



Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce Audit Committee Mandate

1. **PURPOSE**

- (1) The primary functions of the Audit Committee are to fulfill its responsibilities for reviewing the integrity of CIBC's financial statements, financial disclosures and internal control over financial reporting; monitoring the system of internal control; monitoring CIBC's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements; selecting the external auditors for shareholder approval; reviewing the qualifications, independence and performance of the external auditors; reviewing the qualifications, independence and performance of CIBC's internal auditors; and acting as the Audit Committee for certain federally regulated subsidiaries.

2. **MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION**

- (1) **Composition** — The Audit Committee shall consist of not less than three or more than six independent members of the Board. At the invitation of the Audit Committee, members of CIBC's management and others may attend Audit Committee meetings, as the Audit Committee considers necessary or desirable.
- (2) **Appointment and Removal of Audit Committee Members** — Each member of the Audit Committee shall be appointed by the Board on an annual basis and shall serve at the pleasure of the Board, or until the earlier of (a) the close of the next annual meeting of shareholders of CIBC at which the member's term of office expires, (b) the death of the member or (c) the resignation, disqualification or removal of the member from the Audit Committee or from the Board. The Board may fill a vacancy in the membership of the Audit Committee.
- (3) **Chair** — At the time of the annual appointment of the members of the Audit Committee, the Board shall appoint a Chair of the Audit Committee. The Chair shall: be a member of the Audit Committee; preside over all Audit Committee meetings; coordinate the Audit Committee's compliance with this mandate; work with management to develop the Audit Committee's annual work-plan and meeting agendas; and provide reports of the Audit Committee to the Board. The Chair may vote on any matter requiring a vote and shall provide a second vote in the case of a tie vote.
- (4) **Independence** — Each member of the Audit Committee shall meet the independence standards established by the Board and the additional requirements listed in Exhibit A to this mandate.

- (5) **Financial Literacy** — Members of the Audit Committee shall be financially literate or agree to become financially literate within a reasonable period of time following the member's appointment. An individual is financially literate if he or she has the ability to read and understand a set of financial statements that present a breadth and level of complexity of accounting issues that are generally comparable to the breadth and complexity of the issues that can reasonably be expected to be raised by CIBC's financial statements.
- (6) **Service on Multiple Audit Committees** — No member of the Audit Committee may serve on the audit committees of more than two other public companies, unless the Board determines that this simultaneous service would not impair the ability of the member to effectively serve on the Audit Committee.

3. MEETINGS

- (1) **Meetings** — The members of the Audit Committee shall hold meetings as are required to carry out this mandate, and in any case no less than four meetings annually. The external auditors are entitled to attend and be heard at each Audit Committee meeting. The Chair, any member of the Audit Committee, the external auditors, the Chief Auditor, the Chair of the Board or the Chief Executive Officer may call a meeting of the Audit Committee by notifying the Corporate Secretary of CIBC who will notify the members of the Audit Committee. The Chair shall chair all Audit Committee meetings that he or she attends, and in the absence of the Chair, the members of the Audit Committee present may appoint a Chair from their number for a meeting.
- (2) **Notices of Meetings** — Notices of Audit Committee meetings may be provided by: prepaid mail, personal delivery, facsimile, electronic-mail or telephone, provided that the method of notification chosen shall be capable of being received by members of the Audit Committee and the external auditors at least 24 hours before an Audit Committee meeting at the member's contact information last recorded with the Corporate Secretary. Any member of the Audit Committee may in any manner waive notice of an Audit Committee meeting and attendance at an Audit Committee meeting is waiver of notice of the meeting, except where a member attends for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business on the grounds that the meeting is not properly called.
- (3) **Secretary and Minutes** — The Corporate Secretary, his or her designate or any other person the Audit Committee requests, shall act as secretary at Audit Committee meetings. Minutes of Audit Committee meetings shall be recorded and maintained by the Corporate Secretary and subsequently presented to the Audit Committee for approval.
- (4) **Quorum** — A majority of the members of the Audit Committee shall constitute a quorum. If a quorum cannot be obtained for an Audit Committee meeting, members of the Board who would qualify as members of the Audit Committee may, at the request of the Chair or the Chair of the Board, serve as members of the Audit Committee for that meeting.
- (5) **Resident Canadian Majority** — The Audit Committee shall not transact business at an Audit Committee meeting unless a majority of the members present are "resident Canadians" under the *Bank Act* (Canada).
- (6) **Access to Management and Outside Advisors** — The Audit Committee shall have unrestricted access to management and employees of CIBC, and, from time to time may hold unscheduled or regularly scheduled meetings or portions of regularly scheduled meetings with the Chief Auditor, the external auditors, the Executive Vice-President, Governance and Control, the Chief Financial Officer or the Chief Executive Officer. The Audit Committee shall have the authority to retain and terminate external legal counsel, consultants or other advisors to assist it in fulfilling its responsibilities and to set and pay the compensation for these advisors without consulting or obtaining the approval of the Board or any officer of CIBC. CIBC shall provide appropriate funding, as determined by the Audit Committee, for the services of these advisors.

- (7) **Meetings Without Management** — The Audit Committee shall hold unscheduled or regularly scheduled meetings, or portions of regularly scheduled meetings, at which management is not present.
- (8) **Access to Other Committees** – The Chair or any member of the Audit Committee may request the input of another Board committee on any accountability or responsibility set out in this mandate.

4. ACCOUNTABILITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Audit Committee shall have the accountabilities and responsibilities set out below as well as any other accountabilities that are specifically delegated to the Audit Committee by the Board. In addition to these functions and responsibilities, the Audit Committee shall perform the duties required of an audit committee by the *Bank Act* (Canada), requirements of the stock exchanges on which the securities of CIBC are listed and all other applicable laws.

(1) Financial Reporting

- (a) **General** — The Audit Committee is responsible for reviewing the integrity of CIBC's financial statements and financial disclosures. Management is responsible for the preparation, presentation and integrity of CIBC's financial statements and financial disclosures and for the appropriateness of the accounting principles and the reporting policies used by CIBC. The external auditors are responsible for auditing CIBC's annual consolidated financial statements and for reviewing CIBC's unaudited interim financial statements.
- (b) **Review of Annual Financial Reports** — The Audit Committee shall review the annual consolidated audited financial statements of CIBC, the external auditors' report thereon and the related management's discussion and analysis (MD&A) of CIBC's financial condition and results of operations and management's report that they present fairly, in all material respects in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), or any other generally accepted accounting principles in which the financial statements of CIBC are prepared from time to time, the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of CIBC. After completing its review, if advisable, the Audit Committee shall approve and recommend for Board approval the annual financial statements and the related MD&A.
- (c) **Review of Interim Financial Reports** — The Audit Committee shall review the interim consolidated financial statements of CIBC, the external auditors' review report thereon and the related MD&A and managements report that they present fairly, in all material respects in accordance with GAAP, the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of CIBC. After completing its review, if advisable, the Audit Committee shall approve and recommend for Board approval the interim financial statements and the related MD&A.
- (d) **Review Considerations** — In conducting its review of the annual financial statements or the interim financial statements, the Audit Committee shall:
- (i) meet with management and the external auditors to discuss the financial statements and MD&A;
 - (ii) review the disclosures in the financial statements;
 - (iii) review the audit report or review report prepared by the external auditors;
 - (iv) discuss with management, the external auditors and internal legal counsel, as requested, any litigation claim or other contingency that could have a material effect on the financial statements;

- (v) review critical accounting and other significant estimates and judgments underlying the financial statements as presented by management;
 - (vi) review any material effects of regulatory accounting initiatives, significant transactions or off-balance sheet structures on the financial statements as presented by management;
 - (vii) review any material changes in accounting policies and practices and their impact on the financial statements as presented by management or the external auditors;
 - (viii) review management's and the external auditors' reports on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting;
 - (ix) review results of CIBC's whistleblowing program; and
 - (x) review any other matters, related to the financial statements, that are brought forward by the internal auditors, external auditors, management or which are required to be communicated to the Audit Committee under accounting policies, auditing standards or applicable law.
- (e) Approval of Other Disclosures — The Audit Committee shall review and, if advisable, approve or recommend for Board approval (i) the annual information form of CIBC; (ii) the Form 40F of CIBC; (iii) financial disclosure in a press release disclosing financial results, a prospectus or other securities offering document of CIBC; and (iv) any other material financial disclosure.

(2) **External Auditors**

- (a) General — The Audit Committee shall be responsible for oversight of the work of the external auditors in auditing and reviewing CIBC's financial statements and internal controls over financial reporting including the resolution of disagreements between management and the external auditors regarding financial reporting.
- (b) Appointment and Compensation — The Audit Committee shall review and, if advisable, select and recommend (i) for shareholder approval, the appointment of the external auditors and (ii) for shareholder or Board approval, as applicable, the compensation of the external auditors.
- (c) Annual Review Report — At least annually, the Audit Committee shall obtain and review a report by the external auditors describing: (i) their internal quality-control procedures and (ii) any material issues raised by their most recent internal quality-control review, peer review or by any inquiry or investigation by governmental or professional authorities within the preceding five years respecting one or more independent audits carried out by the external auditors and any steps taken to deal with any of these issues.
- (d) Audit Plan — At least annually, the Audit Committee shall review and approve the external auditors' annual audit plan. The Audit Committee shall consider and review with the external auditors any material changes to the scope of the plan.

- (e) Independence of External Auditors — At least annually, and before the external auditors issue their report on the annual financial statements, the Audit Committee shall: obtain from the external auditors a formal written statement describing all relationships between the external auditors and CIBC; discuss with the external auditors any disclosed relationships or services that may affect the objectivity and independence of the external auditors; and obtain written confirmation from the external auditors that they are independent within the meaning of the Rules of Professional Conduct/Code of Ethics adopted by the provincial institute or order of chartered accountants to which they belong and within the meaning of United States federal securities laws and the rules and regulations thereunder, including the independence rules adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, and Rule 3600T of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board.
- (f) Evaluation and Rotation of Lead Partner — At least annually, the Audit Committee shall review the qualifications and performance of the external auditors. The Audit Committee shall obtain a report from the external auditors annually confirming that they are in compliance with all audit firm and regulatory requirements relating to partner rotation and that the engagement team collectively possesses the experience and competence to perform an appropriate audit.
- (g) Pre-Approval of Audit and Non-Audit Services — The Audit Committee shall pre-approve any retainer of the external auditors for any audit and non-audit service to CIBC or its subsidiaries in accordance with applicable law and Board approved policies and procedures. The Audit Committee may delegate pre-approval authority to a member of the Audit Committee. The decisions of any member of the Audit Committee to whom this authority has been delegated must be presented to the full Audit Committee at its next scheduled Audit Committee meeting.
- (h) Hiring Practices — The Audit Committee shall review and approve guidelines regarding the hiring of employees or former employees of the external auditors or former external auditors.

(3) **Internal Audit Function**

- (a) General — The Internal Audit function is responsible for providing independent and objective assurance and consulting services to add value and improve the operations of CIBC by bringing a systematic, disciplined, approach to evaluating and improving the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance processes. The Audit Committee shall review the independence of the internal auditors from management having regard to the scope, budget, planned activities and organization structure of the internal audit function.
- (b) Internal Audit Charter — The Audit Committee is responsible for establishing and approving the Internal Audit Charter and mandate, which will be reviewed annually and updated as required.
- (c) Chief Auditor — The Audit Committee shall review and, if advisable, approve the appointment of CIBC's Chief Auditor. At least annually, the Audit Committee shall evaluate the performance of the Chief Auditor and shall meet with the Chief Auditor to discuss the execution of matters under this mandate.
- (d) Review — At least annually, the Audit Committee shall consider and review with management and the Chief Auditor:
 - (i) any difficulties encountered by the Chief Auditor in the course of internal audits, including any restrictions on the scope of internal audit work or access to required information; and

- (ii) the compliance of internal audit with professional standards promulgated by the Institute of Internal Auditors.
- (e) **Audit Plans** — The Audit Committee approves the annual audit plan presented by the Chief Auditor. The Chief Auditor, on a quarterly basis, will inform the Audit Committee of the status of the Audit Plan and any changes needed.

(4) Internal Controls

- (a) **General** — The Audit Committee shall monitor the system of internal control.
- (b) **Establishment, Review and Approval** — The Audit Committee shall require management to implement and maintain appropriate systems of internal control in accordance with applicable laws, regulations and guidance, including internal control over financial reporting and disclosure and to review, evaluate and approve these procedures. At least annually, the Audit Committee shall consider and review with management, the external auditors, the Chief Auditor, the Executive Vice-President, Governance and Control and the Chief Compliance Officer:
 - (i) the effectiveness of, or weaknesses or deficiencies in: the design or operation of CIBC's internal controls (including computerized information system controls and security); the overall control environment for managing business risks; and accounting, financial and disclosure controls (including, without limitation, controls over financial reporting), operational controls, and legal and regulatory controls and the impact of any identified weaknesses in internal controls on management's conclusions;
 - (ii) any significant changes in internal control over financial reporting that are disclosed, or considered for disclosure, including those in CIBC's periodic regulatory filings;
 - (iii) any material issues raised by any inquiry or investigation by CIBC's regulators;
 - (iv) CIBC's fraud prevention and detection program, including deficiencies in internal controls that may impact the integrity of financial information, or may expose CIBC to other significant internal or external fraud losses and the extent of those losses and any disciplinary action in respect of fraud taken against management or other employees who have a significant role in financial reporting;
 - (v) CIBC's business continuity management and insurance programs, including reviewing and recommending for Board approval a resolution establishing certain limits of insurance, to meet the requirements of the Protection of Assets (Banks) Regulations to the Bank Act; and
 - (vi) any related significant issues and recommendations of the external auditors and internal auditors together with management's responses thereto, including the timetable for implementation of recommendations to correct weaknesses including those relating to internal controls over financial reporting and disclosure controls.

(5) Certain Federally Regulated Subsidiaries — The Audit Committee shall be the audit committee for certain federally regulated subsidiaries of CIBC, as determined by the Audit Committee from time to time, that require an audit committee under applicable law. In meeting its Audit Committee responsibilities with respect to these subsidiaries, the Audit Committee shall:

- (a) review the annual financial statements of the subsidiary prior to approval by its board of directors;

- (b) review regulatory returns of the subsidiary as required under applicable law;
 - (c) require management of the subsidiary to implement and maintain appropriate internal controls over financial reporting and financial disclosure controls and procedures and approve, review and evaluate these procedures;
 - (d) review the effectiveness of the subsidiary's internal control over financial reporting and financial disclosure, including computerized information system controls and security, the overall control environment and accounting and financial controls (including, without limitation, controls over financial reporting), and the impact of any identified weaknesses in internal control over financial reporting on management's conclusions with respect to their effectiveness;
 - (e) review any related significant issues and recommendations of the external and internal auditors together with management's responses thereto, including the timetable for implementation of recommendations to correct weaknesses in internal controls;
 - (f) review investments and transactions that could adversely affect the well being of the subsidiary; and
 - (g) meet with the external auditors of the subsidiary to discuss the annual financial statements and the returns and transactions of such subsidiary, if applicable.
- (6) **Regulatory Reports and Returns** — The Audit Committee shall provide or review, as applicable, all reports and returns required of the Audit Committee under applicable law.
- (7) **Compliance with Legal and Regulatory Requirements** — The Audit Committee shall receive and review regular reports from the Chief Compliance Officer, the Executive Vice-President, Governance and Control, CIBC's General Counsel, the Chief Auditor and other management members on: legal or compliance matters that may have a material impact on CIBC; the effectiveness of CIBC's compliance policies; and any material reports received from regulators. The Audit Committee shall review management's evaluation of and representations relating to compliance with specific regulatory requirements, and management's plans to remediate any deficiencies identified.
- (8) **Whistleblowing Procedures** — The Audit Committee shall review and approve the procedures for the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by CIBC from employees or others, confidentially and anonymously, regarding accounting, internal accounting controls, or auditing matters.
- (9) **Succession Planning** — At least annually, the Audit Committee shall review succession plans for the Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Auditor of CIBC.
- (10) **Adverse Investments and Transactions** — The Audit Committee shall review any investments and transactions that could adversely affect the well-being of CIBC.
- (11) **Audit Committee Disclosure** — The Audit Committee shall review and approve any audit committee disclosures required by securities regulators in CIBC's disclosure documents.
- (12) **Assessment of Regulatory Compliance** — The Audit Committee shall review management's assessment of compliance with laws and regulations as they pertain to responsibilities under this mandate, report any material findings to the Board and recommend changes it considers appropriate.
- (13) **Delegation** — The Audit Committee may designate a sub-committee to review any matter within this mandate as the Audit Committee deems appropriate.

5. REPORTING TO THE BOARD

- (1) The Chair shall report to the Board, as required by applicable law or as deemed necessary by the Audit Committee or as requested by the Board, on matters arising at Audit Committee meetings and, where applicable, shall present the Audit Committee's recommendation to the Board for its approval.

6. COMMITTEE MEMBER DEVELOPMENT AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW

- (1) The Chair shall co-ordinate orientation and continuing director development programs relating to this mandate for Audit Committee members.
- (2) At least annually, the Audit Committee shall evaluate and review the performance of the Audit Committee and each of its members and the adequacy of this mandate. This review will be undertaken in consultation with the Corporate Governance Committee of the Board.

7. CURRENCY OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE MANDATE

- (1) This mandate was last revised and approved by the Board on May 28, 2009.

Exhibit "A"

U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission Standards Implementing the Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002 (the "SOX Standards")

- A member of the Audit Committee ("Member") must be "independent" under the SOX Standards. In order to be considered independent, a Member may not, other than in his or her capacity as a Member of the Audit Committee, the Board of Directors, or any other Board committee:
 - (a) accept directly or indirectly any consulting, advisory or other compensatory fees from CIBC or any subsidiary thereof, excluding fixed amounts of compensation under a retirement plan (including deferred compensation) for prior service with CIBC (provided such compensation is not contingent in any way on continued service); or
 - (b) be an "affiliated" person of CIBC or a subsidiary of CIBC.

The following words used above have the following meanings:

- A Member is "affiliated" with CIBC or a subsidiary if he or she directly, or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, controls, or is controlled by or is under common control with, CIBC or a subsidiary.
- A person is not deemed to be in control of a specified person if the person:
 - (a) is not the beneficial owner, directly or indirectly, of more than 10% of any class of voting equity securities; and
 - (b) is not an "executive officer" of the specified person.
- A Member is also affiliated if he or she is:
 - (a) an executive officer of an affiliate of CIBC;
 - (b) an employee of an affiliate of CIBC;
 - (c) a general partner of an affiliate of CIBC; or
 - (d) a managing member of an affiliate of CIBC.
- "Executive officer" means the President (or Chief Executive Officer), any Vice President in charge of a principal business unit, division or function (such as sales, administration or finance), any other officer who performs a policy making function, or any other person who performs similar policy making functions for the entity. Executive officers of subsidiaries may be deemed executive officers of an entity if they perform such policy-making functions for the entity.
- "Indirect" acceptance of any consulting, advisory or other compensatory fee, includes acceptance by a spouse, minor child or minor stepchild, child or stepchild sharing a home with the Member, or by an entity in which such Member is a partner, member, an officer such as a managing director occupying a comparable position or an executive officer, or occupies a similar position (except limited partners, non-managing members and those occupying similar positions who, in each case, have no active role in providing services to the entity) and which provides accounting, consulting, legal, investment banking or financial advisory services to CIBC or any subsidiary of CIBC.