

# REGISTRATION DOCUMENT



## CANADIAN IMPERIAL BANK OF COMMERCE *(a Canadian chartered bank)*

This document (which expression shall include this document as amended and supplemented from time to time and including documents incorporated by reference herein) has been prepared for the purpose of providing disclosure information with regard to Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (“**CIBC**” or the “**Issuer**”). This document has been filed with, and approved by, the United Kingdom Financial Conduct Authority (the “**FCA**”), which is the United Kingdom competent authority, for the purposes of Directive 2003/71/EC, as amended, including by Directive 2010/73/EU and relevant implementing measures in the United Kingdom (the “**Prospectus Directive**”), as a registration document (the “**Registration Document**”), issued in compliance with the Prospectus Directive. This Registration Document has been prepared for the purpose of providing the information about the Issuer as issuer of debt or derivative securities during the period of twelve months after the date hereof to any persons considering an investment in any such debt or derivative securities. This Registration Document, together with any securities note and any summary drawn up for use only in connection with the issue of debt and derivative securities pursuant to any such programme of the Issuer, may constitute a prospectus for the purpose of Article 5.3 of the Prospectus Directive.

This Registration Document is for use only in relation to debt and derivative securities programmes of the Issuer pursuant to which offers of such debt and derivative securities will not constitute offers of securities to the public (as defined in the Prospectus Directive), other than offers of debt or derivative securities with a minimum denomination of €100,000 (or its equivalent in any other currency as at the date of issue), or offers to qualified investors (as defined in the Prospectus Directive), fewer than 150 natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors) in each EU member state, or in other circumstances falling with Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive.

Principal risk factors relating to the Issuer are set out in "Risk Factors" on pages 5 to 20.

**4 May 2016**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

IMPORTANT NOTICES .....	3
RISK FACTORS .....	5
CAUTIONARY STATEMENT CONCERNING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS.....	21
DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE .....	23
CANADIAN IMPERIAL BANK OF COMMERCE .....	26
GENERAL INFORMATION .....	31

## IMPORTANT NOTICES

The Issuer accepts responsibility for the information contained in this Registration Document. To the best of the knowledge of the Issuer, having taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case, the information contained in this Registration Document is in accordance with the facts and does not omit anything likely to affect the import of such information.

This Registration Document should be read and construed with any amendment or supplement hereto and with any other documents which are deemed to be incorporated by reference into, including any documents incorporated by reference herein.

No person has been authorised by the Issuer to give any information or to make any representation not contained in or not consistent with this Registration Document or any amendment or supplement hereto or any document incorporated by reference and, if given or made, such information or representation should not be relied upon as having been authorised by the Issuer.

This Registration Document, including any documents incorporated by reference herein is not intended to provide the basis of any credit or other evaluation and should not be considered as a recommendation by the Issuer, any trustee or any dealer or manager appointed in relation to any issue of debt or derivative securities by the Issuer that any recipient of this Registration Document, including any documents incorporated by reference herein, should purchase any debt or derivative securities issued by the Issuer. Each investor contemplating purchasing any debt or derivative securities issued by the Issuer should make its own independent investigation of the financial condition and affairs, and its own appraisal of the creditworthiness, of the Issuer. No part of this Registration Document, including any documents incorporated by reference herein, constitutes an offer or invitation by or on behalf of the Issuer, any trustee or any dealer or manager appointed in relation to any issue of debt or derivative securities by the Issuer or any of them to any person to subscribe for or to purchase any of the debt or derivative securities issued by the Issuer.

Subject to the Issuer's obligations under section 87G of the *Financial Services and Markets Act 2000*, as amended ("FSMA"), neither the delivery of this Registration Document or any documents incorporated by reference herein or any prospectus or any final terms nor the offering, sale or delivery of any debt or derivative securities shall, in any circumstances, create any implication that there has been no change in the affairs of the Issuer since the date hereof, or that the information contained in the Registration Document is correct at any time subsequent to the date hereof or that any other written information delivered in connection herewith or therewith is correct as of any time subsequent to the date indicated in such document. Any dealer or trustee appointed in relation to any issue of debt or derivative securities by the Issuer expressly does not undertake to review the financial condition or affairs of the Issuer or its subsidiary undertakings during the life of such debt or derivative securities. Investors should review, inter alia, the most recent financial statements of the Issuer when evaluating debt or derivative securities issued by the Issuer or an investment therein.

The distribution of this Registration Document, including any document incorporated by reference herein, and the offer or sale of debt or derivative securities issued by the Issuer may be restricted by law in certain jurisdictions. Persons into whose possession this Registration Document or any documents incorporated by reference may come must inform themselves about, and observe, any such restrictions on the distribution of this document. For a description of certain restrictions on the distribution of this Registration Document, including any document incorporated herein by reference, and on offers, sales and deliveries of debt or derivative securities issued by the Issuer, please see the applicable description of arrangements relating to subscription and sale of the relevant debt or derivative securities in the relevant prospectus.

Each of Moody's Investors Service, Inc. ("**Moody's USA**"), Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC ("**S&P USA**"), Fitch Ratings, Inc. ("**Fitch**") and DBRS Limited ("**DBRS**") has provided issuer ratings for the Issuer as specified under "Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce – Credit Ratings".

**In accordance with Article 4.1 of the Regulation (EC) No. 1060/2009, as amended by Regulation (EU) No. 513/2011 (the "CRA Regulation"), please note that the following documents (as defined in the section entitled "Documents Incorporated by Reference") incorporated by reference in this Registration Document contain references to credit ratings from the same rating agencies:**

- (a) the 2015 Annual Information Form (pages 10 and 19 through 21);
- (b) the 2015 Annual Report (pages 50, 54, 55, 56, 58, and 71); and
- (c) the First Quarter Report (pages 13, 25 and 28).

None of Moody's USA, S&P USA, Fitch or DBRS (the "**non-EU CRAs**") is established in the European Union or has applied for registration under the CRA Regulation. However, Moody's Investors Service Ltd., Standard and Poor's Credit Market Services Europe Ltd., Fitch Ratings Limited and DBRS Ratings Limited, which are affiliates of Moody's USA, S&P USA, Fitch and DBRS, respectively, are established in the European Union and registered under the CRA Regulation and have endorsed the ratings of their affiliated non-EU CRAs used in specified third countries, including the United States and Canada, for use in the European Union by relevant market participants. See "Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce – Credit Ratings".

All references in this Registration Document to "\$", "C\$", "CAD" or "Canadian dollars" are to the lawful currency of Canada.

## **RISK FACTORS**

The Issuer believes that the following risk factors are material for the purpose of assessing risks associated with the Issuer, although the list is not exhaustive. All of these factors are contingencies which may or may not occur and the Issuer is not in a position to express a view on the likelihood of any such contingency occurring or the likelihood or extent to which any such contingencies may affect the ability of the Issuer to pay interest, principal or other amounts on or in connection with any debt or derivative securities issued by it.

Consideration should be given to the categories of risks identified and discussed herein including credit, market, liquidity, strategic, insurance, operational, reputation, legal, tax, regulatory, environmental and other risk and those related to general business and economic conditions. For a more detailed explanation of the risk factors set out below, consideration should also be given to the discussion of risk factors related to the Issuer and its business and the steps taken to manage those risks, which are contained on pages 41 to 75 of the 2015 Annual Report (as defined below) and on pages 22 to 38 of the First Quarter Report (as defined below) each of which is incorporated herein by reference.

The Issuer believes that the factors described below represent the principal material risks inherent in investing in debt or derivative securities issued by the Issuer, but the inability of the Issuer to pay interest, principal or other amounts on or in connection with any debt or derivative securities issued by it or to perform any of its obligations may occur for other reasons and the Issuer does not represent that the statements below regarding the risks of holding any debt or derivative securities issued by the Issuer are exhaustive. The risks described below are not the only risks faced by the Issuer. Additional risks and uncertainties, including those not presently known to the Issuer or that it currently believes to be immaterial, could also have a material impact on the Issuer's business and could adversely affect the ability of the Issuer to pay interest, principal or other amounts on or in connection with any debt or derivative securities issued by it or to perform any of its obligations. For such additional information in respect of the Issuer, prospective investors should also read the detailed information set out elsewhere in this document and any applicable supplement hereto, or securities note or final terms related hereto (including information incorporated by reference herein or therein) to reach their own views prior to making any investment decisions.

### ***Technology, Information and Cyber Security Risk Exposure***

Financial institutions similar to the Issuer are evolving their business processes to leverage innovative technologies and the internet to improve client experience and streamline operations. At the same time, cyber threats and the associated financial, reputational and business interruption risks have also increased.

These risks continue to be actively managed by the Issuer through strategic risk reviews, enterprise-wide technology and information security programs, with the goal of maintaining overall cyber resilience that prevents, detects and responds to threats such as data breaches, unauthorised access and denial of service attacks. Given the importance of electronic financial systems, including secure online and mobile banking provided by the Issuer to its clients, the Issuer continues to develop controls and processes to protect its systems and client information from damage and

unauthorised disclosure. The Issuer monitors the changing environment globally, including cyber threats and mitigation strategies. In addition, it benchmarks against best practices and provides regular updates to its board of directors.

Despite the Issuer's commitment to information and cyber security, the Issuer and its related third parties may not be able to fully mitigate all risks associated with the increased complexity and high rate of change in the threat landscape. However, the Issuer continuously monitors its risk posture for changes and continues to refine security protection approaches to minimise the impact of any incidents that may occur.

### ***Disintermediation Risk Exposure***

Canadian banking clients are increasingly shifting their service transactions from branches to digital platforms. As such, competitive pressure from digital disruptors, both global technology leaders and smaller financial technology entrants, is increasing and the risk of disintermediation is growing due to the level of sophistication of these non-traditional competitors. The Issuer manages disintermediation risk through strategic risk reviews as well as investment in emerging channels, in data and analytics capabilities, and in technology and innovation in general, to meet its clients' changing expectations, while working to reduce its cost structure and simplify operations.

### ***Commodity Price Risk Exposure***

Commodity prices remain at low levels as growth in global demand continues to be subdued and excess supply persists. Lower commodity prices have placed pressure on corporate margins, which, in turn, have resulted in reduced Canadian tax revenues. There is growing concern that commodity prices will remain at these low levels for a longer period of time, resulting in additional stress for vulnerable companies in the sector. So far, the Issuer's overall commodity exposure continues to perform within its risk appetite. However, the Issuer has experienced some losses in its oil and gas portfolio as prices have remained weak, and if the trend continues, the Issuer could experience an acceleration of losses in future quarters. Clients in the Issuer's oil and gas portfolio are currently being assessed on the basis of the Issuer's enhanced risk metrics, and its portfolio is being monitored in a prudent manner. The Issuer continues to run its enterprise statistical stress tests at lower oil prices to determine potential direct losses, and has also conducted stress tests to assess the secondary impacts of lower oil prices in its retail portfolio for the affected regions, where the Issuer could see higher losses if unemployment continues to trend negatively.

### ***Geo-Political Risk Exposure***

The level of geo-political risk escalates at certain points in time. While the specific impact on the global economy would depend on the nature of the event, in general, any major event could result in instability and volatility, leading to widening spreads, declining equity valuations, flight to safe-haven currencies and increased purchases of gold. In the short run, market shocks could hurt the net income of the Issuer's trading and non-trading market risk positions. Although Canada is unlikely to be directly subject to geo-political risk, the indirect impact of reduced economic growth, as well as potential impacts on commodity prices, could have serious negative implications for general economic and banking activities. While it is impossible to predict where new geo-political disruption will occur, the Issuer does pay particular attention to

markets and regions with existing or recent historical instability to assess the impact of these environments on the markets and businesses in which the Issuer operates.

### ***Canadian Consumer Debt and the Housing Market***

As a consequence of historically low interest rates, Canadians have increased debt levels at a pace that has exceeded growth in their income. Most of the increase in household debt levels has been driven by higher levels of mortgage debt, which is tied to the Canadian housing market. While interest rates are expected to remain relatively low in the foreseeable future, concerns remain that an external shock, such as higher unemployment rates could affect the ability of Canadians to repay their loans, potentially triggering a correction in the housing market, which in turn could result in credit losses to banks. Currently the Issuer qualifies all variable rate mortgage borrowers using the Bank of Canada 5-year fixed benchmark rate, which is typically higher than the variable rate by approximately 2 percentage points. If there were an interest rate increase, the Issuer's variable rate borrowers should be able to withstand some increase in the interest rate. The Issuer believes the risk of a severe housing crash that generates significant losses for mortgage portfolios is unlikely, but the risk associated with high levels of consumer debt would be a concern should the economy falter and unemployment rates increase.

### ***China Economic Policy Risk***

China's economy continues to be on a slower growth trajectory, as, in addition to cyclical factors, the country tries to rebalance growth from export-oriented and investment-driven performance to a more sustainable service-oriented and consumption-driven economy. The Issuer continues to monitor economic policy both within the country and the region for signs of stress or directional change and has taken a prudent stance in addressing its tolerance for exposure to the country. The Issuer currently has little direct exposure to China, but any negative impact from the Chinese economic slowdown may affect clients that export to China, or sell into a market where prices have been pushed down by weakness in Chinese demand, and may raise the credit risk associated with the Issuer's exposure to trading counterparties.

### ***Global Credit Risks Exposure***

With the general increase in debt levels, as governments around the world continue to attempt to rejuvenate their economies, there is increasing credit risk globally. More specifically, the possibility of a Eurozone shock remains, as European governments continue to struggle to address economic challenges. Credit is also a concern for emerging markets, where economies have yet to return to pre-crisis levels, and their credit ratings are showing signs of stress. In addition, companies have added leverage, contributing to increasing high-yield credit spreads. While the Issuer's exposure to many of these areas of concern is limited, it continues to actively monitor and assess the global business and geo-political environment for adverse developments.

### ***Factors that may affect the Issuer's ability to fulfil its obligations under debt or derivative securities***

The value of the Issuer's debt or derivative securities may be affected by the general creditworthiness of the Issuer. The Issuer's business may be materially impacted by

financial conditions, results of operations and cash flows, material trends, demands, commitments, events and other risks or uncertainties.

***The Issuer's results could be affected by legislative and regulatory developments in the jurisdictions where the Issuer conducts business***

As the Issuer operates in a number of jurisdictions and its activities are subject to extensive regulation in those jurisdictions, the Issuer's financial performance and position could be affected by changes to law, statutes, regulations or regulatory policies, rules or guidelines in those jurisdictions where the Issuer operates, including changes in their interpretation, implementation or enforcement. Such changes could adversely affect the Issuer in a number of ways including, but not limited to, increasing the ability of competitors to compete with the products and services the Issuer provides, limiting the products and services the Issuer can provide and increasing the Issuer's costs of compliance. Any such change may require the Issuer to reallocate capital resources among its business lines, which could have a material impact on the Issuer's financial results and the Issuer's ability to make payments on the debt or derivative securities issued by the Issuer. Also, in spite of the precautions the Issuer takes to prevent such an eventuality, failure to comply with law, statutes, regulations, rules and guidelines could give rise to penalties and fines that could have an adverse impact on its financial results and reputation.

***Legal proceedings and judicial or regulatory decisions or judgments against the Issuer may adversely affect the Issuer's results***

In the ordinary course of its business, the Issuer is a party to a number of legal proceedings, including regulatory investigations, in which claims for substantial monetary damages are asserted against the Issuer and its subsidiaries. While there is inherent difficulty in predicting the outcome of legal proceedings, based on current knowledge and in consultation with legal counsel, the Issuer does not expect the outcome of these matters, individually or in aggregate, to have a material adverse effect on its consolidated financial statements. However, the outcome of these matters, individually or in aggregate, may be material to the Issuer's operating results for a particular reporting period. The Issuer regularly assesses the adequacy of its litigation accruals and makes the necessary adjustments to incorporate new information as it becomes available.

In addition, criminal prosecutions of financial institutions in Europe for, among other alleged conduct, breaches of anti-money laundering and sanctions regulations, anti-trust violations, market manipulation, aiding and abetting tax evasion, and providing unlicensed cross-border banking services have become more commonplace and may increase in frequency due to increased media attention and higher expectations from prosecutors and the public.

While the Issuer takes what it believes are reasonable measures designed to ensure compliance with law, statutes, regulations and regulatory policies, rules or guidelines in the jurisdictions in which it conducts business, there can be no assurance that the Issuer will always be in compliance or deemed to be in compliance. It is possible that the Issuer could receive judicial or regulatory decisions or judgments that result in fines, criminal prosecution, damages and other costs that could damage its reputation and have a negative impact on the Issuer's results.

***The Issuer relies on third parties to provide certain key components of its business***



## *infrastructure*

Third parties provide key components of the Issuer's business infrastructure such as Internet connections and network access and other voice or data communication services. Given the high volume of transactions the Issuer processes on a daily basis, certain errors may be repeated or compounded before they are discovered and successfully rectified. Despite any contingency plans the Issuer may have in place, the Issuer's ability to conduct business may be adversely impacted by a disruption in the infrastructure that supports the Issuer's businesses and the communities in which they are located. This may include a disruption involving electrical, communications, transportation or other services used by the Issuer or by third parties with which the Issuer conducts business. Such disruptions could adversely affect the Issuer's ability to deliver products and services to clients and otherwise conduct business which may expose the Issuer to service disruptions, regulatory action or litigation and may have an adverse effect on its financial results and reputation.

## ***Borrower and Counterparty Risk Exposure***

The ability of the Issuer to make payments in connection with any debt or derivative securities issued or entered into by the Issuer is subject to general credit risks, including credit risks of borrowers. Credit risk is one of the most significant and pervasive risks in banking. The failure to effectively manage credit risk across the Issuer's products, services and activities can have a direct, immediate and material impact on the Issuer's earnings and reputation. Third parties that owe the Issuer money, securities or other assets may not pay or perform under their obligations. These parties include borrowers under loans granted, trading counterparties, counterparties under derivative contracts, agents and financial intermediaries. These parties may default on their obligations to the Issuer due to bankruptcy, lack of liquidity, downturns in the economy or real estate values, operational failure or other reasons, adversely impacting the Issuer's financial position and prospects.

In relation to counterparties that are EU institutions, on 2 July 2014, Directive 2014/59/EU providing for the establishment of an EU-wide framework for the recovery and resolution of EU credit institutions and investment firms (the "BRRD") entered into force. In the United Kingdom, the Banking Act implements the BRRD. The BRRD is designed to provide authorities with a credible set of tools to intervene sufficiently early and quickly in an unsound or failing EU institution so as to ensure the continuity of the institution's critical financial and economic functions, whilst minimising the impact of the institution's failure on the economy and financial system. The BRRD was applied in Member States from January 1, 2015 with the exception of the bail-in tool (referred to below) which was applicable from 1 January 2016.

The BRRD contains four resolution tools and powers which may be used alone or in combination where the relevant resolution authority considers that (a) an institution is failing or likely to fail; (b) there is no reasonable prospect that any alternative private sector measures would prevent the failure of such institution within a reasonable timeframe, and (c) a resolution action is in the public interest. Such resolution tools and powers are: (i) sale of business; (ii) bridge institution; (iii) asset separation; and (iv) bail-in. The bail-in tool gives the resolution authority the power to write down certain claims of unsecured creditors of a failing institution and to convert certain unsecured debt claims to equity, which equity could also be subject to any future write-down.

An institution will be considered as failing or likely to fail when: (i) it is, or is likely in the near future to be, in breach of its requirements for continuing authorisation; (ii) its assets are, or are likely in the near future to be, less than its liabilities; (iii) it is, or is likely in the near future to be, unable to pay its debts as they fall due; or (iv) it requires extraordinary public financial support (except in limited circumstances).

In the normal course of business, the Issuer deals with EU institutions to whom the BRRD and its bail-in power applies. The powers set out in the BRRD will impact how such EU institutions and investment firms are managed as well as, in certain circumstances, the rights of their creditors including the Issuer. For instance, the Issuer and its debtholders may be affected by disruptions due to an EU institution not being able to fulfill their obligations as issuing and paying agent, European registrar, calculation agent or similar roles.

***Changes in financial markets, market rates and prices may adversely affect the value of financial products held by the Issuer***

The performance of financial markets may affect the value of financial products held by the Issuer. This market risk arises from positions in securities and derivatives held in the Issuer's trading portfolios, and from its retail banking business, investment portfolios and other non-trading activities. Market risk is the potential for financial economic loss from adverse changes in underlying market factors, including interest rates, foreign exchange rates, equity market prices, commodity prices and credit spreads, as well as the respective market factors' volatilities.

While the Issuer has implemented risk management methods to mitigate and control these and other market risks to which the Issuer is exposed, it is difficult to predict with accuracy changes in economic and market conditions and to anticipate the effects that such changes could have on the Issuer's financial performance.

***Failure to obtain accurate and complete information from or on behalf of the Issuer's clients and counterparties could adversely affect the Issuer's results***

The Issuer depends on the accuracy and completeness of information about clients and counterparties. When deciding to authorise credit or enter into other transactions with clients and counterparties, the Issuer may rely on information provided to it by or on behalf of clients and counterparties, including financial statements and other financial and non-financial information. The Issuer also may rely on representations of clients and counterparties as to the completeness and accuracy of that information. The Issuer's financial results could be adversely impacted if the financial statements and other financial information relating to clients and counterparties on which it relies do not comply with recognized accounting standards such as International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS"), are materially misleading, or do not fairly present, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the clients and counterparties.

***The Issuer faces intense competition in all aspects of its business from established competitors and new entrants in the financial services industry***

The competition for clients among financial services companies is intense. Client loyalty and retention can be influenced by a number of factors, including new technology used or services offered by competitors, the attributes of the Issuer's products or services, the Issuer's relative service levels and prices, the Issuer's

reputation and actions taken by the Issuer's competitors and adherence with competition and anti-trust laws. Non-financial companies are increasingly providing consumers with services traditionally provided by banks. Securities transactions can be conducted through the Internet and other alternative, non-trading systems. In addition the shadow banking system may create additional competition for the Issuer. The Issuer expects these trends to continue. Such developments could reduce revenues and adversely affect the Issuer's earnings.

***The Issuer's revenues and earnings are substantially dependent on the economies of Canada, the United States, Europe and the Caribbean, which can in turn be affected by general business and economic conditions worldwide***

The Issuer's revenues and earnings are dependent on the level of financial services its customers require. Levels of customer activity can be affected by factors such as interest rates, foreign exchange rates, consumer spending, business investment, government spending, the health of the capital markets, inflation and terrorism. The Issuer conducts most of its business in Canada, the United States, Europe and the Caribbean. Consequently, its performance is influenced by the level and cyclical nature of business and home lending activity in these countries, which is in turn impacted by both domestic and international economic and political events. There can be no assurance that a weakening in the Canadian, United States, European or Caribbean economies will not materially affect the Issuer's financial condition and results of operations. The economic conditions of other regions where the Issuer conducts operations can also affect the future performance of the Issuer.

***The Issuer's success in developing and introducing new products and services, expanding distribution channels, developing new distribution channels and realizing revenue from these channels could affect the Issuer's revenues and earnings***

The Issuer's ability to maintain or increase its market share depends, in part, on its ability to adapt products and services to evolving industry standards. There is increasing pressure on financial services companies to provide products and services at lower prices. This can reduce the Issuer's net interest income and revenues from fee-based products and services. In addition, the widespread adoption of new technologies by the Issuer, including Internet-based services, could require the Issuer to make substantial expenditures to modify or adapt existing products and services without any guarantee that such technologies could be deployed successfully. These new technologies could be used in unprecedented ways by the increasingly sophisticated parties who direct their attempts to defraud the Issuer or its customers through many channels. The Issuer might not be successful in developing and introducing new products and services, achieving market acceptance of its products and services, developing and maintaining loyal clients, developing and expanding distribution channels and/or realizing revenue from these channels, and this may adversely affect its financial position and prospects.

***Movements of the Canadian dollar relative to other currencies, particularly the U.S. dollar and the currencies of other jurisdictions in which the Issuer conducts business, may affect the Issuer's revenues, expenses and earnings***

The majority of the Issuer's trading exposure to foreign exchange risk arises from transactions involving the Canadian dollar, U.S. dollar, Euro, pound sterling, Australian dollar, Chinese yuan, and Japanese yen, whereas the primary risks of

losses in equities are in the U.S., Canadian, and European markets. Trading exposure to commodities arises primarily from transactions involving North American natural gas, crude oil products, and precious metals. Currency exchange rate movements in Canada, the U.S., Europe and the other jurisdictions in which the Issuer conducts business impact the Issuer's financial position (as a result of foreign currency translation adjustments) and the Issuer's future earnings. For example, if the value of the Canadian dollar rises against the U.S. dollar, the Issuer's investments and earnings in the U.S. may be negatively affected. Changes in the value of the Canadian dollar relative to the U.S. dollar may also affect the earnings of the Issuer's small business, commercial and corporate clients in Canada.

***The Issuer's earnings are affected by the monetary policies of central banks and other financial market developments***

Changes in central banks' monetary policies and the general level of interest rates can impact the Issuer's profitability. A change in the level of interest rates can affect the interest spread between the Issuer's deposits and loans and as a result could impact the Issuer's net interest income. Changes in monetary policy and developments in the financial markets are beyond the Issuer's control and difficult to predict or anticipate.

***The accounting policies and methods the Issuer utilizes determine how it reports its financial condition and results of operations, and they may require management to make judgments and estimates about matters that are uncertain; such judgments and estimates may require revision, which could have a material impact on the Issuer's financial results and financial condition***

The Issuer's financial condition and results of operations are reported using accounting policies and methods prescribed by the recognized accounting standards, IFRS. In certain cases, IFRS allows accounting policies and methods to be selected from two or more alternatives, any of which might be reasonable, yet could result in the reporting of materially different amounts. Significant accounting policies applicable to the consolidated financial statements of the Issuer are described in Note 1 thereto on pages 100 through 109 of the 2015 Annual Report, which pages are incorporated herein by reference.

Certain accounting policies require the Issuer to make judgments and estimates, some of which may relate to matters that are uncertain. The judgments and estimates made reflect the Issuer's best judgment of the most appropriate manner in which to record and report the Issuer's financial condition and results of operations. Changes in the judgments and estimates required in the critical accounting policies could have a material impact on the Issuer's financial results and financial condition and may adversely affect the Issuer's ability to pay to the holders of the debt or derivative securities issued by the Issuer any principal and/or interest due on such securities. The Issuer has established control procedures to ensure accounting policies are applied consistently and processes for changing methodologies are well controlled.

***Operational Risk Exposure***

The Issuer is exposed to many types of operational risk, including the risk of loss resulting from inadequate or failed internal processes, people and systems or from external events.

Given the high volume of transactions the Issuer processes on a daily basis, certain

errors may be repeated or compounded before they are discovered and successfully rectified. Shortcomings or failures in, or by, the Issuer's internal processes, systems, employees, service providers or other people, including any of the Issuer's financial, accounting or other data processing systems could lead to, among other consequences, serious damage to the Issuer's ability to service its clients, could breach regulations under which it operates and could cause long-term damage to the Issuer's business and brand that could have a material adverse effect on its business, prospects, financial condition, reputation and or results of operations.

Notwithstanding anything in this risk factor, this risk factor should not be taken as implying that the Issuer will be unable to comply with its obligations as a company with securities admitted to the Official List of the UK Listing Authority department of the FCA and to the London Stock Exchange, the Official List of the Luxembourg Stock Exchange or any other regulated or non-regulated market, or as a supervised firm regulated by the FCA and the Prudential Regulation Authority in the United Kingdom and by the Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier in Luxembourg.

### ***Anti-Money Laundering and Other Financial Crime Regulations***

The Issuer is subject to a dynamic set of anti-money laundering, anti-terrorist financing, economic sanctions and anti-bribery and anti-corruption laws, regulations and expectations across the various jurisdictions in which it operates. As the scope of criminal activities such as tax evasion, human trafficking, bribery and corruption continues to expand, regulators worldwide are intensifying regulatory requirements and increasing enforcement actions and penalties for those who fail to comply. As a consequence, money laundering, terrorist financing, economic sanctions violations, bribery and corruption pose significant legal, regulatory, financial and reputational risk to the Issuer.

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

The Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act ("**FATCA**") is U.S. legislation, the intent of which is to discourage tax evasion by U.S. taxpayers who have placed assets in financial accounts outside of the U.S. – either directly or indirectly through foreign entities such as trusts and corporations. Under the FATCA regulations, non-U.S. financial institutions are required to identify and report accounts owned or controlled by U.S. taxpayers, including citizens of the U.S. worldwide ("**U.S. Accounts**"). In addition, identification and reporting will also be required on accounts of financial institutions that do not comply with FATCA regulations. The Government of Canada has signed an Intergovernmental Agreement ("**IGA**") with the U.S., to facilitate FATCA information reporting by Canadian financial institutions. Under the provisions of the Canada-United States Enhanced Tax Information Exchange Agreement Implementation Act, Canadian financial institutions must report information on certain U.S. Accounts directly to the Canada Revenue Agency.

The provisions of FATCA and the related Canadian legislation came into effect on July 1, 2014. Other countries in which the Issuer operates have signed, or are in the process of negotiating and signing, IGAs with the U.S.

Similar to FATCA, under the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's ("**OECD**") initiative for the automatic exchange of information, many countries have committed to automatic exchange of information relating to accounts

held by tax residents of signatory countries, using a common reporting standard.

Canada is one of over 90 countries that has signed the OECD's Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement and Common Reporting Standard ("CRS"), which provides for the implementation of the automatic exchange of tax information. On April 15, 2016, draft legislation to implement the CRS in Canada was released, which will require Canadian financial institutions to report certain information concerning certain investors resident in participating countries to the Canada Revenue Agency and to follow certain due diligence procedures. The Canada Revenue Agency will then provide such information to the tax authorities in the applicable investors' countries of residence, where required under CRS. The CRS is intended to be effective in Canada as of July 1, 2017, with the first exchanges of financial account information beginning in 2018. Similar implementing legislation is expected to be introduced by other signatory countries to the CRS.

The Issuer will meet all obligations imposed under FATCA, the CRS and other tax information regimes, in accordance with local law, in all applicable jurisdictions in which it operates. However, the full impact of these provisions on the business of the Issuer cannot be known until the market practices have fully developed in response. The Issuer continues to respond to these developments and is working to minimise any potential adverse business or economic impact.

#### ***Basel Capital Requirements Directive***

In order to promote a more resilient banking sector and strengthen global capital standards, the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision ("BCBS") implemented significant capital reform to the risk-based capital framework. The reform is being referred to as Basel III and its objective is to improve the quality of capital and increase the quantity of capital supporting global financial intermediation. While Basel III became effective on 1 January 2013, the capital reform is ongoing as the BCBS has issued and continues to issue consultative proposals on numerous topics to further enhance the capital standards in the future. The Issuer currently complies with Basel III capital requirement but the Issuer cannot predict the effects of future regulatory changes on both its' own financial performance or the impact on the pricing of the debt or derivative securities issued by the Issuer. Prospective investors should consult their own advisers as to the potential consequences for them and for the Issuer relating to the application of future changes in the Basel III capital framework.

#### ***Financial Regulatory Reforms in the U.S. and Canada Could Have a Significant Impact on the Issuer***

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the "**Dodd-Frank Act**") was enacted in the U.S. in July 2010. The Dodd-Frank Act contains many broad reforms impacting the financial services industry. These reforms impact every financial institution in the U.S. and many financial institutions that operate outside the U.S. While certain portions of the Dodd-Frank Act became effective immediately, or are now effective following transition periods or final rulemakings, the effectiveness of other portions is still subject to final rulemakings by U.S. government agencies, or the expiration of transition periods. Accordingly, it remains difficult to fully assess the impact that the Dodd-Frank Act will have on the Issuer, and on the financial services industry in general.

The Issuer is subject to a number of specific requirements, including, among other things, mandatory clearing, trade reporting and registration of over-the-counter (“OTC”) derivative trading activities, heightened capital, liquidity and prudential standards, such as the enhanced prudential standards and early remediation requirements under Sections 165 and 166 of the Dodd-Frank Act, and restrictions on proprietary trading, private equity and hedge fund activities, commonly known as the Volcker Rule. The Issuer continues to devote resources necessary to ensure that it implements the requirements in compliance with all applicable regulations under the Dodd-Frank Act.

The Issuer continually monitors developments to prepare for rulemakings that have the potential to impact its operations in the U.S. and elsewhere. Although these reforms have increased the Issuer’s cost of regulatory compliance and have restricted its ability to engage in certain activities in the U.S. and elsewhere, the Issuer does not expect costs and restrictions associated with the new regulations to have a material impact on its financial results.

In Canada, a regulatory framework for OTC derivatives transactions similar to the regulatory framework under the Dodd-Frank Act is proposed by the regulators, and certain rules thereunder are in effect. Such regulatory framework may have similar consequences for the Issuer. Although these reforms have increased the Issuer’s cost of regulatory compliance and have restricted its ability to engage in certain activities in the U.S., the Issuer does not expect costs and restrictions associated with the new regulations to have a material impact on its financial results.

No assurance can be given that the Dodd-Frank Act and related regulations, the proposed similar regulations in Canada, or any other new legislative changes enacted will not have a significant impact on the Issuer, including on the amount of any debt or derivative securities issued by the Issuer that may be issued in the future.

### ***A Bank Recapitalisation “Bail-In” Regime***

On April 20, 2016, the Government of Canada (“GOC”) introduced legislation to amend the Bank Act, the Canadian Deposit Insurance Corporation Act and certain other federal statutes pertaining to banks to create a bank recapitalization or bail-in regime for domestic systemically important banks (“D-SIBs”). The proposed legislation only contains a general bail-in regime and framework.

Under the regime, if the Superintendent of Financial Institutions is of the opinion that a D-SIB has ceased or is about to cease to be viable and its viability cannot be restored through the exercise of the Superintendent’s powers, the GOC can, among other things, appoint the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation (“CDIC”) as receiver of the bank and direct CDIC to convert certain shares and liabilities of the bank into common shares of the bank or any of its affiliates. The instruments that will be subject to the conversion, as well as the terms and conditions of conversion, are to be prescribed by regulations to be made at a future date. However, under the legislation, the conversion authority would not apply to shares and liabilities issued or originated before the date on which such regulations come into force unless, on or after such date, they are amended or in the case of liabilities, their term is extended.

The legislation requires that the Superintendent formally designate a bank as a D-SIB and the Superintendent has already stated that the Issuer is considered to be a D-SIB.

No implementation timeline has been provided. The legislation is to come into force on a date to be determined by the GOC once it has been approved by Parliament and receives Royal Assent. The legislation may also be amended prior to being approved by Parliament. The proposed changes could adversely affect the Issuer's cost of funding.

### ***Risk related to the European Market Infrastructure Regulation***

In Europe, OTC reforms are being implemented through the European Market Infrastructure Regulation (“**EMIR**”) and the review of Markets in Financial Instruments Directive and accompanying Regulation (together, “**MiFID II/MiFIR**”). EMIR requires firms to clear certain OTC standardized derivative contracts through central counterparties, establish risk mitigation controls for non-cleared OTC derivatives transactions, and report both cleared and non-cleared contracts to trade repositories. MiFID II/MiFIR is expected to take effect in January 2018 and will introduce an on venue trading obligation, subject to a determination of sufficient liquidity by the European Securities and Markets Authority (“**ESMA**”), for certain OTC derivatives that ESMA has deemed to be subject to the clearing obligation under EMIR.

At this time, the Issuer expects to incur higher operational and system costs and potential changes in the types of products and services the Issuer can offer to clients as a result of these reforms.

### ***United Kingdom Political Uncertainty***

An EU in-out referendum has been called for 23 June 2016. In the event that the referendum outcome determines an exit from the EU, there may be an impact on UK trade, the domestic economy and inward investment and, in the short term, the potential for market volatility. Due to a lack of precedent, it is unclear how the UK's access to the EU single market and the wider trading, legal and regulatory environment would be impacted and hence how this would affect the Issuer and its debt and derivative securities.

### ***Changes to the Issuer's credit ratings***

There is no assurance that a rating will remain for any given period of time or that a rating will not be suspended, lowered or withdrawn by the relevant rating agency if, in its judgment, circumstances in the future so warrant. In the event that a rating assigned to the Issuer, or any debt or derivative instruments the Issuer may issue, is subsequently suspended, lowered or withdrawn for any reason, no person or entity is obliged to provide any additional support or credit enhancement with respect to the debt or derivative securities issued by the Issuer, the Issuer may be adversely affected, the market value of the debt or derivative securities issued by the Issuer is likely to be adversely affected and the ability of the Issuer to make payments under the debt or derivative securities issued by the Issuer may be adversely affected.

The Issuer's ability to access unsecured funding markets and to engage in certain collateral business activities on a cost-effective basis is primarily dependent upon maintaining competitive credit ratings. A lowering, suspension or withdrawal of the Issuer's credit ratings may have potentially adverse consequences for the Issuer's funding capacity or access to capital markets and may also affect the Issuer's ability, and the cost, to enter into normal course derivatives or hedging transactions and may



require it to post additional collateral under certain contracts.

### ***Liquidity Risk Exposure***

Liquidity risk is the risk of having insufficient cash or its equivalent in a timely and cost-effective manner to meet financial obligations as they come due. Common sources of liquidity risk inherent in banking services include unanticipated withdrawals of deposits, the inability to replace maturing debt, credit and liquidity commitments, and additional pledging or other collateral requirements.

The Issuer maintains a diverse funding mix of client-sourced retail deposits and wholesale funding including asset securitization, covered bonds and unsecured debt. The Issuer's funding and liquidity levels remained stable over the year and it does not anticipate any events, commitments or demands that will materially impact its liquidity risk position.

### ***Risk related to fair value adjustments***

The Issuer believes that it has made appropriate fair value adjustments and has taken appropriate write-downs to date. The establishment of fair value adjustments and the determination of the amount of write-downs involve estimates that are based on accounting processes and judgments by management. The Issuer evaluates the adequacy of the fair value adjustments and the amount of write-downs on an ongoing basis. The levels of fair value adjustments and the amount of the write-downs could change as events warrant and may not reflect ultimate realizable amounts. The estimates and judgments made by management may require revision, and changes to them could have a material impact on the Issuer's financial results and financial condition.

### ***Payments System in Canada***

In recent years, the Canadian federal government has held discussions with various stakeholders on the fees paid by merchants to accept credit card payments from their clients, including fees set by payment networks known as interchange fees. On 4 November 2014, an agreement was announced between the Canadian federal government, VISA and MasterCard for the voluntary reduction of interchange fee rates to an average effective rate of 1.50% for the next five years. The agreement went into effect in April 2015, and the impact is included in the most recent financial results for the Issuer's Retail and Business Banking business unit.

### ***Strategic Risk Exposure***

Strategic risk is the risk of ineffective or improper implementation of business strategies, including mergers and acquisitions. It includes, but is not limited to the potential financial loss due to the failure of organic growth initiatives or failure to respond appropriately to changes in the business environment. Oversight of strategic risk is the responsibility of the Issuer's executive committee and its board of directors. At least annually, the Issuer's chief executive officer outlines the process and presents the strategic business plan to the board of directors for review and approval. The board of directors reviews the plan in light of management's assessment of emerging market trends, the competitive environment, potential risks and other key issues. One of the tools for measuring, monitoring and controlling strategic risk is attribution of economic capital against this risk. The Issuer's economic capital models include a

strategic risk component for those businesses utilizing capital to fund an acquisition or a significant organic growth strategy. If the Issuer is unable to successfully implement selected strategies or related plans and decisions, if the Issuer makes inappropriate strategic choices or if the Issuer makes a change to its strategic goals, its financial results could be adversely affected.

### ***Insurance Risk Exposure***

Insurance risk is the risk of a potential loss due to actual experience being different from that assumed in the design and pricing of an insurance product. Unfavourable actual experience could emerge due to adverse fluctuations in timing, size and frequency of actual claims (e.g. mortality, morbidity), policyholder behaviour (e.g. cancellation of coverage), or associated expenses.

Insurance contracts provide financial compensation to the beneficiary in the event of insured risk in exchange for premiums. The Issuer is exposed to insurance risk in its life insurance business and in its life reinsurance business within the respective subsidiaries. Senior management of the insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries have primary responsibility for managing insurance risk with oversight by the Issuer's risk management committee. The insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries also have their own boards of directors, as well as independent appointed actuaries who provide additional input to risk management oversight. Processes and oversight are in place to manage the risk to the Issuer's insurance business. Underwriting risk on business assumed is managed through risk policies that limit exposure to an individual life, to certain types of business and to countries. While the Issuer's risk governance practices ensure strong independent oversight and control of risk within the insurance businesses, potential loss as a result of divergence between modelled and actual experience could adversely affect the Issuer's results.

### ***Reputation and Legal Risk Exposure***

The Issuer's reputation and financial soundness are of fundamental importance to it and to its clients, shareholders and employees. Reputation risk is the risk of negative publicity regarding the Issuer's business conduct or practices which, whether true or not, could significantly harm the Issuer's reputation as a leading financial institution, or could materially and adversely affect its business, operations or financial condition. Legal risk is the potential for civil litigation or criminal or regulatory proceedings being commenced against the Issuer that, once adjudicated, could materially and adversely affect the Issuer's business, operations or financial condition.

The Issuer's risk management committee, together with its reputation and legal risks committee and global risk committee provides oversight of the management of reputation and legal risks. The identification, consideration and prudent, proactive management of potential reputation and legal risks is a key responsibility of the Issuer and all of its employees. The Issuer's global reputation and legal risks policy sets standards for safeguarding its reputation and minimizing exposure to reputation and legal risks. The policy is supplemented by business procedures for identifying and escalating transactions to the reputation and legal risks committee that could pose material reputation risk and/or legal risk. Even with these processes in place, there is no guarantee that the Issuer's reputation will not be harmed or legal or regulatory proceedings will not be commenced against it, which could adversely affect the Issuer's results.

### ***Environmental risk***

Environmental risk is the risk of financial loss or damage to reputation associated with environmental issues, whether arising from the Issuer's credit and investment activities or related to its own operations. The Issuer's Corporate Environmental Policy, originally approved by its board of directors in 1993 and most recently updated and approved by its risk management committee in 2015, commits the Issuer to responsible conduct in all activities to protect and conserve the environment; safeguard the interests of all stakeholders from unacceptable levels of environmental risk; and support the principles of sustainable development.

The policy is addressed by an integrated Corporate Environmental Management Program which is under the overall management of the environmental risk management ("ERM") group. Environmental evaluations are integrated into the Issuer's credit and investment risk assessment processes, with environmental risk management standards and procedures in place for all sectors. In addition, environmental and social risk assessments in project finance, project-related corporate loans and related bridge loans are required in accordance with the Issuer's commitment to the Equator Principles, a voluntary set of guidelines for financial institutions based on the screening criteria of the International Finance Corporation, which the Issuer adopted in 2003.

The Issuer also conducts ongoing research and benchmarking on environmental issues such as climate change and biodiversity protection as they may pertain to responsible lending practices. The Issuer is also a signatory to and participant in the Carbon Disclosure Project's climate change program, which promotes corporate disclosure to the investment community on greenhouse gas emissions and climate change management.

The ERM group works closely with the Issuer's main business units and functional and support groups to ensure that high standards of environmental responsibility are applied to the banking services that it provides to its clients, the relationships it has with its stakeholders, and to the way it manages its facilities. An executive-level environmental management committee is in place to provide input on environmental strategy and oversight of the Issuer's environmental initiatives.

Even with these policies in place, there is no guarantee that the Issuer's reputation will not be harmed or that financial loss will not occur should an environmental issue arise within the Issuer's operations or those of its clients, which could adversely affect the Issuer's results.

### ***Other risk factors***

Other factors that may affect future results of the Issuer include:

- changes to accounting standards, rules and interpretations may have a material impact on the Issuer's financial results;
- changes in the Issuer's estimates of reserves and allowances may have a material impact on the Issuer's financial results;
- decisions, which lead to actions by management that are based on financial models, which construct a financial representation of some, or all, aspects of the Issuer's business and produce recommendations and which either have market application or which have been developed specifically for the Issuer,

that are poorly developed, implemented or used, or as a result of the modelling outcome being misunderstood or the use of such information for purposes for which it was not intended may have a material impact on the Issuer's financial results;

- changes in tax laws may have a material impact on the Issuer's financial results;
- fraudsters may target any of the Issuer's products, services and delivery channels including lending, internet banking, payments, bank accounts and cards;
- the Issuer's business may be adversely impacted by international conflicts and the war on terror;
- the scale and profile of social media presents risks which could lead to brand and reputational damage, information leaks, non-compliance with regulatory requirements and other governance risks;
- natural disasters, disruptions in public infrastructure and public health emergencies may adversely affect the financial condition of the Issuer and the Issuer's ability to make payments on the debt or derivative securities issued by the Issuer;
- if the Issuer is unable to attract and retain key employees and executives, the Issuer's business prospects may be adversely affected;
- changes in client spending habits may adversely affect the Issuer's financial results;
- the failure of third parties to comply with their obligations to the Issuer and its affiliates may adversely affect the Issuer's financial results and financial condition;

If the Issuer is unable to anticipate and manage the risks associated with all of the above factors, there could be a material impact on the Issuer's financial results and financial condition and the Issuer's ability to anticipate and manage the risks associated with all of the above factors.

## CAUTIONARY STATEMENT CONCERNING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

**This Registration Document and the documents incorporated herein by reference contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of certain securities laws. All such statements are made pursuant to the “safe harbour” provisions of, and are intended to be forward-looking statements under, applicable Canadian and U.S. securities legislation, including the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements include, but are not limited to, statements CIBC makes about its operations, business lines, financial condition, risk management, priorities, targets, ongoing objectives, strategies, the regulatory environment in which CIBC operates and outlook for calendar year 2016 and subsequent periods.**

**Forward-looking statements are typically identified by the words “believe”, “expect”, “anticipate”, “intend”, “estimate”, “forecast”, “target”, “objective” and other similar expressions or future or conditional verbs such as “will”, “should”, “would” and “could”. By their nature, these statements require CIBC to make assumptions and are subject to inherent risks and uncertainties that may be general or specific. A variety of factors, many of which are beyond CIBC’s control, affect its operations, performance and results, and could cause actual results to differ materially from the expectations expressed in any of CIBC’s forward-looking statements.**

**These factors include credit, market, liquidity, strategic, insurance, operational, reputation and legal, regulatory and environmental risk; the effectiveness and adequacy of CIBC’s risk management and valuation models and processes; legislative or regulatory developments in the jurisdictions where CIBC operates, including the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act and the regulations issued and to be issued thereunder, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Common Reporting Standard and regulatory reforms in the United Kingdom and Europe, the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision’s global standards for capital and liquidity reform, and those relating to the payments system in Canada; amendments to, and interpretations of, risk-based capital guidelines and reporting instructions and interest rate and liquidity regulatory guidance; the resolution of legal and regulatory proceedings and related matters; the effect of changes to accounting standards, rules and interpretations; changes in CIBC’s estimates of reserves and allowances; changes in tax laws; changes to CIBC’s credit ratings; political conditions and developments; the possible effect on CIBC’s business of international conflicts and the war on terror; natural disasters, public health emergencies, disruptions to public infrastructure and other catastrophic events; reliance on third parties to provide components of CIBC’s business infrastructure; potential disruptions to CIBC’s information technology systems and services; increasing cyber security risks, which may include theft of assets, unauthorised access to sensitive information or operational disruption; social media risk; losses incurred as a result of internal or external fraud; anti-money laundering and other financial crimes; the accuracy and completeness of information provided to CIBC concerning clients and counterparties; the failure of third parties to comply with their obligations to CIBC and its affiliates or associates; intensifying competition from established competitors and new entrants in the financial services industry, including through internet and mobile**

**banking; technological change; global capital market activity; changes in monetary and economic policy; currency value and interest rate fluctuations, including as a result of market and oil price volatility; general business and economic conditions worldwide, as well as in Canada, the U.S. and other countries where CIBC has operations, including increasing Canadian household debt levels and global credit risks; CIBC's success in developing and introducing new products and services, expanding existing distribution channels, developing new distribution channels and realizing increased revenue from these channels; changes in client spending and saving habits; CIBC's ability to attract and retain key employees and executives; CIBC's ability to successfully execute its strategies and complete and integrate acquisitions and joint ventures; and CIBC's ability to anticipate and manage the risks associated with these factors.**

**This list is not exhaustive of the factors that may affect any of CIBC's forward-looking statements. These and other factors should be considered carefully and prospective investors should not place undue reliance on CIBC's forward-looking statements. Additional information about these factors can be found in the "Risk Factors" section of this Registration Document and in the documents incorporated herein by reference.**

**The forward-looking statements included in this Registration Document are made only as of the date of this Registration Document. Except as may be required by applicable law or stock exchange rules or regulations, CIBC expressly disclaims any obligation or undertaking to release publicly any updates or revisions to any forward-looking statement contained herein to reflect any change in CIBC's expectations with regard thereto or any change in events, conditions or circumstances on which any such statement is based. New factors emerge from time to time, and it is not possible to predict which will arise. In addition, CIBC cannot assess the effect of each factor on its business or the extent to which any factor, or combination of factors, may cause actual results to differ materially from those described in any forward-looking statement.**

## DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

The following documents, which have been previously published or are published simultaneously with this Registration Document and which have been filed with the FCA, are available for inspection at <http://www.morningstar.co.uk/uk/NSM> and shall be deemed to be incorporated in, and form part of this Registration Document.

- (a) CIBC's Annual Information Form dated 2 December 2015 (the "**2015 Annual Information Form**");
- (b) The following sections of CIBC's Annual Report for the year ended 31 October 2015 (the "**2015 Annual Report**"):
  - (i) CIBC's comparative audited consolidated balance sheet as at 31 October 2015 and 2014 and the consolidated statement of income, comprehensive income, changes in equity and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended 31 October 2015, prepared in accordance with IFRS, together with the notes thereto and the independent auditor's report thereon, (the "**2015 Audited Consolidated Financial Statements**") on pages 91 to 93 and 95 to 177;
  - (ii) CIBC management's discussion and analysis for the year ended 31 October 2015 on pages 1 to 90;
  - (iii) information concerning the directors and board committees of CIBC under the headings "Message from the Chair of the Board" on pages V to VI and "Board of Directors" on page 180;
  - (iv) information about CIBC's business lines and functional groups on pages 16 through 28;
  - (v) a description of services under the headings "Retail and Business Banking", "Wealth Management" and "Capital Markets" on pages 17 to 27;
  - (vi) a discussion of risk factors related to CIBC and its business, and the steps taken to manage those risks under the heading "Management of risk" on pages 41 through 75;
  - (vii) information regarding fees paid to the shareholders' auditors under the subheading "Fees paid to the shareholders' auditors" on page 90;
  - (viii) information concerning the audit committee under the heading "Financial reporting responsibility" on page 92 and confirmation of compliance with the corporate governance regime of Canada under the heading "Corporate Governance" on page 179;

- (ix) a description of the capital structure of CIBC under the headings “Note 15 – Common and preferred share capital” and “Note 16 – Capital Trust securities” on pages 137 through 140;
  - (x) a description of legal proceedings to which CIBC is a party under the heading “Note 23 – Contingent liabilities and provision” on pages 154 through 156;
  - (xi) information about the corporate structure and inter-corporate relationships among CIBC and its principal subsidiaries under the heading “Note 27 – Significant subsidiaries” on page 160; and;
  - (xii) information concerning the cash dividends declared and paid per share for each class of CIBC shares on pages 168 through 171;
  - (xiii) information concerning CIBC’s Transfer Agent and Registrar under the heading “Transfer agent and registrar” on page 178; and
- (c) CIBC’s comparative unaudited interim consolidated financial statements for the three-month period ended 31 January 2016 prepared in accordance with International Accounting Standard (IAS) 34 “Interim Financial Reporting”, set out on pages 44 through 63 of the CIBC First Quarter 2016 Report to Shareholders (the “**First Quarter Report**”) together with management’s discussion and analysis for the three-month period ended 31 January 2016 and 2015 (the “**Unaudited Interim Consolidated Financial Statements**”), set out on pages 1 through 43 of the First Quarter Report;

save that any statement contained herein or in a document all or the relevant portion of which is incorporated by reference herein shall be modified or superseded for the purpose of this Registration Document to the extent that a subsequent statement contained herein, in the documents incorporated by reference herein or in any supplement hereto (including a statement deemed to be incorporated herein or in any such supplement) modifies or supersedes such earlier statement (whether expressly, by implication or otherwise). Any statement so modified or superseded shall not, except as so modified or superseded, constitute a part of this Registration Document.

Information and/or documents incorporated by reference in any document incorporated by reference herein shall not form part of this Registration Document. No website shall be incorporated in and form part of this Registration Document.

Certain information contained in the documents listed above has not been incorporated by reference in this Registration Document. Such information is either (i) not relevant for prospective investors in debt or debt securities issued by the Issuer or (ii) is covered elsewhere in this Registration Document.

Copies of this Registration Document and documents incorporated by reference in this Registration Document (i) can be viewed on the website of the Regulatory News Service operated by the London Stock Exchange at <http://www.londonstockexchange.com/exchange/news/market-news/market-news-home.html> under the name of the Issuer and (ii) may be obtained from the head office



of the Issuer, as set out at the end of this Registration Document. In addition, all of the documents incorporated herein by reference, or deemed incorporated herein, that CIBC files electronically can be retrieved through the System for Electronic Document Analysis and Retrieval (“**SEDAR**”) (a securities regulatory filing system developed for the Canadian Securities Administrators) at <http://www.sedar.com>.

## CANADIAN IMPERIAL BANK OF COMMERCE

*The information appearing below is supplemented by the more detailed information contained in the documents incorporated by reference. See section entitled “Documents Incorporated by Reference”.*

### **Introduction**

CIBC is a diversified financial institution governed by the *Bank Act* (Canada) (the “**Bank Act**”). CIBC was formed through the amalgamation of The Canadian Bank of Commerce and Imperial Bank of Canada in 1961. The Canadian Bank of Commerce was originally incorporated as Bank of Canada by special act of the legislature of the Province of Canada in 1858. Subsequently, the name was changed to The Canadian Bank of Commerce and it opened for business under that name in 1867. Imperial Bank of Canada was incorporated in 1875 by special act of the Parliament of Canada and commenced operations in that year. The address of the registered and head office of CIBC is Commerce Court, 199 Bay St., Toronto, Canada M5L 1A2 and the telephone number is 1-416-980-3096.

### **Business**

CIBC is a leading Canadian-based global financial institution. As set out in the Bank Act, its corporate purpose is to act as a financial institution throughout Canada and can carry on business, conduct its affairs and exercise its powers in any jurisdiction outside Canada to the extent and in the manner that the laws of that jurisdiction permit. Through its three main business units - Retail and Business Banking, Wealth Management and Capital Markets - CIBC provides a full range of financial products and services to 11 million individual, small business, commercial, corporate and institutional clients in Canada and around the world.

### **Subsidiaries**

A list of CIBC’s significant subsidiaries is provided on page 160 of the 2015 Annual Report, which page is incorporated herein by reference.

### **Financial Highlights**

As extracted from the Unaudited Interim Consolidated Financial Statements, as at 31 January 2016, CIBC had total assets of C\$479.03 billion, total deposits of C\$377.23 billion and common shareholders’ equity of C\$20.77 billion.

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014<sup>1</sup></u>
	For the three months ended ended 31 January	For the year ended 31 October	For the year ended 31 October
<b>Financial results (\$ millions)</b>			
Net interest income	2,106	7,915	7,459
Non-interest income	1,481	5,941	5,904
Total revenue	3,587	13,856	13,363
Provision for credit losses	262	771	937
Non-interest expenses	2,164	8,861	8,512
Income (loss) before taxes	1,161	4,224	3,914
Income taxes	179	634	699
Net income attributable to non-controlling interests	5	14	(3)
Net income (loss)	982	3,590	3,215
<b>On-and off- balance sheet information (\$ millions)</b>			
Cash, deposits with banks and securities	91,132	93,619	73,089
Loans and acceptances, net of allowance	301,301	290,981	268,240
Total assets	479,032	463,309	414,903
Deposits	377,234	366,657	325,393
Common shareholders' equity	20,770	20,360	17,588

There are no recent events particular to CIBC that are to a material extent relevant to the evaluation of CIBC's solvency.

### **Board of Directors**

The names of the Directors of CIBC (together with details of their principal outside activities), as at the date of this Registration Document, are set out below. The business address of each of the Directors is Commerce Court, 199 Bay St., Toronto, Canada M5L 1A2.

<u>Name, Responsibility and Residence</u>	<u>Principal Outside Activities</u>
The Honourable John P. Manley, P.C., O.C. Ottawa, Ontario, Canada	Chair of the Board CIBC President and Chief Executive Officer Business Council of Canada

<sup>1</sup> Certain information has been reclassified to conform to the presentation in the 2015 Audited Consolidated Financial Statements.

Brent S. Belzberg Toronto, Ontario, Canada	Senior Managing Partner TorQuest Partners
Nanci E. Caldwell Woodside, California, U.S.A.	Former Executive Vice-President and Chief Marketing Officer PeopleSoft, Inc.
Gary F. Colter Mississauga, Ontario, Canada	President CRS Inc.
Patrick D. Daniel Calgary, Alberta, Canada	Past President and Chief Executive Officer Enbridge Inc.
Luc Desjardins Toronto, Ontario, Canada	President and Chief Executive Officer Superior Plus Corp.
Victor G. Dodig Toronto, Ontario, Canada	President and Chief Executive Officer CIBC
The Honourable Gordon D. Giffin Atlanta, Georgia, U.S.A.	Partner Dentons US LLP
Linda S. Hasenfratz Guelph, Ontario, Canada	Chief Executive Officer Linamar Corporation
Kevin J. Kelly Toronto, Ontario, Canada	Corporate Director
Christine E. Larsen Montclair, New Jersey, U.S.A.	Executive Vice-President, Chief Operations Officer First Data Corporation
Nicholas D. Le Pan Ottawa, Ontario, Canada	Corporate Director
Jane L. Peverett West Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada	Corporate Director
Katharine B. Stevenson Toronto, Ontario, Canada	Corporate Director
Martine Turcotte Verdun, Quebec, Canada	Vice Chair, Quebec BCE Inc. and Bell Canada
Ronald W. Tysoe Cincinnati, Ohio, U.S.A.	Corporate Director
Barry L. Zubrow Far Hills, New Jersey, U.S.A	President ITB LLC

As at the date of this Registration Document, there are no potential conflicts of interest between the duties owed to CIBC of the persons listed above and their private interests and other duties. If a Director were to have a material interest in a matter being considered by the Board or any of its Committees, such Director would not participate in any discussions relating to, or any vote on, such matter.

### **Trend Information**

There are no known trends, uncertainties, demands, commitments or events that are reasonably likely to have a material effect on the Issuer's prospects for its current financial year.

### **Major Shareholders**

To the extent known to CIBC, CIBC is not directly or indirectly owned or controlled by any person. The Bank Act prohibits any person, or persons acting jointly or in concert, from having a "significant interest" in any class of shares of CIBC, that is, from beneficially owning more than 10% of the outstanding shares of the class either directly or through controlled entities, without the approval of the Minister of Finance of Canada. A person may, with the approval of the Minister of Finance, beneficially own up to 20% of a class of voting share and up to 30% of a class of non-voting share of CIBC, subject to a "fit and proper" test based on the character and integrity of the applicant. In addition, the holder of such a significant interest could not have "control in fact" of CIBC.

*There are no measures in place to ensure that control of CIBC is not abused as CIBC has no major shareholders.*

### **Material Contracts**

CIBC has not entered into any contracts outside the ordinary course of CIBC's business which could materially affect CIBC's obligations in respect of any debt or derivative securities to be issued by CIBC other than the contracts described in any applicable securities notes issued by CIBC.

### **Auditor**

Ernst & Young LLP ("**E&Y**"), Chartered Professional Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants, Ernst & Young Tower, Toronto-Dominion Centre, Toronto, Ontario M5K 1J7, Canada issued a report dated 2 December 2015 to the shareholders of the Issuer on the consolidated balance sheet as at October 31, 2015 and 2014 and the consolidated statement of income, comprehensive income, changes in equity and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended October 31, 2015.

E&Y is registered as a participating audit firm with the Canadian Public Accountability Board ("**CPAB**") and is registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (U.S.). E&Y is independent of the Issuer within the meaning of the Rules of Professional Conduct of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario and has no material interest in the Issuer.

### **Credit Ratings**

As of the date of this Registration Document, each of Moody's USA, S&P USA, Fitch and DBRS has provided ratings for CIBC as follows:

	<b>MOODY'S USA</b>	<b>S&amp;P USA</b>	<b>FITCH</b>	<b>DBRS</b>
SENIOR DEBT	Aa3	A+	AA-	AA
SHORT-TERM DEBT	P-1	A-1	F1+	R-1 (high)

Credit ratings may be adjusted over time and so there is no assurance that these credit ratings will be effective after the date of this Registration Document. A credit rating is not a recommendation to buy, sell or hold any debt or derivative securities of the Issuer.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

1. The Registration Document was authorised by CIBC in accordance with the rules of its charter. The Issuer has obtained or will obtain from time to time all necessary consents, approvals and authorisations in connection with the Registration Document.
2. Other than the litigation disclosed in the “Contingent liabilities and provision” section in Note 13 to the Unaudited Interim Consolidated Financial Statements set out on page 61 of the First Quarter Report and incorporated by reference herein, there are no governmental, legal or arbitration proceedings (including any such proceedings which are pending or threatened of which the Issuer is aware) which may have, or have had during the twelve months prior to the date of this document, a significant effect on the financial position or profitability of the Issuer or of the Issuer and its subsidiaries taken as a whole.
3. Since 31 January 2016, the last day of the financial period in respect of which the most recent comparative unaudited interim consolidated financial statements of the Issuer have been prepared, there has been no significant change in the financial position of the Issuer and its subsidiaries taken as a whole. Since 31 October 2015, the date of its last published comparative audited consolidated financial statements, there has been no material adverse change in the prospects of the Issuer and its subsidiaries taken as a whole.
4. The independent auditor of the Issuer is E&Y who are Chartered Professional Accountants and Licensed Public Accountants and are subject to oversight by the CPAB and Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). E&Y is also registered in the Register of Third Country Auditors maintained by the Professional Oversight Board in the United Kingdom in accordance with the European Commission Decision of 19 January 2011 (Decision 2011/30/EU). E&Y is independent of the Issuer in the context and within the meaning of the Rules of Professional Conduct of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario and has no material interest in the Issuer. The address for E&Y is set out on the last page hereof.
5. The 2015 Audited Consolidated Financial Statements prepared in accordance with IFRS, were audited in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards by E&Y and in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (U.S.) by E&Y. E&Y expressed an unqualified opinion thereon in their report dated 2 December 2015.
6. For so long as the Issuer may issue securities to which this Registration Document forms part of a prospectus prepared by the Issuer relating to such securities, copies of the following documents may be inspected during normal business hours at the specified office of the Paying Agents (as defined in the applicable securities note) and obtained from the executive and head offices of the Issuer, namely:
  - (i) the Bank Act (being the charter of the Issuer) and by-laws of the Issuer;
  - (ii) the annual report of the Issuer for the two most recently completed fiscal years, which includes the comparative audited consolidated

financial statements of the Issuer and the auditor's reports thereon;

- (iii) the most recent quarterly report including the comparative unaudited interim consolidated financial statements and the auditor's combined interim review report thereon; and
- (iv) a copy of the Registration Document together with any supplement to the Registration Document;

In addition, copies of this Registration Document will be available for inspection on the website of the Regulatory News Service operated by the London Stock Exchange at <http://www.londonstockexchange.com/exchange/news/market-news/market-news-home.html> or the National Storage Mechanism at <http://www.morningstar.co.uk/uk/NSM>. Copies of the Issuer's periodic financial reports may also be available for viewing under the name of the Issuer on SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com). Please note that websites and URLs referred to herein do not form part of the Registration Document.



**ISSUER**

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