of the U.S. may be adversely affected by a variety of factors relating to the relevant securities markets. Factors which could affect those markets, and therefore the return on your notes, include:

**Market Volatility.** The relevant foreign securities markets may be more volatile than U.S. or other securities markets and may be affected by market developments in different ways than U.S. or other securities markets.

**Political, Economic, and Other Factors.** The prices and performance of securities of companies in foreign countries may be affected by political, economic, financial, and social factors in those regions. Direct or indirect government intervention to stabilize a particular securities market and cross-shareholdings in companies in the relevant foreign markets may affect prices and the volume of trading in those markets. In addition, recent or future changes in government, economic, and fiscal policies in the relevant jurisdictions, the possible imposition of, or changes in, currency exchange laws, or other laws or restrictions, and possible fluctuations in the rate of exchange between currencies, are factors that could negatively affect the relevant securities markets. The relevant foreign economies may differ from the U.S. economy in economic factors such as growth of gross national product, rate of inflation, capital reinvestment, resources, and self-sufficiency.

In particular, many emerging nations are undergoing rapid change, involving the restructuring of economic, political, financial and legal systems. Regulatory and tax environments may be subject to change without review or appeal, and many emerging markets suffer from underdevelopment of capital markets and tax systems. In addition, in some of these nations, issuers of the relevant securities face the threat of expropriation of their assets, or nationalization of their businesses. The economic and financial data about some of these countries may be unreliable.

**We and the agents do not control the Underlying Company and have not verified any disclosure made by the Underlying Company.** We, the agents, or our respective affiliates currently, or in the future, may engage in business with the Underlying Company,

and we, the agents, or our respective affiliates may from time to time own securities of the Underlying Company. However, none of us, the agents, or any of our respective affiliates has the ability to control any actions of the Underlying Company or has undertaken any independent review of, or made any due diligence inquiry with respect to, the Underlying Company. Any prospective purchaser of the notes should undertake an independent investigation of the Underlying Stock and the Underlying Company as in its judgment is appropriate to make an informed decision with respect to an investment in the notes.

**Our business activities and those of the agents relating to the Underlying Company may create conflicts of interest with you.** We, the agents and our respective affiliates, at the time of any offering of the notes or in the future, may engage in business with the Underlying Company, including making loans to, equity investments in, or providing investment banking, asset management, or other services to the Underlying Company, its affiliates, and its competitors.

In connection with these activities, any of these entities may receive information about those companies that we will not divulge to you or other third parties. We, the agents, and our respective affiliates have published, and in the future may publish, research reports on one or more of these companies. The agents may also publish research reports relating to our or our affiliates' securities, including the notes. This research is modified from time to time without notice and may express opinions or provide recommendations that are inconsistent with purchasing or holding your notes. Any of these activities may adversely affect the price of the Underlying Stock and, consequently, the market value of your notes. None of us, the agents, or our respective affiliates makes any representation to any purchasers of the notes regarding any matters whatsoever relating to the Underlying Company. Any prospective purchaser of the notes should undertake an independent investigation of the Underlying Stock and the Underlying Company as in its judgment is appropriate to make an informed decision with respect to an investment in the notes. The selection of the Underlying Stock does not reflect any investment recommendations from us, the agents, or our respective affiliates.

**The Underlying Company will have no obligations relating to the notes and we will not perform any due diligence procedures with respect to the Underlying Company.** The Underlying Company will not have any financial or legal obligation with respect to the notes or the amounts to be paid to you, including any obligation to take our interests or the interests of noteholders into consideration for any reason, including when taking any corporate actions that might affect the value of the Underlying Stock or the value of the notes. The Underlying Company will not receive any of the proceeds from any offering of the notes, and will not be responsible for, or participate in, the offering of the notes. No Underlying Company will be responsible for, or participate in, the determination or calculation of the amount receivable by holders of the notes.

None of us, the agents, or any of our respective affiliates will conduct any due diligence inquiry with respect to the Underlying Stock in connection with an offering of the notes. None of us, the agents, or any of our respective affiliates has made any independent investigation as to the completeness or accuracy of publicly available information regarding the Underlying Company or as to the future performance of the Underlying Stock. Any prospective purchaser of the notes should undertake such independent investigation of the Underlying Stock and the Underlying Company as in its judgment is appropriate to make an informed decision with respect to an investment in the notes.

**The Price Multiplier or other Terms of the Notes will not be adjusted for all corporate events that could affect the Underlying Company.** The Price Multiplier or other terms of the notes may be adjusted for the specified corporate events affecting the Underlying

Stock, as described in the section entitled “Description of the Notes—Anti-Dilution Adjustments.” However, these adjustments do not cover all corporate events that could affect the market price of an Underlying Stock, such as offerings of common shares for cash or in connection with certain acquisition transactions. The occurrence of any event that does not require the calculation agent to adjust the Price Multiplier or other terms of the notes may adversely affect the Redemption Amount, and, as a result, the market value of the notes.

### **Risks Relating to Underlying Stocks that Are ADRs**

**The value of an ADR may not accurately track the value of the common shares of the related Underlying Company.** If the Underlying Stock is an ADR, each ADR will represent shares of the relevant Underlying Company. Generally, the ADRs are issued under a deposit agreement that sets forth the rights and responsibilities of the depositary, the Underlying Company and the holders of the ADRs. The trading patterns of the ADRs will generally reflect the characteristics and valuations of the underlying common shares; however, the value of the ADRs may not completely track the value of those shares. There are important differences between the rights of holders of ADRs and the rights of holders of the underlying common shares. In addition, trading volume and pricing on the applicable non-U.S. exchange may, but will not necessarily, have similar characteristics as the ADRs. For example, certain factors may increase or decrease the public float of the ADRs and, as a result, the ADRs may have less liquidity or lower market value than the underlying common shares.

**Exchange rate movements may adversely impact the value of an Underlying Stock that is an ADR.** If an Underlying Stock is an ADR, the market price of the Underlying Stock will generally track the U.S. dollar value of the market price of the underlying common shares. Therefore, if the value of the related foreign currency in which the underlying common shares are traded decreases relative to the U.S. dollar, the market price of the Underlying Stock may decrease while the market price of the underlying common shares remains stable or increases, or does not decrease to the same extent. As a result, changes in, and the volatility of, the exchange rates between the U.S. dollar and the relevant non-U.S. currency could have a negative impact on the value of the Underlying Stock and consequently, the value of your notes.

**Adverse trading conditions in the applicable non-U.S. market may negatively affect the value of an Underlying Stock that is an ADR.** Holders of an Underlying Company’s ADRs may usually surrender the ADRs in order to receive and trade the underlying common shares. This provision permits investors in the ADRs to take advantage of price differentials between markets. However, this provision may also cause the market prices of the Underlying Stock to more closely correspond with the values of the common shares in the applicable non-U.S. markets. As a result, a market outside of the United States for the underlying common shares that is not liquid may also result in an illiquid market for the ADRs, which may negatively impact the value of such ADRs and, consequently, the value of your notes.

**Delisting of an Underlying Stock that is an ADR may adversely affect the value of the notes.**

If an Underlying Stock that is an ADR is no longer listed or admitted to trading on a U.S. securities exchange registered under the Exchange Act or included in the OTC Bulletin Board Service operated by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (“**FINRA**”), or if the ADR facility between the Underlying Company and the ADR depositary is terminated for any reason, the Market Measure for the notes will be deemed to be the Underlying Company’s common equity securities rather than the ADRs, and the calculation agent will determine the



price of the Market Measure by reference to those common shares, as described below under “Description of the Notes—Delisting of ADRs or Termination of ADR Facility.” Replacing the original ADRs with the underlying common shares may adversely affect the value of the notes and the Redemption Amount.

**Other Risk Factors Relating to the Underlying Stock**

The applicable term sheet may set forth additional risk factors as to the Underlying Stock that you should review prior to purchasing the notes.

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**USE OF PROCEEDS AND HEDGING**

We will use the net proceeds we receive from each sale of the notes for the purposes described in the prospectus supplement under “Use of Proceeds.” In addition, we expect that we or our affiliates may use a portion of the net proceeds to hedge our obligations under the notes, although we have no obligation to do so.

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## DESCRIPTION OF THE NOTES

### General

Each issue of the notes will be part of a series of medium-term notes entitled “Senior Note Program, Series A” that will be issued under the senior debt indenture, as amended and supplemented from time to time. The senior debt indenture is described more fully in the prospectus and prospectus supplement. The following description of the notes supplements and, to the extent it is inconsistent with, supersedes the description of the general terms and provisions of the notes and debt securities set forth under the headings “Description of the Notes” in the prospectus supplement and “Description of the Debt Securities We May Offer” in the prospectus. These documents should be read in connection with the applicable term sheet.

The maturity date of the notes and the aggregate principal amount of each issue of notes will be stated in the term sheet. If any scheduled payment date is not a business day, we will make the required payment on the next business day, and no additional interest will accrue as a result of such delay.

The notes do not guarantee the return of principal at maturity. The notes will be payable only in U.S. dollars.

The notes are our senior unsecured securities and will rank equally with all of our senior unsecured and unsubordinated debts, except for debts required to be preferred by law.

The notes are not bank deposits and are not insured or guaranteed by the FDIC or by any other U.S. or foreign governmental agency.

Prior to the maturity date, the notes are not redeemable by us or repayable at the option of any holder; however, the maturity date of the notes may be accelerated under the limited circumstances set forth below. The notes are not subject to any sinking fund. The notes are not subject to the defeasance provisions described in the prospectus under the caption “Description of the Debt Securities We May Offer—Defeasance.”

The notes will be issued only in global form through The Depository Trust Company (“DTC”). We will issue the notes in denominations of whole units. Unless otherwise set forth in the applicable term sheet, each unit will have a principal amount of \$10. The CUSIP number for each issue of the notes will be set forth in the applicable term sheet. You may transfer the notes only in whole units.

### Interest

The notes will bear periodic interest payments at the fixed rate specified in the applicable term sheet. Unless otherwise set forth in the applicable term sheet, the interest will be paid quarterly in cash in arrears on each interest payment date specified in the term sheet. Interest payable on the notes will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months.

Each interest payment will include interest accrued from, and including, the issue date or the most recent interest payment date to, but excluding, the next interest payment date. Unless otherwise specified in the term sheet, for so long as the notes are held in book-entry form only, we will pay interest to the persons in whose names the notes are registered at the close of business one business day prior to each interest payment date. If an interest payment date falls on a day that is not a business day, that interest payment will be made on the next

succeeding business day and no additional interest will accrue as a result of the delayed payment.

Unless otherwise set forth in the term sheet, a “**business day**” means any day, other than Saturday or Sunday, that is neither a legal holiday nor a day on which banking institutions are authorized or required by law to close in New York City or Toronto.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the final payment of interest and the Redemption Amount will be paid to the person in whose names the notes are registered on the maturity date.

#### Payment at Maturity

At maturity, subject to our credit risk as issuer of the notes, in addition to the final interest payment on the notes, you will receive a Redemption Amount, denominated in U.S. dollars. The “**Redemption Amount**” will be calculated as follows:

· If the Ending Value is greater than or equal to the Step Level, then the Redemption Amount will equal:

· If the Ending Value is less than the Step Level but is greater than or equal to the Threshold Value, then the Redemption Amount will equal the principal amount.

· If the Ending Value is less than the Threshold Value, then the Redemption Amount will equal:

The Redemption Amount will not be less than zero.

The “**Step Level**” will be a price of the Underlying Stock that reflects a specified percentage above the Starting Value. The Step Level will be determined on the pricing date and set forth in the term sheet.

The “**Step Payment**” will be a dollar amount representing a fixed percentage of the principal amount and set forth in the term sheet.

The “**Threshold Value**” will be a price of the Underlying Stock that equals a specified percentage of the Starting Value, which will be less than or equal to 100%. The Threshold Value will be determined on the pricing date and set forth in the term sheet. If the Threshold Value is equal to 100% of the Starting Value, then the Redemption Amount for the notes will be less than the principal amount if there is any decrease in the value of the Underlying Stock from the Starting Value to the Ending Value, and you may lose all of your principal amount of the notes.

Each term sheet will provide examples of payments on the notes based on certain hypothetical Ending Values.

The term sheet will set forth information as to the Underlying Stock, including information as to the historical values of the Underlying Stock. However, historical values of

the Underlying Stock are not indicative of its future performance or the performance of your notes.

An investment in the notes does not entitle you to any ownership interest, including any voting rights, in the Underlying Stock, nor dividends paid or other distributions made, by the Underlying Company.

### **The Starting Value and the Ending Value**

#### **Starting Value**

Unless otherwise specified in the term sheet, the “**Starting Value**” will be the price of one share of the Underlying Stock on the pricing date, determined as set forth in the term sheet.

#### **Ending Value**

Unless otherwise specified in the term sheet, the “**Ending Value**” will equal the Closing Market Price of the Underlying Stock on the valuation date multiplied by the Price Multiplier on that day.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable term sheet, the following definitions will apply:

The “**valuation date**” means a trading day shortly before the maturity date. The valuation date will be set forth in the term sheet.

A “**trading day**” means a day on which trading is generally conducted (or was scheduled to have been generally conducted, but for the occurrence of a Market Disruption Event) on the New York Stock Exchange (the “**NYSE**”), the NASDAQ Stock Market, the Chicago Board Options Exchange, and in the over-the-counter market for equity securities in the United States, or any successor exchange or market, or in the case of a security traded on one or more non-U.S. securities exchanges or markets, on the principal non-U.S. securities exchange or market for such security.

If there is a Market Disruption Event on the scheduled valuation date, the valuation date will be the immediately succeeding trading day during which no Market Disruption Event occurs or is continuing; provided that the Closing Market Price of the Underlying Stock will be determined (or, if not determinable, estimated) by the calculation agent in a commercially reasonable manner on a date no later than the second scheduled trading day prior to the maturity date, regardless of the occurrence of a Market Disruption Event on that day.

The “**Closing Market Price**” for one share of the Underlying Stock (or one unit of any other security for which a Closing Market Price must be determined) on any trading day means any of the following (in each case subject to the prior paragraph):

if the Underlying Stock (or such other security) is listed or admitted to trading on a national securities exchange, the last reported sale price, regular way (or, in the case of The NASDAQ Stock Market, the official closing price), of the principal trading session on that day on the principal U.S. securities exchange registered under the Exchange Act on which the Underlying Stock (or such other security) is listed or admitted to trading;

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if the Underlying Stock (or such other security) is not listed or admitted to trading on any national securities exchange but is included in the OTC Bulletin Board, the last reported sale price of the principal trading session on the OTC Bulletin Board on that day;

if the Underlying Stock (or such other security) is issued by a foreign issuer and its closing price cannot be determined as set forth in the two bullet points above, and the Underlying Stock (or such other security) is listed or admitted to trading on a non-U.S. securities exchange or market, the last reported sale price, regular way, of the principal trading session on that day on the primary non-U.S. securities exchange or market on which the Underlying Stock (or such other security) is listed or admitted to trading (converted to U.S. dollars using such exchange rate as the calculation agent, in its sole discretion, determines to be commercially reasonable); or

if the Closing Market Price cannot be determined as set forth in the prior bullets, the mean, as determined by the calculation agent, of the bid prices for the Underlying Stock (or such other security) obtained from as many dealers in that security (which may include us, MLPF&S and any of our respective affiliates), but not exceeding three, as will make the bid prices available to the calculation agent. If no such bid price can be obtained, the Closing Market Price will be determined (or, if not determinable, estimated) by the calculation agent in its sole discretion in a commercially reasonable manner.

The initial “**Price Multiplier**” for the Underlying Stock will be one, unless otherwise set forth in the applicable term sheet. The Price Multiplier will be subject to adjustment for certain corporate events relating to the Underlying Stock described below under “—Anti-Dilution Adjustments.”

### **Market Disruption Events**

As to the Underlying Stock (or successor Underlying Stock), a “**Market Disruption Event**” means any of the following events, as determined by the calculation agent in its sole discretion:

- (A) the suspension of or material limitation of trading, in each case, for more than two consecutive hours of trading, or during the one-half hour period preceding the close of trading, of the shares of the Underlying Stock (or the successor to the Underlying Stock) on the primary exchange where such shares trade, as determined by the calculation agent (without taking into account any extended or after-hours trading session); or
- (B) the suspension of or material limitation of trading, in each case, for more than two consecutive hours of trading, or during the one-half hour period preceding the close of trading, on the primary exchange that trades options contracts or futures contracts related to the shares of the Underlying Stock (or successor to the Underlying Stock) as determined by the calculation agent (without taking into account any extended or after-hours trading session), in options contracts or futures contracts related to the shares of the Underlying Stock; or
- (C) the determination that the scheduled valuation date is not a trading day by reason of an extraordinary event, occurrence, declaration, or otherwise.

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For the purpose of determining whether a Market Disruption Event has occurred:

- (1) a limitation on the hours in a trading day or number of days of trading will not constitute a Market Disruption Event if it results from an announced change in the regular business hours of the relevant exchange;
  - (2) a decision to permanently discontinue trading in the shares of the Underlying Stock (or successor Underlying Stock) or the relevant futures or options contracts relating to such shares will not constitute a Market Disruption Event;
  - (3) a suspension in trading in a futures or options contract on the shares of the Underlying Stock (or successor Underlying Stock), by a major securities market by reason of (a) a price change violating limits set by that securities market, (b) an imbalance of orders relating to those contracts, or (c) a disparity in bid and ask quotes relating to those contracts, will each constitute a suspension of or material limitation on trading in futures or options contracts relating to the Underlying Stock;
  - (4) subject to paragraph (3) above, a suspension of or material limitation on trading on the relevant exchange will not include any time when that exchange is closed for trading under ordinary circumstances; and
  - (5) for the purpose of clause (A) above, any limitations on trading during significant market fluctuations under NYSE Rule 80B, or any applicable rule or regulation enacted or promulgated by the NYSE or any other self-regulatory organization or the SEC of similar scope as determined by the calculation agent, will be considered “material.”
- Anti-Dilution Adjustments

As to the Underlying Stock (or successor Underlying Stock), the calculation agent, in its sole discretion, may adjust the Price Multiplier (and as a result, the Ending Value), and any other terms of the notes (such as the Starting Value), if an event described below occurs after the pricing date and on or before the valuation date and if the calculation agent determines that such an event has a diluting or concentrative effect on the theoretical value of the shares of the Underlying Stock (or successor Underlying Stock).

The Price Multiplier resulting from any of the adjustments specified below will be rounded to the eighth decimal place with five one-billionths being rounded upward. No adjustments to the Price Multiplier will be required unless the adjustment would require a change of at least 0.1% in the Price Multiplier then in effect. Any adjustment that would require a change of less than 0.1% in the Price Multiplier which is not applied at the time of the event may be reflected at the time of any subsequent adjustment that would require a change of the Price Multiplier. The required adjustments specified below do not cover all events that could affect the Underlying Stock.

No adjustments to the Price Multiplier or any other terms of the notes will be required other than those specified below. However, the calculation agent may, at its sole discretion, make additional adjustments to the Price Multiplier or any other terms of the notes to reflect changes to the Underlying Stock if the calculation agent determines that the adjustment is appropriate to ensure an equitable result.

The calculation agent will be solely responsible for the determination of any adjustments to the Price Multiplier or any other terms of the notes and of any related determinations with respect to any distributions of stock, other securities or other property or assets, including cash, in connection with any corporate event described below; its determinations and calculations will be conclusive absent a determination of a manifest error.

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No adjustments are required to be made for certain other events, such as offerings of common equity securities by the Underlying Company for cash or in connection with the occurrence of a partial tender or exchange offer for the Underlying Stock by the Underlying Company.

Following an event that results in an adjustment to the Price Multiplier or any of the other terms of the notes, the calculation agent may (but is not required to) provide holders of the notes with information about that adjustment as it deems appropriate, depending on the nature of the adjustment. Upon written request by any holder of the notes, the calculation agent will provide that holder with information about such adjustment.

#### Anti-Dilution Adjustments to Underlying Stocks that Are Common Equity

The calculation agent, in its sole discretion and as it deems reasonable, may adjust the Price Multiplier (and as a result, the Ending Value), and any other terms of the notes (such as the Starting Value), as a result of certain events related to the Underlying Stock, which include, but are not limited to, the following:

**Stock Splits and Reverse Stock Splits.** If the Underlying Stock is subject to a stock split or reverse stock split, then once such split has become effective, the Price Multiplier will be adjusted such that the new Price Multiplier will equal the product of:

- the prior Price Multiplier; and
- the number of shares that a holder of one share of the Underlying Stock before the effective date of the stock split or reverse stock split would have owned immediately following the applicable effective date.

For example, a two-for-one stock split would ordinarily change a Price Multiplier of one into a Price Multiplier of two. In contrast, a one-for-two reverse stock split would ordinarily change a Price Multiplier of one into a Price Multiplier of one-half.

**Stock Dividends.** If the Underlying Stock is subject to (i) a stock dividend (i.e., an issuance of additional shares of Underlying Stock) that is given ratably to all holders of the Underlying Stock or (ii) a distribution of additional shares of the Underlying Stock as a result of the triggering of any provision of the organizational documents of the Underlying Company, then, once the dividend has become effective and the Underlying Stock is trading ex-dividend, the Price Multiplier will be adjusted on the ex-dividend date such that the new Price Multiplier will equal the prior Price Multiplier plus the product of:

- the prior Price Multiplier; and
- the number of additional shares issued in the stock dividend with respect to one share of the Underlying Stock; provided that no adjustment will be made for a stock dividend for which the number of shares of the Underlying Stock paid or distributed is based on a fixed cash equivalent value, unless such distribution is an Extraordinary Dividend (as defined below).

For example, a stock dividend of one new share for each share held would ordinarily change a Price Multiplier of one into a Price multiplier of two.

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Extraordinary Dividends. There will be no adjustments to the Price Multiplier to reflect any cash dividends or cash distributions paid with respect to the Underlying Stock other than Extraordinary Dividends, as described below, and distributions described under the section entitled “—Reorganization Events” below.

An “**Extraordinary Dividend**” means, with respect to a cash dividend or other distribution with respect to the Underlying Stock, a dividend or other distribution that the calculation agent determines, in its sole discretion, is not declared or otherwise made according to the Underlying Company’s then existing policy or practice of paying such dividends on a quarterly or other regular basis. If an Extraordinary Dividend occurs, the Price Multiplier will be adjusted on the ex-dividend date so that the new Price Multiplier will equal the product of:

·the prior Price Multiplier; and  
·a fraction, the numerator of which is the Closing Market Price per share of the Underlying Stock on the trading day preceding the ex-dividend date and the denominator of which is the amount by which the Closing Market Price per share of the Underlying Stock on that preceding trading day exceeds the Extraordinary Dividend Amount.

The “**Extraordinary Dividend Amount**” with respect to an Extraordinary Dividend will equal:

·in the case of cash dividends or other distributions that constitute regular dividends, the amount per share of the Underlying Stock of that Extraordinary Dividend minus the amount per share of the immediately preceding non-Extraordinary Dividend for that share; or  
·in the case of cash dividends or other distributions that do not constitute regular dividends, the amount per share of the Underlying Stock of that Extraordinary Dividend.

To the extent an Extraordinary Dividend is not paid in cash, the value of the non-cash component will be determined by the calculation agent, whose determination will be conclusive. A distribution on the Underlying Stock described in the section “—Issuance of Transferable Rights or Warrants” or clause (a), (d) or (e) of the section entitled “—Reorganization Events” below that also constitutes an Extraordinary Dividend will only cause an adjustment under those respective sections.

Issuance of Transferable Rights or Warrants. If the Underlying Company issues transferable rights or warrants to all holders of record of the Underlying Stock to subscribe for or purchase the Underlying Stock, including new or existing rights to purchase the Underlying Stock under a shareholder rights plan or arrangement, then the Price Multiplier will be adjusted on the trading day immediately following the issuance of those transferable rights or warrants so that the new Price Multiplier will equal the prior Price Multiplier plus the product of:

·the prior Price Multiplier; and  
·the number of shares of the Underlying Stock that can be purchased with the cash value of those warrants or rights distributed on one share of the Underlying Stock.

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The number of shares that can be purchased will be based on the Closing Market Price of the Underlying Stock on the date the new Price Multiplier is determined. The cash value of those warrants or rights, if the warrants or rights are traded on a registered national securities exchange, will equal the closing price of that warrant or right. If the warrants or rights are not traded on a registered national securities exchange, the cash value will be determined by the calculation agent and will equal the average of the bid prices obtained from three dealers at 3:00 p.m., New York time on the date the new Price Multiplier is determined, provided that if only two of those bid prices are available, then the cash value of those warrants or rights will equal the average of those bids and if only one of those bids is available, then the cash value of those warrants or rights will equal that bid.

#### Reorganization Events

If after the pricing date and on or prior to the valuation date of the notes, as to the Underlying Stock:

- (a) there occurs any reclassification or change of the Underlying Stock, including, without limitation, as a result of the issuance of tracking stock by the Underlying Company;
- (b) the Underlying Company, or any surviving entity or subsequent surviving entity of the Underlying Company (a “**Successor Entity**”), has been subject to a merger, combination, or consolidation and is not the surviving entity;
- (c) any statutory exchange of securities of the Underlying Company or any Successor Entity with another corporation occurs, other than under clause (b) above;
- (d) the Underlying Company is liquidated or is subject to a proceeding under any applicable bankruptcy, insolvency, or other similar law;
- (e) the Underlying Company issues to all of its shareholders securities of an issuer other than the Underlying Company, including equity securities of an affiliate of the Underlying Company, other than in a transaction described in clauses (b), (c), or (d) above;
- (f) a tender or exchange offer or going-private transaction is consummated for all the outstanding shares of the Underlying Company;
- (g) there occurs any reclassification or change of the Underlying Stock that results in a transfer or an irrevocable commitment to transfer all such outstanding shares of the Underlying Stock to another entity or person;
- (h) the Underlying Company or any Successor Entity is the surviving entity of a merger, combination, or consolidation, that results in the outstanding Underlying Stock (other than Underlying Stock owned or controlled by the other party to such transaction) immediately prior to such event collectively representing less than 50% of the outstanding Underlying Stock immediately following such event; or
- (i) the Underlying Company ceases to file the financial and other information with the SEC in accordance with Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act (an event in clauses (a) through (i), a “**Reorganization Event**”),

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then, on or after the date of the occurrence of a Reorganization Event, the calculation agent shall, in its sole discretion, make an adjustment to the Price Multiplier or any other terms of the notes as the calculation agent, in its sole discretion, determines appropriate to account for the economic effect on the notes of that Reorganization Event (including adjustments to account for changes in volatility, expected dividends, stock loan rate, or liquidity relevant to the Underlying Stock or to the notes), which may, but need not, be determined by reference to the adjustment(s) made in respect of such Reorganization Event by an options exchange to options on the relevant Underlying Stock traded on that options exchange and determine the effective date of that adjustment. If the calculation agent determines that no adjustment that it could make will produce a commercially reasonable result, then the calculation agent may cause the maturity date of the notes to be accelerated to the fifth business day following the date of that determination and the Redemption Amount payable to you will be calculated as though the date of early repayment were the stated maturity date of the notes and as though the valuation date were the fifth trading day prior to the date of acceleration.

If the Underlying Company ceases to file the financial and other information with the SEC in accordance with Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act, as contemplated by clause (i) above, and the calculation agent determines in its sole discretion that sufficiently similar information is not otherwise available to you, then the calculation agent may cause the maturity date of the notes to be accelerated to the fifth business day following the date of that determination and the Redemption Amount payable to you will be calculated as though the date of early repayment were the stated maturity date of the notes, and as though the valuation date were the fifth trading day prior to the date of acceleration. If the calculation agent determines that sufficiently similar information is available to you, the Reorganization Event will be deemed to have not occurred.

If the notes are accelerated as described in the two preceding paragraphs, you will also receive interest accrued on the notes until the date that the Redemption Amount is paid. However, upon any such acceleration, you will not be entitled to any interest that would have accrued after the date of acceleration.

### **Alternative Anti-Dilution and Reorganization Adjustments**

The calculation agent may elect at its discretion to not make any of the adjustments to the Price Multiplier or to the other terms of the notes, but may instead make adjustments, in its discretion, to the Price Multiplier or any other terms of the notes (such as the Starting Value) that will reflect the adjustments to the extent practicable made by the Options Clearing Corporation on options contracts on the Underlying Stock or any successor common stock. For example, if the Underlying Stock is subject to a two-for-one stock split, and the Options Clearing Corporation adjusts the strike prices of the options contract on the Underlying Stock by dividing the strike price by two, then the calculation agent may also elect to divide the Starting Value by two. In this case, the Price Multiplier will remain one. This adjustment would have the same economic effect on holders of the notes as if the Price Multiplier had been adjusted.

### **Anti-Dilution Adjustments to Underlying Stocks that Are ADRs**

For purposes of the anti-dilution adjustments set forth above, if the Underlying Stock is an ADR (an “**Underlying ADR**”), the calculation agent will consider the effect of any of the relevant events on the Underlying ADR, and adjustments will be made as if the Underlying ADR was the Underlying Stock described above. For example, if the stock represented by the Underlying ADR is subject to a two-for-one stock split, and assuming an initial Price Multiplier of 1, the Price Multiplier for the Underlying ADR would be adjusted so that it equals two.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable term sheet, with respect to notes linked to an Underlying ADR (or an Underlying Stock issued by a non-U.S. Underlying Company), the term “dividend” means the dividends paid to holders of the Underlying ADR (or the Underlying Stock issued by the non-U.S. Underlying Company), and such dividends may reflect the netting of any applicable foreign withholding or similar taxes that may be due on dividends paid to a U.S. person.

The calculation agent may determine not to make an adjustment if:

holders of the Underlying ADR are not eligible to participate in any of the events that would otherwise require (A) anti-dilution adjustments as set forth above if the notes had been linked directly to the common shares of the Underlying Company represented by the Underlying ADR; or to the extent that the calculation agent determines that the Underlying Company or the depository for the ADRs (B) has adjusted the number of common shares of the Underlying Company represented by each share of the Underlying ADR, so that the market price of the Underlying ADR would not be affected by the corporate event. If the Underlying Company or the depository for the ADRs, in the absence of any of the events described above, elects to adjust the number of common shares of the Underlying Company represented by each share of the Underlying ADR, then the calculation agent may make the appropriate anti-dilution adjustments to reflect such change. The depository for the ADRs may also make adjustments in respect of the ADRs for share distributions, rights distributions, cash distributions and distributions other than shares, rights, and cash. Upon any such adjustment by the depository, the calculation agent may adjust the Price Multiplier or other terms of the notes as the calculation agent determines commercially reasonable to account for that event.

#### **Delisting of ADRs or Termination of ADR Facility**

If the Underlying ADR is no longer listed or admitted to trading on a U.S. securities exchange registered under the Exchange Act or included in the OTC Bulletin Board Service operated by FINRA, or if the ADR facility between the Underlying Company and the ADR depository is terminated for any reason, then, on and after the date that the Underlying ADR is no longer so listed or admitted to trading or the date of such termination, as applicable (the “**termination date**”), the Market Measure for the notes will be deemed to be the Underlying Company’s common equity securities rather than the Underlying ADR. The calculation agent will determine the price of the Market Measure by reference to those common shares. Under such circumstances, the calculation agent may modify any terms of the notes as it deems necessary, in its sole discretion, to ensure an equitable result. On and after the termination date, for all purposes, the Closing Market Price of the Underlying Company’s common shares on their primary exchange will be converted to U.S. dollars using such exchange rate as the calculation agent, in its sole discretion, determines to be commercially reasonable.

#### **Underlying Stock**

Any information regarding the Underlying Stock or the Underlying Company will be derived from publicly available documents. The Underlying Stock will be registered under the Exchange Act. Information provided to or filed with the SEC by any Underlying Company can be located at the SEC’s facilities or through the SEC’s website, [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). None of us, the agents, or any of our respective affiliates will have independently verified the accuracy or completeness of any of the information or reports of an Underlying Company.

The selection of the Underlying Stock is not a recommendation to buy or sell the Underlying Stock. Neither we nor any of our subsidiaries or affiliates makes any representation to any purchaser of the notes as to the performance of the Underlying Stock.

#### Role of the Calculation Agent

The calculation agent has the sole discretion to make all determinations regarding the notes as described in this product prospectus supplement, including determinations regarding the Starting Value, the Threshold Value, the Step Level, the Ending Value, the Price Multiplier, the Closing Market Price, the Redemption Amount, any Market Disruption Events, a successor Underlying Stock, business days, and trading days. Absent manifest error, all determinations of the calculation agent will be conclusive for all purposes and final and binding on you and us, without any liability on the part of the calculation agent.

We expect to appoint MLPF&S or one of its affiliates as the calculation agent for each issue of the notes. However, we may change the calculation agent at any time without notifying you. The identity of the calculation agent will be set forth in the applicable term sheet.

#### Same-Day Settlement and Payment

The notes will be delivered in book-entry form only through DTC against payment by purchasers of the notes in immediately available funds. We will pay interest and the Redemption Amount in immediately available funds so long as the notes are maintained in book-entry form.

#### Events of Default and Acceleration

Events of default are defined in the senior debt indenture. If such an event occurs and is continuing, unless otherwise stated in the term sheet, the amount payable to a holder of the notes upon any acceleration permitted under the senior debt indenture will be equal to the Redemption Amount described under the caption “—Payment at Maturity,” determined as if the notes matured on the date of acceleration. If a bankruptcy proceeding is commenced in respect of us, your claim may be limited under applicable bankruptcy law. In case of a default in payment of the notes, whether at their maturity or upon acceleration, they will not bear a default interest rate.

For additional discussion of these matters, please see the discussion in the prospectus under the headings “Description of the Debt Securities We May Offer—Modification and Waiver of the Debt Securities” beginning on page 19 and “—Events of Default” beginning on page 21.

#### Listing

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable term sheet, the notes will not be listed on a securities exchange or quotation system.

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## **SUPPLEMENTAL PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION**

MLPF&S and one or more of its affiliates may act as our agents for any offering of the notes. The agents may act on either a principal basis or an agency basis, as set forth in the applicable term sheet. Each agent will be a party to the distribution agreement described in the “Supplemental Plan of Distribution” on page S-25 of the accompanying prospectus supplement.

Each agent will receive an underwriting discount that is a percentage of the aggregate principal amount of the notes sold through its efforts, which will be set forth in the applicable term sheet. You must have an account with the applicable agent in order to purchase the notes.

None of the agents is acting as your fiduciary or advisor solely as a result of the making of any offering of the notes, and you should not rely upon this product prospectus supplement, the term sheet, or the accompanying prospectus or prospectus supplement as investment advice or a recommendation to purchase any notes. You should make your own investment decision regarding the notes after consulting with your legal, tax, and other advisors.

MLPF&S and its affiliates may use this product prospectus supplement, the prospectus supplement, and the prospectus, together with the applicable term sheet, in market-making transactions for any notes after their initial sale solely for the purpose of providing investors with the description of the terms of the notes that were made available to investors in connection with the initial distribution of the notes. Secondary market investors should not, and will not be authorized to rely on these documents for information regarding the Bank or for any purpose other than that described in the immediately preceding sentence.

### **Selling Restrictions**

#### **European Economic Area**

In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area which has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a “Relevant Member State”), MLPF&S has represented and agreed, and each further dealer appointed under the program will be required to represent and agree, that with effect from and including the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that Relevant Member State (the “Relevant Implementation Date”) it has not made and will not make an offer of the notes to the public in that Relevant Member State except that it may, with effect from and including the Relevant Implementation Date, make an offer of such notes to the public in that Relevant Member State:

- if an offer of those notes may be made other than pursuant to Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive in that Relevant Member State (a “Non-exempt Offer”), following the date of publication of a prospectus in relation to such notes which has been approved by the competent authority in that Relevant Member State or, where appropriate, approved in another Relevant Member State and notified to the competent authority in that Relevant Member State,
- (a) provided that any such prospectus has subsequently been completed by the final offering document contemplating such Non-exempt Offer, in accordance with the Prospectus Directive, in the period beginning and ending on the dates specified in such prospectus or final offering document, as applicable, and the issuer has consented in writing to its use for the purpose of that Non-exempt Offer;

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- (b) at any time to any legal entity which is a qualified investor as defined in the Prospectus Directive;
- (c) at any time to fewer than 100 or, if the Relevant Member State has implemented the relevant provision of the 2010 PD Amending Directive (as defined below), 150, natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive), subject to obtaining the prior consent of the relevant dealer or dealers nominated by the issuer for any such offer; or
- (d) at any time in any other circumstances falling within Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive, provided that no such offer of the notes referred to in (b) to (d) above shall require the issuer or any dealer to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive or supplement a prospectus pursuant to Article 16 of the Prospectus Directive.

For the purposes of this provision, the expression an “offer of the notes to the public”, in relation to any notes in any Relevant Member State, means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the notes to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe for the notes, as the same may be varied in that Member State by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that Member State, the expression “Prospectus Directive” means Directive 2003/71/EC (and amendments thereto, including the 2010 PD Amending Directive, to the extent implemented in the Relevant Member State), and includes any relevant implementing measure in the Relevant Member State, and the expression “2010 PD Amending Directive” means Directive 2010/73/EU.

### **United Kingdom**

MLPF&S has represented and agreed that:

- (a) in relation to any notes which have a maturity of less than one year, (i) it is a person whose ordinary activities involve it in acquiring, holding, managing, or disposing of investments (as principal or as agent) for the purposes of its business and (ii) it has not offered or sold and will not offer or sell any notes other than to persons whose ordinary activities involve them in acquiring, holding, managing, or disposing of investments (as principal or as agent) for the purposes of their businesses or who it is reasonable to expect will acquire, hold, manage, or dispose of investments (as principal or as agent) for the purposes of their businesses where the issue of the notes would otherwise constitute a contravention of section 19 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (the “FSMA”) by the issuer;
- (b) it has only communicated or caused to be communicated and will only communicate or cause to be communicated an invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of section 21 of the FSMA) received by it in connection with the issue or sale of any notes in circumstances in which section 21(1) of the FSMA does not apply to the issuer; and
- (c) it has complied and will comply with all applicable provisions of the FSMA with respect to anything done by it in relation to the notes in, from or otherwise involving the United Kingdom.

## **Supplemental discussion of Canadian FEDERAL INCOME tax consequences**

The following is a summary of the principal Canadian federal income tax considerations generally applicable to a purchaser who acquires, as a beneficial owner, the notes, including entitlement to all payments thereunder, pursuant to the initial offering by the Bank made in connection with the original issuance of the notes and who, at all relevant times, for purposes of the application of the Income Tax Act (Canada) and the Income Tax Regulations (collectively, the “**Act**”) is not, and is not deemed to be, resident in Canada, deals at arm’s length with the Bank and any transferee resident (or deemed to be resident) in Canada to whom the purchaser disposes of the notes, does not use or hold the notes in a business carried on in Canada, and is not a “specified non-resident shareholder” of the Bank for purposes of the Act or a non-resident person not dealing at arm’s length with a “specified shareholder” (as defined in subsection 18(5) of the Act) of the Bank (a “**Non-Resident Holder**”). Special rules, which are not discussed in this summary, may apply to a non-Canadian holder that is an insurer carrying on an insurance business in Canada and elsewhere.

This summary is based upon the current provisions of the Act and an understanding of the current administrative policies and assessing practices of the CRA published in writing prior to the date hereof. This summary takes into account all specific proposals to amend the Act publicly announced by or on behalf of the Minister of Finance (Canada) prior to the date hereof (the “**Proposals**”) and assumes that all Proposals will be enacted in the form proposed. However, no assurances can be given that the Proposals will be enacted as proposed, or at all. This summary does not otherwise take into account any changes in law or administrative practices or assessing policies, whether by legislative, administrative or judicial action, nor does it take into account tax legislation or considerations of any province, territory or foreign jurisdiction, which may differ from those discussed herein.

This summary assumes that no interest paid on the notes will be in respect of a debt or other obligation to pay an amount to a person with whom the Bank does not deal at arm’s length, within the meaning of the Act.

This summary is of a general nature only and is not, and is not intended to be, legal or tax advice to any particular holder. This summary is not exhaustive of all Canadian federal income tax considerations. Accordingly, prospective purchasers should consult their own tax advisors with regard to their own particular circumstances.

Interest paid or credited or deemed for purposes of the Act to be paid or credited on a note (including any amount paid at maturity in excess of the principal amount and interest deemed to be paid on the note in certain cases involving the assignment, deemed assignment or other transfer of a note to the Bank or any other resident or deemed resident of Canada) to a Non-Resident Holder will not be subject to Canadian non-resident withholding tax unless any portion of such interest is contingent or dependent on the use of or production from property in Canada or is computed by reference to revenue, profit, cash flow, commodity price or any other similar criterion or by reference to dividends paid or payable to shareholders of any class of shares of the capital stock of a corporation (“**Participating Debt Interest**”) subject to certain exceptions. Unless otherwise specified in the relevant term sheet, no portion of the interest paid or credited or deemed to be paid or credited on a note will be Participating Debt Interest. Any conclusion that interest paid or credited or deemed to be paid or credited on a note will not be Participating Debt Interest will be based in part on the published administrative position of the CRA.

No other Canadian federal taxes on income or gains will be payable by a Non-Resident Holder on interest or principal, or on proceeds received by a Non-Resident Holder on the disposition of a note, including on a redemption, payment on maturity, repurchase or purchase for cancellation.



## **SUPPLEMENTAL DISCUSSION OF U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES**

*The following is a general description of certain U.S. tax considerations relating to the notes. It does not purport to be a complete analysis of all tax considerations relating to the notes. Prospective purchasers of the notes should consult their tax advisors as to the consequences under the tax laws of the country of which they are resident for tax purposes and the tax laws of the United States of acquiring, holding and disposing of the notes and receiving payments under the notes. This summary is based upon the law as in effect on the date of this product prospectus supplement and is subject to any change in law that may take effect after such date. For additional information, see "Certain Income Tax Consequences" in the prospectus supplement and "United States Taxation" in the prospectus.*

### **Supplemental U.S. Tax Considerations**

#### ***U.S. Holders***

The following section supplements the discussion of U.S. federal income taxation in the prospectus supplement and the prospectus with respect to U.S. holders (as defined in the prospectus) that purchase their notes in an initial offering. Except for the discussion under "Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act" (which applies in respect of all holders) and as otherwise noted under "Non-U.S. Holders" below, it applies only to those U.S. holders who are not excluded from the discussion of U.S. federal income taxation in the prospectus supplement or the prospectus.

**NO STATUTORY, JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY DIRECTLY DISCUSSES HOW THE NOTES SHOULD BE TREATED FOR U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX PURPOSES. AS A RESULT, THE U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES OF AN INVESTMENT IN THE NOTES ARE UNCERTAIN. BECAUSE OF THE UNCERTAINTY, YOU SHOULD CONSULT YOUR TAX ADVISOR IN DETERMINING THE U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX AND OTHER TAX CONSEQUENCES OF YOUR INVESTMENT IN THE NOTES, INCLUDING THE APPLICATION OF STATE, LOCAL OR OTHER TAX LAWS AND THE POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF CHANGES IN FEDERAL OR OTHER TAX LAWS.**

We will not attempt to ascertain whether the issuer of any Underlying Stock would be treated as a "passive foreign investment company" within the meaning of Section 1297 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the "Code") or a "U.S. real property holding corporation" within the meaning of Section 897 of the Code. If the issuer of any Underlying Stock were so treated, certain adverse U.S. federal income tax consequences could possibly apply. You should refer to any available information filed with the SEC by the issuer of any Underlying Stock and consult your tax advisor regarding the possible consequences to you in this regard.

Although there is no statutory, judicial, or administrative authority directly addressing the characterization of the notes, in the opinion of our special tax counsel, Allen & Overy LLP, it would be reasonable to treat a note with terms described in this product prospectus supplement as an income-bearing pre-paid cash-settled derivative contract in respect of the Underlying Stock for U.S. federal income tax purposes, and the terms of the notes may require a holder and us (in the absence of a change in law or an administrative or judicial ruling to the contrary) to treat the notes for all tax purposes in accordance with such characterization. Unless otherwise stated, the following discussion is based on the characterization described above. The discussion in this section assumes that there is a significant possibility of a significant loss of principal on an investment in notes.

If the notes are treated as income-bearing pre-paid cash settled derivative contracts, although the U.S. federal income tax treatment of the stated periodic interest payments on the

notes is uncertain, we intend to take the position, and the following discussion assumes, that the stated periodic interest payments constitute taxable ordinary income to a U.S. holder at the time received or accrued in accordance with the U.S. holder's regular method of accounting. By purchasing the notes you agree, in the absence of an administrative determination or judicial ruling to the contrary, to treat the stated periodic interest payments as described in the preceding sentence.

Subject to the discussion below concerning the potential application of the "constructive ownership" rules, a U.S. holder should generally recognize capital gain or loss upon the sale or maturity of the notes in an amount equal to the difference between the amount a holder receives at such time (other than amounts representing accrued stated periodic interest payments, which would be taxed as described in the preceding paragraph) and the holder's tax basis in the notes. In general, a U.S. holder's tax basis in the notes will be equal to the price the holder paid for the notes. Capital gain recognized by an individual U.S. holder is generally taxed at preferential rates where the property is held for more than one year and is generally taxed at ordinary income rates where the property is held for one year or less. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations. The holding period for notes of a U.S. holder who acquires the notes upon issuance will generally begin on the date after the issue date (i.e., the settlement date) of the notes. If the notes are held by the same U.S. holder until maturity, that holder's holding period will generally include the maturity date. It is possible that the Internal Revenue Service could assert that a U.S. holder's holding period in respect of the notes should end on the date on which the amount the holder is entitled to receive upon the maturity of the notes is determined, even though the holder will not receive any amounts from us in respect of the notes prior to the maturity of the notes. In such case, a U.S. holder may be treated as having a holding period in respect of the notes that is one year or less even if the holder receives cash upon maturity of the notes at a time that is more than one year after the beginning of its holding period.

*Potential Application of the "Constructive Ownership" Rules.* If the Underlying Stock is a type of financial asset described under Section 1260 of the Code (including, among others, any equity interest in pass-thru entities such as ETFs, regulated investment companies, real estate investment trusts, partnerships and passive foreign investment companies, each a "Section 1260 Financial Asset"), while the matter is not entirely clear, unless otherwise specified in the applicable pricing supplement, there exists a substantial risk that an investment in a note is, in whole or in part, a "constructive ownership transaction" to which Section 1260 of the Code applies. If Section 1260 of the Code applies, all or a portion of any long-term capital gain recognized by a U.S. holder in respect of a note will be recharacterized as ordinary income (the "Excess Gain"). In addition, an interest charge will also apply to any deemed underpayment of tax in respect of any Excess Gain to the extent such gain would have resulted in gross income inclusion for the U.S. holder in taxable years prior to the taxable year of the sale, exchange, or settlement (assuming such income accrued at a constant rate equal to the applicable federal rate as of the date of sale, exchange, or settlement).

If an investment in a note is treated as a constructive ownership transaction, it is not clear to what extent any long-term capital gain of a U.S. holder in respect of the note will be recharacterized as ordinary income. It is possible, for example, that the amount of the Excess Gain (if any) that would be recharacterized as ordinary income in respect of the note will equal the excess of (i) any long-term capital gain recognized by the U.S. holder in respect of the note and attributable to Section 1260 Financial Assets, over (ii) the "net underlying long-term capital gain" (as defined in Section 1260 of the Code) that such U.S. holder would have had if such U.S. holder had acquired an amount of the corresponding Section 1260 Financial Assets at fair market value on the original issue date for an amount equal to the portion of the issue price of the note attributable to the corresponding Section 1260 Financial Assets and sold such amount of Section 1260 Financial Assets upon the date of sale, exchange or settlement of the

note at fair market value (and appropriately taking into account any leveraged upside exposure). To the extent any gain is treated as long-term capital gain after application of the recharacterization rules of Section 1260 of the Code, such gain would be subject to U.S. federal income tax at the rates that would have been applicable to the net underlying long-term capital gain. U.S. holders should consult their tax advisors regarding the potential application of Section 1260 of the Code to an investment in the note.

*Alternative Treatments.* Alternative tax treatments of the notes are also possible and the Internal Revenue Service might assert that a treatment other than that described above is more appropriate. For example, it may be possible to treat the notes, and the Internal Revenue Service might assert that the notes should be treated, as a single debt instrument. If the notes have a term that exceeds one year, such a debt instrument may be subject to the special tax rules governing contingent payment debt instruments as discussed below.

Because of the absence of authority regarding the appropriate tax characterization of the notes, it is also possible that the Internal Revenue Service could seek to characterize the notes in a manner that results in tax consequences that are different from those described above. For example, the Internal Revenue Service could possibly assert that any gain or loss that a holder may recognize upon the sale or maturity of the notes should be treated as ordinary gain or loss.

The Internal Revenue Service has released a notice that may affect the taxation of holders of the notes. According to the notice, the Internal Revenue Service and the Treasury Department are actively considering whether the holder of an instrument such as the notes should be required to accrue ordinary income on a current basis, and they are seeking taxpayer comments on the subject. It is not possible to determine what guidance they will ultimately issue, if any. It is possible, however, that under such guidance, holders of the notes will ultimately be required to accrue income currently and this could be applied on a retroactive basis. The Internal Revenue Service and the Treasury Department are also considering other relevant issues, including whether additional gain or loss from such instruments should be treated as ordinary or capital and whether the special “constructive ownership rules” of Section 1260 of the Code might be applied to such instruments. Holders are urged to consult their tax advisors concerning the significance, and the potential impact, of the above considerations. Unless stated otherwise in the relevant pricing supplement, we intend to treat the notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes in accordance with the treatment described in this product prospectus supplement unless and until such time as the Treasury Department and Internal Revenue Service determine that some other treatment is more appropriate.

*Contingent Payment Debt Instruments.* If the notes are subject to the special rules applicable to contingent payment debt instruments, the amount of interest U.S. holders are required to take into account for each accrual period will be determined by constructing a projected payment schedule for the notes and applying rules similar to those for accruing “original issue discount” or OID (see “United States Taxation—Original Issue Discount” in the prospectus) on a hypothetical noncontingent debt instrument with that projected payment schedule. This method is applied by first determining the yield at which we would issue a noncontingent fixed rate debt instrument with terms and conditions similar to the notes (the “comparable yield”) and then determining a payment schedule as of the issue date that would produce the comparable yield. A projected payment schedule with respect to a note generally is a series of projected payments, the amount and timing of which would produce a yield to maturity on that note equal to the comparable yield. This projected payment schedule will consist of the principal amount, any noncontingent payments provided under the terms of the note, and a projection for tax purposes of each contingent payment. These rules could possibly

have the effect of requiring U.S. holders to include amounts in income in respect of the notes prior to receipt of cash attributable to that income.

The amount of interest that a U.S. holder will be required to include in income during each accrual period for the notes will equal the product of the adjusted issue price for the notes at the beginning of the accrual period and the comparable yield for the notes for such period. The adjusted issue price of the notes will equal the original offering price for the notes plus any interest that has accrued on the notes (under the rules governing contingent payment debt instruments) and decreased by the amount of any payments previously made on the notes.

Information on how to obtain the comparable yield and projected payment schedule for a particular note will be provided upon reasonable request. A holder is required to use this comparable yield and projected payment schedule in determining its interest accruals in respect of a note treated as a contingent payment debt instrument unless the holder timely discloses and justifies on its federal income tax return the use of a different comparable yield and projected payment schedule.

The comparable yield and projected payment schedule are not provided for any purpose other than the determination of interest accruals in respect of the notes, and we make no representations regarding the amount of contingent payments with respect to the notes. Any Form 1099-OID will be based on such comparable yield and projected payment schedule. In addition to accruing interest income in accordance with the comparable yield, a U.S. holder will be required to make adjustments (as described below) if the actual amounts that holder receives in any taxable year differs from the projected payment schedule.

If, during any taxable year, a U.S. holder receives contingent payments with respect to the notes that, in the aggregate, exceed the total amount of projected contingent payments for that taxable year, that holder will incur a “net positive adjustment” under applicable Treasury regulations equal to the amount of such excess. A U.S. holder will treat a net positive adjustment as additional interest income in that taxable year.

If a U.S. holder receives in a taxable year contingent payments with respect to the notes that, in the aggregate, are less than the amount of projected contingent payments for that taxable year, that holder will incur a “net negative adjustment” under applicable Treasury regulations equal to the amount of such deficit. This net negative adjustment will (a) reduce interest income on the notes for that taxable year, and (b), to the extent of any excess after the application of clause (a), give rise to an ordinary loss to the extent of the holder’s interest income on the notes during prior taxable years, reduced to the extent such interest was offset by prior net negative adjustments. Any net negative adjustment in excess of the amounts described in clauses (a) and (b) will be carried forward as a negative adjustment to offset future interest income with respect to the notes or to reduce the amount realized on a sale, redemption or maturity of the notes. A net negative adjustment is not subject to the two percent floor limitation on miscellaneous itemized deductions.

If the notes are purchased for an amount that differs from the notes’ adjusted issue price at the time of the purchase, a U.S. holder must determine the extent to which the difference between the price paid for the notes and the notes’ adjusted issue price is attributable to a change in expectations as to the projected payment schedule, a change in interest rates, or both, and allocate the difference accordingly.

If the notes are purchased for an amount that is less than the adjusted issue price of the notes, U.S. holders must (i) make positive adjustments increasing the amount of interest that would otherwise accrue and be included in income each year to the extent of amounts allocated to a change in interest rates under the preceding paragraph, and (ii) make positive

adjustments increasing the amount of ordinary income (or decreasing the amount of loss) that would otherwise be recognized upon the receipt, if any, of each remaining contingent payment to the extent of amounts allocated to a change in expectations as to the projected payment schedule under the preceding paragraph. If the notes are purchased for an amount that is greater than the adjusted issue price of the notes, U.S. holders must (i) make negative adjustments decreasing the amount of interest that would otherwise accrue and be included in income each year to the extent of amounts allocated to a change in interest rates under the preceding paragraph, and (ii) make negative adjustments decreasing the amount of ordinary income (or increasing the amount of loss) that would otherwise be recognized upon the receipt, if any, of each remaining contingent payment to the extent of amounts allocated to a change in expectations as to the projected payment schedule under the preceding paragraph. Adjustments allocated to the interest amount are not made until the date the daily portion of interest accrues.

Because any Form 1099-OID that a U.S. holder may receive will not reflect the effects of any positive or negative adjustments, U.S. holders are urged to consult with their tax advisors as to whether and how the adjustments described in the preceding paragraph should be made to the amounts reported on any Form 1099-OID.

U.S. holders will recognize gain or loss on the sale, redemption or maturity of the notes in an amount equal to the difference, if any, between the amount of cash received at that time and their adjusted basis in the notes. In general, a U.S. holder's adjusted basis in the notes will equal the amount the holder paid for the notes, increased by the amount of interest that was previously accrued with respect to the notes (in accordance with the comparable yield for the notes, but disregarding any adjustments made if the actual payments differ from the projected payments), decreased by the amount of any payments previously made on the notes, and increased or decreased by the amount of any positive or negative adjustment, if any, that is made with respect to the notes under the rules set forth above with respect to secondary purchasers.

Any gain that may be recognized on the sale, redemption or maturity of notes treated as contingent payment debt instruments will generally be ordinary interest income. Any loss that may be recognized upon the sale, redemption or maturity of such notes will generally be ordinary loss to the extent the interest included as income in the current or previous taxable years in respect of the notes exceeded the total net negative adjustments that the holder took into account as ordinary loss, and thereafter will be capital loss. If the notes are held until maturity and the payment at maturity is less than the projected payment at maturity, the difference will first reduce interest that would otherwise accrue in respect of the notes in such taxable year, and any remainder will be ordinary loss to the extent the interest that the holder previously accrued as income in respect of the notes exceeded the total net negative adjustments that the holder took into account as ordinary loss, and thereafter will be capital loss. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations.

#### *Additional Information for U.S. Holders*

U.S. holders should also review the discussion in “—Treasury Regulations Requiring Disclosure of Reportable Transactions”, “—Information With Respect to Foreign Financial Assets” and “—Information Reporting and Backup Withholding” under “United States Taxation” in the prospectus.

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### ***Non-U.S. Holders***

The following discussion applies to non-U.S. holders of the notes. A non-U.S. holder is a beneficial owner of a note that, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, is a non-resident alien individual, a foreign corporation, or a foreign estate or trust.

A non-U.S. holder will generally not be subject to U.S. federal income or withholding tax for amounts paid in respect of the notes, provided that (i) the holder complies with any applicable certification requirements, (ii) the payment is not effectively connected with the conduct by the holder of a U.S. trade or business, and (iii), if the holder is a non-resident alien individual, such holder is not present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year of the sale or maturity of the notes. In the case of clause (ii) above, the holder generally would be subject to U.S. federal income tax with respect to any income or gain in the same manner as if the holder were a U.S. holder and, in the case of a holder that is a corporation, the holder may also be subject to a branch profits tax equal to 30% (or such lower rate provided by an applicable U.S. income tax treaty) of a portion of its earnings and profits for the taxable year that are effectively connected with its conduct of a trade or business in the United States, subject to certain adjustments. Payments made to a non-U.S. holder may be subject to information reporting and to backup withholding unless the holder complies with applicable certification and identification requirements as to its foreign status.

As discussed above, alternative characterizations of the notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes are possible. Should an alternative characterization cause payments with respect to the notes to become subject to withholding tax, we will withhold tax at the applicable statutory rate. The Internal Revenue Service has also indicated that it is considering whether income in respect of instruments such as the notes should be subject to withholding tax. Prospective investors should consult their own tax advisors in this regard.

Under Section 871(m) of the Code, a "dividend equivalent" payment is treated as a dividend from sources within the United States and such payments generally would be subject to U.S. withholding tax unless reduced by any applicable tax treaty. A "dividend equivalent" payment is generally defined as (i) a substitute dividend payment made pursuant to a securities lending or a sale-repurchase transaction that (directly or indirectly) is contingent upon, or determined by reference to, the payment of a dividend from sources within the United States, (ii) a payment made pursuant to a "specified notional principal contract" that (directly or indirectly) is contingent upon, or determined by reference to, the payment of a dividend from sources within the United States, and (iii) any other payment determined by the Internal Revenue Service to be substantially similar to a payment described in the preceding clauses (i) and (ii). Proposed Treasury regulations expand the scope of withholding under Section 871(m) of the Code beginning January 1, 2016, in respect of notes issued on or after the date that is 90 days after the publication of final Treasury regulations. Prospective non-U.S. holders of the notes should consult their own tax advisors regarding the possible application of Section 871(m) of the Code to an investment in the notes.

*U.S. Federal Estate Tax.* Under current law, the notes should generally not be includible in the estate of a non-U.S. holder. Prospective purchasers should consult their own tax advisors with regard to their own particular circumstances.

### ***Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act Withholding***

Sections 1471 through 1474 of the Code ("FATCA") impose a new reporting regime and potentially a 30% withholding tax with respect to certain payments to any non-U.S. financial institution (a "foreign financial institution", or "FFI" (as defined by FATCA)) that does not become a "Participating FFI" by entering into an agreement with the U.S. Internal Revenue

Service ("IRS") to provide the IRS with certain information in respect of its account holders and investors or is not otherwise exempt from or in deemed compliance with FATCA. The Bank is classified as an FFI.

The new withholding regime is currently in effect for payments from sources within the United States and will apply to "foreign passthru payments" (a term not yet defined) no earlier than 1 January 2017. This withholding would potentially apply to payments in respect of (i) any notes characterised as debt (or which are not otherwise characterized as equity and have a fixed term) for U.S. federal tax purposes that are executed or materially modified after the "grandfathering date", which (A) with respect to notes that give rise solely to foreign passthru payments, is the date that is six months after the date on which final U.S. Treasury regulations defining the term foreign passthru payment are filed with the Federal Register and (B) with respect to notes that give rise to a dividend equivalent pursuant to Section 871(m) of the Code, is the date that is six months after the date on which obligations of their type are first treated as giving rise to dividend equivalents, and (ii) any notes characterised as equity or which do not have a fixed term for U.S. federal tax purposes, whenever issued. If notes are executed on or before the grandfathering date, and additional notes of the same series are executed after that date, the additional notes may not be treated as grandfathered, which may have negative consequences for the existing notes, including a negative impact on market price.

The United States and a number of other jurisdictions have entered into intergovernmental agreements to facilitate the implementation of FATCA (each, an "IGA"). Pursuant to FATCA and the "Model 1" and "Model 2" IGAs released by the United States, an FFI in an IGA signatory country could be treated as a "Reporting FI" not subject to withholding under FATCA on any payments it receives. Further, an FFI in an IGA jurisdiction would generally not be required to withhold under FATCA or an IGA (or any law implementing an IGA) (any such withholding being "FATCA Withholding") from payments it makes. Under each Model IGA, a Reporting FI would still be required to report certain information in respect of its account holders and investors to its home government or to the IRS. The United States and Canada have entered into an agreement (the "US-Canada IGA") based largely on the Model 1 IGA.

If the Bank is treated as a Reporting FI pursuant to the US-Canada IGA it does not anticipate that it will be obliged to deduct any FATCA Withholding on payments it makes. There can be no assurance, however, that the Bank will be treated as a Reporting FI, or that it would in the future not be required to deduct FATCA Withholding from payments it makes. Accordingly, the Bank and financial institutions through which payments on the notes are made may be required to withhold FATCA Withholding if any FFI through or to which payment on such notes is made is not a Participating FFI, a Reporting FI, or otherwise exempt from or in deemed compliance with FATCA.

Whilst the notes are in global form and held within the clearing systems, it is expected that FATCA will not affect the amount of any payments made under, or in respect of, the notes by the Bank or any paying agent, given that each of the entities in the payment chain between the Bank and the clearing systems is a major financial institution whose business is dependent on compliance with FATCA and that any alternative approach introduced under an IGA will be unlikely to affect the notes.

FATCA is particularly complex and its application is uncertain at this time. The above description is based in part on proposed regulations, official guidance and the US-Canada IGA, all of which are subject to change. You should consult your own tax advisers on how these rules may apply to payments you receive under the notes.

## ERISA CONSIDERATIONS

Each fiduciary of a pension, profit-sharing, or other employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (“**ERISA**”) (a “**Plan**”), should consider the fiduciary standards of ERISA in the context of the Plan’s particular circumstances before authorizing an investment in the notes. Accordingly, among other factors, the fiduciary should consider whether the investment would satisfy the prudence and diversification requirements of ERISA and would be consistent with the documents and instruments governing the Plan.

In addition, we, the agents, and certain of our respective subsidiaries and affiliates may be each considered a party in interest within the meaning of ERISA, or a disqualified person (within the meaning of the Code), with respect to many Plans, as well as many individual retirement accounts and Keogh plans that are subject to Section 4975 of the Code (also “**Plans**”). Prohibited transactions within the meaning of ERISA or the Code would likely arise, for example, if the notes are acquired by or with the assets of a Plan with respect to which we or any of our affiliates is a party in interest, unless the notes are acquired under an exemption from the prohibited transaction rules. A violation of these prohibited transaction rules could result in an excise tax or other liabilities under ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code for such persons, unless exemptive relief is available under an applicable statutory or administrative exemption.

Under ERISA and various prohibited transaction class exemptions (“**PTCEs**”) issued by the U.S. Department of Labor, exemptive relief may be available for direct or indirect prohibited transactions resulting from the acquisition, holding, or disposition of the notes. Those exemptions are PTCE 96-23 (for certain transactions determined by in-house asset managers), PTCE 95-60 (for certain transactions involving insurance company general accounts), PTCE 91-38 (for certain transactions involving bank collective investment funds), PTCE 90-1 (for certain transactions involving insurance company separate accounts), PTCE 84-14 (for certain transactions determined by independent qualified asset managers), and the exemption under Section 408(b)(17) of ERISA and Section 4975(d)(20) of the Code for certain arm’s-length transactions with a person that is a party in interest solely by reason of providing services to Plans or being an affiliate of such a service provider (the “**Service Provider Exemption**”).

Governmental plans (as defined in Section 3(32) of ERISA), certain church plans (as defined in Section 3(33) of ERISA) and foreign plans (as described in Section 4(b)(4) of ERISA), while not subject to the fiduciary responsibility provisions of ERISA or the prohibited transaction provisions of Section 406 of ERISA and Section 4975 of the Code, may nevertheless be subject to state, local, other federal law of the United States or foreign law that is substantially similar to such provisions of ERISA or the Code (“**Similar Law**”). Fiduciaries of any such plans should consult with their counsel before purchasing the notes to determine the need for, if necessary, and the availability of, any exemptive relief under any Similar Law.

Because we may be considered a party in interest with respect to many Plans, the notes may not be acquired, held, or disposed of by any Plan, any entity whose underlying assets include plan assets by reason of any Plan’s investment in the entity (a “**Plan Asset Entity**”) or any person investing plan assets of any Plan, unless such acquisition, holding, or disposition is eligible for exemptive relief, including relief available under PTCE 96-23, 95-60, 91-38, 90-1, or 84-14 or the Service Provider Exemption, or such acquisition, holding, or disposition is otherwise not prohibited. Any purchaser, including any fiduciary purchasing on behalf of a Plan, transferee or holder of the notes will be deemed to have represented, in its corporate and its fiduciary capacity, by its purchase and holding of the notes that either (a) it is not a Plan or a Plan Asset Entity and is not purchasing such notes on behalf of or with plan assets of any Plan or any plan subject to Similar Law or (b) its acquisition, holding, and disposition are



eligible for exemptive relief or such purchase, holding, and disposition are not prohibited by ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code or Similar Law.

Further, any person acquiring or holding the notes on behalf of any Plan or with the plan assets of any Plan shall be deemed to represent on behalf of itself and such Plan that (x) the Plan is paying no more than, and is receiving no less than, adequate consideration within the meaning of Section 408(b)(17) of ERISA in connection with the transaction or any redemption of the notes, (y) none of us, MLPF&S, or any other agent directly or indirectly exercises any discretionary authority or control or renders investment advice or otherwise acts in a fiduciary capacity with respect to the assets of the Plan within the meaning of ERISA and (z) in making the foregoing representations and warranties, such person has applied sound business principles in determining whether fair market value will be paid, and has made such determination acting in good faith.

In addition, any purchaser, that is a Plan or a Plan Asset Entity or that is acquiring the notes on behalf of a Plan or a Plan Asset Entity, including any fiduciary purchasing on behalf of a Plan or Plan Asset entity, will be deemed to have represented, in its corporate and its fiduciary capacity, by its purchase and holding of the notes that (a) none of us, MLPF&S, or any of our respective affiliates is a “**fiduciary**” (under Section 3(21) of ERISA, or under any final or proposed regulations thereunder, or with respect to a governmental, church, or foreign plan under any Similar Law) with respect to the acquisition, holding or disposition of the notes, or as a result of any exercise by us or our affiliates of any rights in connection with the notes, (b) no advice provided by us or any of our affiliates has formed a primary basis for any investment decision by or on behalf of such purchaser in connection with the notes and the transactions contemplated with respect to the notes, and (c) such purchaser recognizes and agrees that any communication from us or any of our affiliates to the purchaser with respect to the notes is not intended by us or any of our affiliates to be impartial investment advice and is rendered in its capacity as a seller of such notes and not a fiduciary to such purchaser. Purchasers of the notes have exclusive responsibility for ensuring that their purchase, holding, and disposition of the notes do not violate the prohibited transaction rules of ERISA or the Code or any Similar Law.

This discussion is a general summary of some of the rules which apply to benefit plans and their related investment vehicles. This summary does not include all of the investment considerations relevant to Plans and other benefit plan investors such as governmental, church, and foreign plans and should not be construed as legal advice or a legal opinion. Due to the complexity of these rules and the penalties that may be imposed upon persons involved in non-exempt prohibited transactions, it is particularly important that fiduciaries or other persons considering purchasing the notes on behalf of or with “plan assets” of any Plan or other benefit plan investor consult with their legal counsel prior to directing any such purchase.

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