

# CANACCORD GENUITY GROUP INC. ANNUAL INFORMATION FORM

For the fiscal year ended March 31, 2015

June 26, 2015

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# **Caution Regarding Forward-Looking Statements:**

This document may contain "forward-looking statements" (as defined under applicable securities laws). These statements relate to future events or future performance and reflect management's expectations, beliefs, plans, estimates, intentions and similar statements concerning anticipated future events, results, circumstances, performance or expectations that are not historical facts, including business and economic conditions and Canaccord Genuity Group's growth, results of operations, performance and business prospects and opportunities. Such forward-looking statements reflect management's current beliefs and are based on information currently available to management. In some cases, forward-looking statements can be identified by terminology such as "may", "will", "should", "expect", "plan", "anticipate", "believe", "estimate", "predict", "potential", "continue", "target", "intend", "could" or the negative of these terms or other comparable terminology. By their very nature, forward-looking statements involve inherent risks and uncertainties, both general and specific, and a number of factors could cause actual events or results to differ materially from the results discussed in the forward-looking statements. In evaluating these statements, readers should specifically consider various factors that may cause actual results to differ materially from any forward-looking statement. These factors include, but are not limited to, market and general economic conditions, the nature of the financial services industry and the risks and uncertainties discussed from time to time in the Company's interim condensed and annual consolidated financial statements and its annual report and this annual information form (AIF) filed on www.sedar.com as well as the factors discussed in the sections entitled "Risk Management" and "Risk Factors" in this AIF, which include market, liquidity, credit, operational, legal and regulatory risks. Material factors or assumptions that were used by the Company to develop the forward-looking information contained in this document include, but are not limited to, those set out in the Fiscal 2016 Outlook section in the annual MD&A and those discussed from time to time in the Company's interim condensed and annual consolidated financial statements and its annual report and this AIF filed on www.sedar.com. The preceding list is not exhaustive of all possible risk factors that may influence actual results. Readers are cautioned that the preceding list of material factors or assumptions is not exhaustive.

Although the forward-looking information contained in this document is based upon what management believes are reasonable assumptions, there can be no assurance that actual results will be consistent with these forward-looking statements. The forward-looking statements contained in this document are made as of the date of this document and should not be relied upon as representing the Company's views as of any date subsequent to the date of this document. Certain statements included in this document may be considered "financial outlook" for purposes of applicable Canadian securities laws, and such financial outlook may not be appropriate for purposes other than this document. Except as may be required by applicable law, the Company does not undertake, and specifically disclaims, any obligation to update or revise any forward-looking information, whether as a result of new information, further developments or otherwise.

#### Notes

Unless otherwise indicated or the context otherwise requires, the "Company" refers to Canaccord Genuity Group Inc. and "Canaccord Genuity Group" refers to the Company and its direct and indirect subsidiaries. "Canaccord Genuity" refers to the investment banking and capital markets segment of the Company and "Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management" refers to the wealth management operations.

The Company's fiscal year end is March 31. Unless otherwise indicated, "fiscal" in connection with a year relates to the 12-month period ended March 31 in that year.

Unless otherwise indicated, the information provided herein is as of March 31, 2015 and expressed in Canadian dollars.

# **Corporate Structure**

# Name, address and incorporation

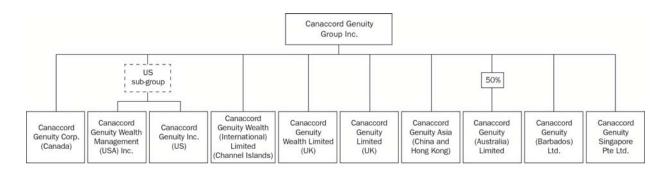
Canaccord Genuity Group Inc. was incorporated as Canaccord Holdings Ltd. on February 14, 1997 by the filing of a memorandum and articles with the Registrar of Companies for British Columbia under the *Company Act* (British Columbia) and continues in existence under the *Business Corporations Act* (British Columbia). Pursuant to resolutions of the shareholders passed at the Annual General Meeting of the Company on June 21, 2004 and the subsequent filing of a notice of alteration to its articles and pursuant to an arrangement approved by an order of the Supreme Court of British Columbia made June 22, 2004, the Company changed its name to Canaccord Capital Inc. and altered its capital by converting all previously outstanding classes of common shares, preferred shares and debentures into common shares. The arrangement was made effective on June 30, 2004. The Company was amalgamated in a short-form vertical amalgamation with its wholly owned subsidiary 0719880 B.C. Ltd. on April 1, 2007. The Company changed its name to Canaccord Financial Inc. on December 1, 2009, and to Canaccord Genuity Group Inc. on October 1, 2013.

The Company's head office is located at Suite 2200 - 609 Granville Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, V7Y 1H2. The Company's registered office is located at Suite 1000 – 840 Howe Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, V6Z 2M1.

Details of the Company's principal subsidiaries are set out in Note 20 to the Company's annual consolidated financial statements on page 104 of the annual report.

# Intercorporate relationships

#### **Canaccord Genuity Group Inc. Corporate Structure**



The chart above shows the principal operating companies within the Canaccord Genuity Group.

The Company owns 50% of the issued shares of Canaccord Financial Group (Australia) Pty Ltd and Canaccord Genuity (Australia) Limited, but for accounting purposes, as of March 31, 2015 the Company is considered to have a 60% interest because of the shares held in a trust controlled by Canaccord Financial Group (Australia) Pty Ltd [March 31, 2014 – 50%].

The Company owns, either directly or indirectly, all of the outstanding shares of the following principal subsidiaries, except for Canaccord Genuity (Australia) Limited (formerly "Canaccord BGF"), and Canaccord Financial Group (Australia) Pty Ltd., in which the Company owns a 60% interest for accounting purposes as of March 31, 2015 [March 31, 2014 and March 31, 2013 – 50%]:

Name of subsidiary (1)	Country of incorporation	% of equity interest	Principal business
Canaccord Genuity Corp.	Canada	100%	Capital Markets – Canada
Canaccord Genuity SAS	France	100%	Capital Markets – Europe
Canaccord Genuity Wealth (International) Limited	Guernsey	100%	Wealth Management – Channel Islands
Canaccord Genuity Financial Planning Limited	United Kingdom	100%	Wealth Management – United Kingdom
Canaccord Genuity Wealth Limited	United Kingdom	100%	Wealth Management – United Kingdom
Canaccord Genuity Limited	United Kingdom	100%	Capital Markets – United Kingdom
Canaccord Genuity Inc.	United States	100%	Capital Markets – United States
Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management (USA) Inc.	United States	100%	Wealth Management – United States
Canaccord Financial Group (Australia) Pty Ltd <sup>(2)</sup>	Australia	50%	Capital Markets – Australia
Canaccord Genuity (Australia) Limited (2)	Australia	50%	Capital Markets – Australia
Canaccord Genuity (Hong Kong) Limited	China (Hong Kong SAR)	100%	Capital Markets – Hong Kong
加通贝祥(北京)投资顾问有限公司 (Canaccord Genuity Asia (Beijing) Limited)	China	100%	Capital Markets – China
Canaccord Genuity Asia (Hong Kong) Limited	China (Hong Kong SAR)	100%	Capital Markets – Hong Kong
Canaccord Genuity Singapore Pte. Ltd.	Singapore	100%	Capital Markets – Singapore
Canaccord Genuity (Barbados) Ltd.	Barbados	100%	Capital Markets – Barbados

<sup>(1)</sup> In addition to the principal subsidiaries listed above, there are some smaller operating and holding subsidiaries: Canaccord Estate Planning Services Ltd., Canaccord Asset Management Inc., Canaccord Adams Financial Group Inc., Collins Stewart Inc., Canaccord Adams (Delaware) Inc., Canaccord Adams Financial Group ULC, Canaccord Genuity Securities LLC, Stockwave Equities Ltd., CLD Financial Opportunities Limited, Canaccord Genuity Wealth Group Limited, Canaccord Genuity Wealth (International) Holdings Limited, and The Balloch Group Limited. Canaccord Genuity Corp. is also the sole member of Canaccord Genuity Foundation, a Canadian registered charity.

<sup>(2)</sup> The Company owns 50% of the issued shares of Canaccord Financial Group (Australia) Pty Ltd and Canaccord Genuity (Australia) Limited, but for accounting purposes, as of March 31, 2015 the Company is considered to have a 60% interest because of the shares held in a trust controlled by Canaccord Financial Group (Australia) Pty Ltd [March 31, 2014 – 50%].

# **General Development of the Business**

#### Introduction

Canaccord Genuity Group, through the succession of various predecessor corporations, has been in business since 1950. Beginning in 1992, the Company adopted a focused growth strategy to become one of the leading independent investment dealers in Canada. The Company has achieved this through significant investments in its business infrastructure, with a focus on building strong client relationships.

Canaccord Genuity Group, continually invests in its employees, IT systems and office infrastructure, and the results of these initiatives have allowed the Company to grow into a global independent investment bank, with operations in 10 countries. Today, Canaccord Genuity Group Inc. has:

- An integrated global capital markets group that provides financing and advisory services to a
  broad range of corporate clients; global sales and trading for institutional clients; and in-depth
  research coverage of a growing universe of companies.
- An extensive network of wealth management offices located across Canada, the UK and Europe, and Australia. With 152 Advisory Teams¹ in Canada, 114 Investment Professionals and Fund Managers in the UK and Europe and nine Advisors in Australia, as of March 31, 2015, the Company's wealth management operations provide quality financial planning and wealth management solutions and trading services to individual investors, institutions and intermediaries, and charities.

Canaccord Genuity Group's independent nature means the Company is free from institutional constraints that sometimes afflict larger financial institutions. This independence allows the Company to provide a wider range of local and international products for its clients and the ability to act quickly when opportunities arise or when prompt solutions need to be found.

Canaccord Genuity Group has devoted substantial resources to growing its global presence. Today, the Company has capital markets operations in Canada, the US, the UK, Europe, Australia, China, Hong Kong, Singapore and Barbados. These offices focus on providing services to the Company's corporate and institutional clients from the domestic and international communities. Given its capital markets expertise, combined with its capital markets strength in 9 countries, the Company remains in a favourable position to provide its clients with a wide array of international financing services and alternatives.

The following important corporate development initiatives were completed during fiscal 2015:

- In June, 2014, the Company was added to the S&P/TSX Composite Index, the S&P/TSX Composite Dividend Index, and the S&P/TSX High Beta Index
- On August 6, 2014, the Company held its 2014 Annual General Meeting of shareholders where all nominated directors were re-elected or elected to the Board, including Ms. Kalpana Desai as an Independent Director
- On August 8, 2014, the Company renewed its normal course issuer bid (NCIB)/buy-back programme, which provides the Company the ability to purchase at its discretion, up to 5,100,049 of its common shares through the facilities of the TSX for cancellation. During fiscal 2015 the Company purchased 1,197,649 of its common shares under the terms of its NCIB

Advisory Teams are normally comprised of one or more Investment Advisors (IAs) and their assistants and associates, who together manage a shared set of client accounts. Advisory Teams that are led by, or only include, an IA who has been licensed for less than three years are not included in our Advisory Team count, as it typically takes a new IA approximately three years to build an average-sized book.

- On November 5, 2014, the Board of Directors appointed Dennis Miller as an Independent Director
- In January 2015, the Company appointed Jefferies International Ltd. as joint corporate broker
- In February 2015, the Company announced a planned workforce reduction of 4% in its global capital markets business
- On April 1, 2015, Paul Reynolds, President & CEO of Canaccord Genuity Group Inc. passed away
  following a medical emergency in late March 2015. The Board of Directors appointed David Kassie as
  CEO of the Company. Mr. Kassie now serves as Chairman & CEO of Canaccord Genuity Group Inc.

In addition to its growth and expansion, the Company continues to maintain an integrated global team and a corporate culture that is instrumental in attracting and retaining highly qualified professionals. The Company has successfully developed and nurtured an entrepreneurial culture among its capital markets employees, wealth management professionals and support staff.

Canaccord Genuity Group is committed to maintaining its high level of employee ownership, to best align the interests of its employees with shareholders. The Company encourages this through our share-based payments plans such as the Long-Term Incentive Plans, forgivable common share purchase loans, replacement plans and an employee stock purchase plan. See "Share-based payment plans" below for further descriptions.

### Three-year history

Through its principal subsidiaries, Canaccord Genuity Group is a leading independent, full-service financial services firm, with operations in two principal segments of the securities industry: capital markets and wealth management. Together, these operations offer a wide range of complementary investment products, brokerage services and investment banking services to the Company's corporate, institutional and private clients.

The Company continues to build on the foundation it has established and focus on its complementary capabilities, which include:

- Capital markets strength and expertise in North America, the UK and Europe, Australia and Asia
- Strong private, corporate and institutional client relationships
- Globally integrated international trading operations
- Broad venture capital capability
- Comprehensive, timely and focused research coverage

In the last three years the Company has concentrated on the development of its two principal business units, Canaccord Genuity and Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management, and its operating infrastructure to support their operations, including the development of leading proprietary information systems and technology. The Company also increased its focus on improving the operational efficiency of its businesses.

As an investment banking firm, the Company derives its revenue primarily from sales commissions, underwriting and advisory fees, and principal trading activity. The Company's business is materially affected by conditions in the financial marketplace and economic conditions, primarily in North America and Europe. The Company's revenue increased by 3.0% during the year ended March 31, 2015 compared to the prior year.

Canaccord Genuity Group's revenue for the three-year period ending March 31, 2015 was:

#### Revenue for the years ended March 31

(C\$ thousands)	2015	2014	2013
Commissions and fees	\$374,058	\$361,647	\$353,125
Investment banking	238,517	221,410	145,772
Advisory fees	151,336	139,142	179,690
Principal trading	75,217	91,313	66,406
Interest	22,212	24,549	29,199
Other	19,423	17,183	22,930
Total	\$880,763	\$855,244	\$797,122

The following table provides a breakdown of Canaccord Genuity Group's segmented revenue for the three years ending March 31, 2015:

	Revenue for the years ended M	Iarch 31	
(C\$ thousands)	2015	2014	2013
Canaccord Genuity	\$613,105	\$615,790	\$541,033
Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management	250,890	224,036	231,612
Corporate and Other	16,768	15,418	24,477
Total	\$880,763	\$855,244	\$797,122

#### **Operations by Geography**

Canaccord Genuity Group's revenue by geographic segment for the three-year period is as follows: (1)

#### Revenue for the years ended March 31

(C\$ thousands)	2015	2014	2013
Canada	\$345,325	\$273,276	\$366,439
UK and Europe	281,493	325,353	249,811
US	204,339	218,131	155,585
Other Foreign Locations (2)	49,606	38,484	25,287
Total	\$880,763	\$855,244	\$797,122

<sup>(1)</sup> Results of former Collins Stewart Hawkpoint plc (CSHP) since March 22, 2012 and the wealth management business of Eden Financial Ltd. since October 1, 2012 are also included.

Revenue in Canada is derived from the Canaccord Genuity, Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management, and Corporate and Other segments. Revenue from the UK and Europe is derived from the Canaccord Genuity segment; and beginning March 22, 2012, subsequent to the acquisition of CSHP, the UK and Europe operations also include revenue earned from wealth management activity. The UK and Europe wealth management operations also include the wealth management business of Eden Financial Ltd. since its acquisition on October 1, 2012. Revenue in the US is principally included in the Canaccord Genuity segment with an approximate 0.7% included in the Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management segment in the US during fiscal 2015. Revenue from Other Foreign Locations is mainly made up of Canaccord Genuity activity, with a small portion of Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management activity in our Australian operations.

Revenue derived from capital markets activity outside of Canada, the US and the UK and Europe is reported as Other Foreign Locations, which includes operations for Canaccord Genuity (Barbados) Ltd. (formerly Canaccord International Ltd.), Canaccord Genuity Asia (Hong Kong) Limited, Canaccord Genuity Singapore Pte. Ltd., and Canaccord's 60% interest in Canaccord Genuity (Australia) Limited for the year ended March 31, 2015 [March 31, 2014 and March 31, 2013 – 50%].

During fiscal 2015, Canaccord Genuity participated in a number of significant transactions.

- Canaccord Genuity led 85 transactions globally, each over \$1.5 million, to raise total proceeds of C\$4.6 billion during fiscal 2015. Of this:
  - o Canada led 38 transactions, which raised C\$2.6 billion
  - o The UK led 10 transactions, which raised C\$696.9million
  - o The US led 11 transactions, which raised C\$810.9 million
  - O Asia and Australia operations led 26 transactions, which raised C\$506.1 million
- During fiscal 2015, Canaccord Genuity participated in a total of 340 transactions globally, each over \$1.5 million, to raise gross proceeds of C\$39.2 billion. Of this:
  - o Canada participated in 208 transactions, which raised C\$25.1 billion
  - o The UK participated in 23 transactions, which raised C\$3.7 billion
  - o The US participated in 67 transactions, which raised C\$9.5 billion
  - o Asia and Australia operations participated in 42 transactions, which raised C\$947.6 million
- Significant investment banking transactions for Canaccord Genuity during fiscal 2015 include:
  - o Two transactions totalling C\$586.5 million for The Intertain Group Limited on the TSX
  - o US\$316.8 million for 3D Systems, Inc. on the NYSE
  - o £294.0 million for Polypipe Group PLC on the LSE
  - o C\$289.8 million for Callidus Capital Corp. on the TSX
  - o C\$172.6 million for Bellatrix Exploration Ltd. on the TSX and NYSE
  - o Two transactions totalling C\$161.6 million for Kinaxis Inc. on the TSX
  - o £154.4 million for OneSavings Bank PLC on the LSE
  - o C\$125.0 million for Canacol Energy Ltd. on the TSX
  - £120.8 million for Game Digital PLC on the LSE
  - o C\$115.0 million for Lumenpulse Inc. on the TSX
  - o £100.0 million for Volution Group PLC on the LSE
  - o £95.0 million for Ediston Property Investment Company PLC on the LSE
  - o £92.0 million for Eurocell PLC on the LSE
  - o £79.3 million for Patisserie Holdings PLC on AIM
  - o US\$65.0 million for Avinger, Inc. on NASDAQ
  - o £56.0 million for Intelligent Energy Plc on the LSE
  - $\circ$  C\$45.0 million for NYX Gaming Group Limited on the TSX
  - o £41.0 million for Matomy Media Limited on the LSE
  - o £36.3 million for Mortgage Advice Bureau on AIM
  - o £26.0 million for EKF Diagnostics on the LSE
- In Canada, Canaccord Genuity raised \$821.0 million for government bond issuances and \$167.1 million for corporate bond issuances during fiscal 2015
- During fiscal 2015, significant mergers and acquisitions (M&A) and advisory transactions included:
  - o Amaya Gaming Group on its US\$4.9 billion purchase of Rational Group
  - The Intertain Group Limited on its £425.8 million acquisition of Jackpotjoy
  - Yamana Gold on the C\$3.9 billion joint acquisition with Agnico Eagle of Osisko Mining Corporation
  - o SOF Investments on the £212.0 million sale of Moneycorp to Bridgepoint
  - o B2Gold Corp. on its merger with Papillon Resources Limited
  - TowerBrook Capital Partners on the acquisition of Independent Clinical Services from The Blackstone Group
  - Medical Action Industries Inc. on its acquisition by Owens & Minor
  - o Jaguar Mining Inc. on its US\$315.0 million recapitalization
  - o DHX Media Limited on its acquisition of Family Channel, Disney XD, Disney Junior (English) and Disney Junior (French)

- o Ultimo on its disposal to B2 Holding ASA
- o Plan Group on its sale to Bouygues SA
- o Nordion Inc. on its US\$826.0 million sale to Sterigenics International
- AIB, RBS and Santander on their disposal of Morethan Hotels Group to Somerston Capital and Lone Star
- o Agnico Eagle Mines Limited on its acquisition of Cayden Resources Inc.
- o Essar Power Canada Holdings Inc. on its US\$65.0 million debt financing
- o Bridgepoint on its acquisition of ASK Italian and Zizzi for £250.0 million
- o The Co-operative Bank on the £157.5 million sale of Illius Properties Limited to Salmon Real Estate Limited
- o TA Associates on the £120.0 million disposal of MandM Direct
- o Regard Holdings Limited on its £120.0 million disposal by MML Capital Partners to Montreux Healthcare Funds and Macquarie Lending
- o World Energy Solutions, Inc. on its sale to EnerNOC, Inc.
- o Minova Insurance Holdings on its fundraise from Capital Z Partners Management
- o Paperny Entertainment Inc. on its sale to Entertainment One Limited
- At March 31, 2015, Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management had 152 Advisory Teams in Canada, a decrease of eight Advisory Teams from March 31, 2014, due primarily to a strategic repositioning of the business to focus on major Canadian centres
- Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management also has 114 Investment Professionals and Fund Managers in the UK and Europe as of March 31, 2015, a decrease of four from March 31, 2014

# **Description of the Business**

# Overview

Canaccord Genuity Group Inc.'s operations are divided into two business segments: Canaccord Genuity (investment banking and capital markets operations) and Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management. Together, these operations offer a wide range of complementary investment banking services, investment products and brokerage services to the Company's institutional, corporate and private clients. The Company's administrative segment is referred to as Corporate and Other.

Canaccord Genuity Approximately 901 employees	Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management (Global)  Approximately 716 employees
Research Institutional equity sales and trading Investment banking Mergers & acquisitions and advisory services Venture capital International and principal trading Fixed income trading	Investment advice Brokerage services Managed accounts Fee-based accounts Wealth management services Insurance and estate planning
<ul> <li>Offices in Toronto, London, Boston, Vancouver, New York, Calgary, Montréal, San Francisco, Houston, Chicago, Minneapolis, Dublin, Paris, Melbourne, Sydney, Hong Kong, Barbados, Beijing and Singapore</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>15 offices throughout Canada including 7         Independent Wealth Management locations     </li> <li>152 Advisory Teams in Canada</li> <li>5 offices in the UK and Europe</li> <li>114 Investment Professionals and Fund         Managers in the UK and Europe     </li> <li>9 Advisors in Australia</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Revenue for fiscal 2015 of \$613.1 million</li> <li>Canaccord Genuity led 85 transactions globally, each over \$1.5 million, with total proceeds of \$4.6 billion. Also in fiscal 2015, the team participated in 340 transactions globally, each over \$1.5 million, with total proceeds of \$39.2 billion. This includes:         <ul> <li>Canada – 208 financing transactions with an aggregate deal value of \$25.1 billion</li> <li>UK and Europe – 23 financing transactions with an aggregate deal value of \$3.7 billion</li> <li>US – 67 financing transactions with an aggregate deal value of \$9.5 billion</li> </ul> </li> <li>Asia and Australia – 42 financing transaction with an aggregate deal value of \$947.6 million</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Revenue for fiscal 2015 of \$257.2 million</li> <li>Assets under management in Canada (discretionary) of \$1.6 billion</li> <li>Assets under administration in Canada of \$10.7 billion</li> <li>Assets under management in UK and Europe (discretionary and non-discretionary) of \$21.8 billion</li> <li>Assets under management in Australia of \$0.8 billion</li> </ul>

# **Corporate and Other**

Approximately 324 employees

Compliance and Risk Management
Finance
Information Technology
Legal
Operations
Pinnacle Correspondent Brokerage Services

# **Canaccord Genuity**

Canaccord Genuity consists of approximately 901 employees and professionals located in Toronto, London, Boston, Vancouver, New York, Calgary, Montréal, San Francisco, Houston, Chicago, Minneapolis, Dublin, Paris, Melbourne, Sydney, Hong Kong, Barbados, Beijing and Singapore. Canaccord Genuity is comprised of the following geographic operating divisions:

- Canada (Canaccord Genuity)
- UK and Europe (Canaccord Genuity)
- US (Canaccord Genuity)
- Other Foreign Locations (Canaccord Genuity (Barbados) Ltd. (formerly Canaccord International Ltd.), Canaccord Genuity (Hong Kong) Limited, Canaccord Genuity Asia (Hong Kong) Limited, Canaccord Genuity Singapore Pte. Ltd, and 60% [March 31, 2014 and March 31, 2013 50%] interest in Canaccord Genuity (Australia) Limited)

### Canaccord Genuity's revenue

	Revenue for the years ended March 31		
(C\$ thousands)	2015	2014	2013
	IFRS	IFRS	IFRS
Canada	\$204,585	\$148,514	\$204,337
UK and Europe	155,942	212,307	158,054
US	202,972	216,485	153,355
Other Foreign Locations	49,606	38,484	25,287
<b>Total Canaccord Genuity</b>	\$613,105	\$615,790	\$541,033

#### Revenue

Canaccord Genuity's revenue is generated from commissions and fees earned in connection with investment banking transactions and institutional sales and trading activity, as well as trading gains and losses from Canaccord Genuity's principal trading operations. Accordingly, this revenue is directly affected by the level of corporate and institutional activity and general economic, market and business conditions in Canada and internationally.

Canaccord Genuity's quarterly results are not significantly affected by seasonal factors. However, Canaccord Genuity's revenue and income can experience considerable variations from quarter to quarter and year to year due to factors beyond Canaccord Genuity's control. The business is affected by the overall condition of the worldwide market. The timing of revenue recognition can also materially affect Canaccord Genuity's quarterly results. Canaccord Genuity's revenue from an underwriting transaction is recorded only when the transaction has closed.

Canaccord Genuity operates out of 19 offices internationally and provides a broad range of research, sales and trading, and investment banking services to its clients. Canaccord Genuity has developed comprehensive investment banking knowledge and expertise, and strong research capabilities in the following key sectors of the global economy: Metals & Mining, Energy, Technology, Healthcare & Life Sciences, Agriculture, Media & Telecommunications, Financials, Consumer & Retail, Real Estate & Hospitality, Infrastructure, Transportation & Industrials, Sustainability, Support Services, Aerospace & Defense, Gaming and Leisure, Diversified, Private Equity, and Investment Companies. Coverage of these sectors included investment banking, M&A and advisory services, and institutional equity activities, such as sales, trading and research.

The integrated team at Canaccord Genuity provides comprehensive and high quality services to its corporate and institutional clients in:

- Research
- Institutional equity sales and trading
- Investment banking
- M&A and advisory services
- Venture capital
- International and principal trading
- Fixed income trading

Canaccord Genuity's ability to target and service key clients in global equity financing is a strong differentiator and competitive advantage for the Company. Canaccord Genuity's transactions and revenue by focus sectors are detailed below.

Canaccord Genuity - Overall

Investment banking transaction and revenue by sector

# For the year ended March 31, 2015

	as a % of investment	as a % of investment
Sector	banking transactions	banking revenue
Technology (1)	13.7%	30.3%
Healthcare & Life Sciences	9.6%	12.8%
Metals & Mining	13.7%	9.7%
Sustainability	2.7%	9.4%
Financials	7.7%	7.5%
Real Estate & Hospitality	11.8%	5.2%
Consumer & Retail	1.1%	4.8%
Infrastructure	3.3%	4.3%
Energy	7.9%	4.0%
Investment Companies	<del></del>	2.2%
Structured Products	19.2%	0.6%
Support Services	<del></del>	0.5%
Media & Telecommunications	1.4%	0.2%
Agriculture	0.3%	0.0%
Diversified	7.6%	8.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

<sup>(1)</sup> Includes gaming and leisure

Investment banking transactions by sector (as a % of investment banking transactions for each geographic region)

# For the year ended March 31, 2015

				Other foreign
Sector	Canada	UK and Europe	US	locations
Structured Products	32.4%	_	_	_
Real Estate & Hospitality	19.4%	_	_	1.6%
Metals & Mining	12.5%	_	_	35.9%
Energy	10.6%	_	9.4%	_
Technology (1)	6.0%	19.0%	34.4%	17.2%
Financials	6.0%	28.6%	_	14.1%
Media & Telecommunications	1.4%	9.5%	_	_
Healthcare & Life Sciences	0.9%	9.5%	40.6%	7.8%
Agriculture	0.5%	_	_	_
Infrastructure	_	14.4%	_	14.1%
Sustainability	_	9.5%	12.5%	_
Consumer & Retail	_	9.5%	3.1%	_
Support Services	_	_	_	_
Investment Companies	_	_	_	_
Diversified	10.3%	_	_	9.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

<sup>(1)</sup> Includes gaming and leisure

Investment banking revenue by sector (as a % of investment banking revenue for each geographic region)

# For the year ended March 31, 2015

				Other foreign
Sector	Canada	UK and Europe	US	locations
Technology (1)	46.7%	19.3%	25.7%	11.6%
Metals & Mining	14.1%	2.5%	_	25.4%
Financials	10.7%	14.4%	_	3.1%
Energy	6.0%	_	5.0%	2.9%
Healthcare & Life Sciences	5.6%	7.9%	29.6%	8.3%
Real Estate & Hospitality	5.2%	15.1%	_	0.5%
Structured Products	1.5%	_	_	_
Support Services	1.2%	_	_	0.3%
Consumer & Retail	0.6%	8.4%	6.2%	8.2%
Sustainability	0.5%	_	29.7%	9.4%
Media & Telecommunications	0.4%	_	_	_
Infrastructure	_	20.9%	_	0.5%
Investment Companies	0.1%	10.8%	_	_
Agriculture	0.1%	_	_	_
Diversified	7.3%	0.7%	3.8%	29.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

<sup>(1)</sup> Includes gaming and leisure

### Equity offerings of \$1.5 million and greater participated in by Canaccord Genuity

#### For the years ended March 31

\$39.2

<u>345</u>

\$36.5

$(C \varphi \ \text{o} iiiions \ \text{except for } \pi \ \text{of iransactions})$		2013	2014	
		Aggregate transaction		Aggregate transaction
Market	# of transactions	value	# of transactions	value
Canada	208	\$25.1	204	\$18.6
UK and Europe	23	3.7	31	6.4
US	67	9.5	84	10.9
Other Foreign Locations	42	0.9	26	0.6

340

Sources: Financial Post Data Group and Company

#### Revenue from Canadian operations

**Total** 

Capital markets revenue in Canada originates from equity financing transactions, commissions, underwriting fees, advisory fees and management fees related to capital markets activity in Canada. Investment banking revenue consists of underwriting fees and commissions earned on corporate finance activities. Advisory fees consist of management and advisory fees, and include revenue earned from M&A activities.

#### Revenue from the UK and Europe operations

Canaccord Genuity's operations in the UK and Europe include institutional sales and trading, investment banking and research teams. In addition, this division has an active advisory business providing M&A and advisory services to its UK and Europe clients. Canaccord Genuity is an approved broker, sponsor and Nominated Advisor (Nomad) for AIM and LSE companies. Canaccord Genuity is in a strong position to serve its private, corporate and institutional clients and capitalize on the opportunities in this market area. This division serves its clients through offices in London, Dublin, and Paris. The UK operations also have an active Fixed Income group.

# Revenue from US operations

Canaccord Genuity's US segment includes institutional sales and trading, investment banking and research activities. This division serves its clients through offices in Boston, New York, San Francisco, Houston, Chicago and Minneapolis. The US operations also expanded its global equity sales and trading team over the past few years, which includes the Electronic Trading Group, the Sales & Trading team, and the International Equities Group. During fiscal 2014, the US operations expanded its Fixed Income group.

#### Revenue from Other Foreign Locations operations

Revenue derived from capital markets activity outside of Canada, the US, and the UK and Europe is reported as Other Foreign Locations, which includes operations for Canaccord Genuity (Barbados) Ltd., Canaccord Genuity (Hong Kong) Limited, Canaccord Genuity Asia (Hong Kong) Limited, Canaccord Genuity Singapore Pte. Ltd., and Canaccord Genuity (Australia) Limited. This division serves its clients through offices in Barbados, Beijing, Hong Kong, Singapore, Melbourne and Sydney.

#### Competition

In the capital markets sector, Canaccord Genuity competes with other domestic and foreign securities firms. Canaccord Genuity competes on the basis of the caliber and abilities of its professional personnel, relative prices of the services and products it offers, available capital, institutional relationships, ability to assist with financing arrangements, access to global markets, and quality of service.

There is also competition for securities industry professionals. Canaccord Genuity competes with other financial institutions for investment bankers, trading professionals and other specialized personnel on the basis of its services and product breadth, its management, its entrepreneurial culture, and its ownership compensation structure.

Smaller regional or local investment dealers are increasingly under pressure, and some international competitors have recently retrenched to focus on local markets. We believe this changing competitive landscape provides significant opportunity for Canaccord Genuity in the mid-market, as this space is currently relatively underserviced by other global investment banks. Canaccord Genuity's mid-market strategy focused on key sectors differentiates the firm among the competition.

# Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management

#### Revenue

Revenue for the years ended Mai			<u>irch 31</u>
(C\$ thousands)	2015	2014	2013
Canada	\$123,972	\$109,344	\$137,625
UK and Europe	125,551	113,046	91,757
US	1,367	1,646	2,230
<b>Total Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management</b>	\$250,890	\$224,036	\$231,612

Globally, Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management provides tailored financial planning and brokerage services to individual Canadian, UK and European investors, institutions and intermediaries, and charities. The division offers a broad range of investment products to its client base, including both proprietary and third party products. During fiscal 2013, Collins Stewart Wealth Management was rebranded Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management. The wealth management business of Eden Financial Ltd was included commencing October 1, 2012.

Wealth management revenue is generated through traditional commission-based brokerage services; fee-based products and services; client-related interest; and fees and commissions earned by Advisory Teams in Canada, Investment Professionals and Fund Managers in the UK and Europe, and Advisors in Australia for investment banking and venture capital transactions. Commission revenue from the sale of investment products and the provision of brokerage and other financial services is based on an established commission schedule. Discounts and adjustments to this schedule are based on the client's level of business, transaction size, complexity and other relevant factors.

As of March 31, 2015, Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management division had 152 Advisory Teams in Canada and nine Advisors in Australia. Advisory Teams are normally comprised of one or more Investment Advisors (IAs) and their assistants and associates, who together manage a shared set of client accounts. Advisory Teams that are led by, or only include, an IA who has been licensed for less than three years are not included in our Advisory Team count, as it typically takes a new IA approximately three years to build an average-sized book.

In the UK and Europe, the wealth management business has 114 Investment Professionals and Fund Managers. Investment Professionals include all staff with direct sales responsibilities, which include brokers and assistants with direct client contacts. Fund Managers include all staff who manages client assets.

Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management group has 23 offices throughout Canada, the UK and Europe, and Australia in the following locations:

<b>British Columbia</b>	<u>Alberta</u>	<u>Ontario</u>	<b>Québec</b>	Nova Scotia	<b>UK and Europe</b>	<u>Australia</u>
Kelowna	Calgary (3)	Toronto	Montréal	Halifax	London	Melbourne
Prince George	Edmonton	Waterloo	Gatineau		Jersey	Sydney
Vancouver – Head Office		Burlington			Guernsey(2)	
Trail		Kitchener			Isle of Man	

#### **Services**

Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management is dedicated to providing a variety of comprehensive brokerage services and wealth management products and services to its clients. Advisory Teams, Investment Professionals, Fund Managers and Advisors assist their clients in building their financial assets and maximizing their returns within the context of their investment objectives and risk tolerance. Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management offers its clients various account structures such as commission-based accounts, fee-based accounts, managed accounts and margin accounts.

The division offers wealth management services with a fee-based structure, in addition to traditional commission-based investment offerings. With more individuals approaching retirement, the demand for various wealth management products and financial planning services is on the rise. With these changing demographics, more clients are choosing fee-based alternatives over the traditional commission-based products and services.

Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management provides the following services:

- Investment advice
- Fee-based accounts
- Brokerage services
- Wealth management services
- Managed accounts
- Insurance and estate planning
- Portfolio management

The products and services listed above are complementary and enable the Company's Advisory Teams, Investment Professionals and Fund Managers, and Advisors to provide a full suite of investment services to their clients. Traditionally, revenue in this segment in Canada is generated through transaction-based commissions. However, changing demographics over the last decade have brought about a change in clients' financial needs and, as a result, demand for managed account products such as separately managed accounts, retirement planning and wealth management services has increased. By responding to these needs, the Company expects the composition of Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management's Canadian revenue will increasingly reflect a greater proportion of recurring, fee-based revenue.

In the UK and Europe, Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management has historically had high levels of fee-based client accounts, and the business derives most of its revenue from fee-based activities.

In Australia, Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management continued to grow its presence during fiscal 2015. As at March 31, 2015, the Company had nine Advisors in Australia. Collectively, they grew assets under management by 50.6% to \$836.0 million in this geography.

The Company's revenue and income for both Canaccord Genuity and Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management experiences considerable variations from quarter to quarter and year to year due to factors beyond the Company's control. In wealth management these factors include the macroeconomic environment, market volatility and investor risk appetite.

# Assets under administration in Canada (1) (2)

AUA decreased by 12.7% in fiscal 2012 and another 29.7% in fiscal 2013 as the market value of assets declined due to poor global markets conditions. AUA decreased further in fiscal 2014 by 2.6% as a result of reduced trading activity in Canada. AUA increased by 5.6% to \$10.7 billion at March 31, 2015 from \$10.2 billion at March 31, 2014, reflecting higher market values over the year and growth in the business.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> AUA is the market value of client assets administered by Canaccord Genuity Group, for which the Company earns commissions or fees. This measure includes funds in client accounts, as well as the aggregate market value of long and short security positions. Canaccord Genuity Group's method of calculating AUA may differ from approaches used by other companies and therefore may not be comparable. Management uses this measure to assess operational performance of the Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management business segment.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> This is a non-IFRS measure. Non-IFRS measures do not have any standardized meaning prescribed by IFRS and are therefore unlikely to be comparable to similar measures presented by other companies.

# Assets under administration in Canada

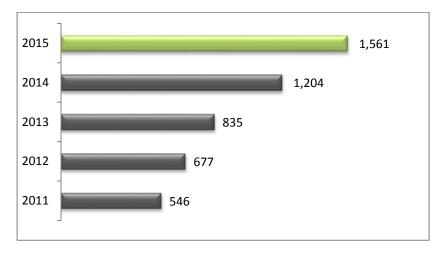
(C\$ billions)

2015
2014
10.7
2014
2013
10.4
2012
14.8
2011

# Assets under management (discretionary) in Canada (1) (2)

As of March 31, 2015, assets under management (AUM) in Canada were \$1.6 billion. AUM in Canada increased by \$131.0 million in fiscal 2012 and \$158.0 million in fiscal 2013, as a result of increased focus on the transition from traditional commission-based accounts to fee-based and managed accounts during these fiscal years. AUM in Canada further increased by \$369.0 million in fiscal 2014 and \$357.0 million in fiscal 2015.

# **Assets under management** (C\$ millions)



# Assets under management in the UK and Europe (2)

The Company expanded its wealth management operations into the UK and Europe through the acquisition of CSHP in fiscal 2012 and the wealth management business of Eden Financial Ltd. in fiscal 2013. AUM in the UK

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> AUM in Canada are assets managed on a discretionary basis under the programs generally described as or known as the *Complete Canaccord Investment Counselling Program, Canaccord Genuity Global Portfolio Solutions*, and *Complete Canaccord Private Investment Management Program.* Services provided include the selection of investments and the provision of investment advice. AUM is also administered by Canaccord Genuity Group and is therefore included in AUA.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> This is a non-IFRS measure. Non-IFRS measures do not have any standardized meaning prescribed by IFRS and are therefore unlikely to be comparable to similar measures presented by other companies.

and Europe as of March 31, 2015 were \$21.8 billion (2014: \$20.2 billion), an increase of 8.0% year over year. AUM in the UK and Europe is the market value of client assets administered and managed by Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management, for which the Company earns commissions or fees. This measure includes both discretionary and non-discretionary accounts.

#### Separately managed accounts (Canada)

Separately managed accounts (SMAs) are designed so that each account has individual ownership of securities rather than ownership of a pooled fund. Accounts are charged an all-inclusive fee, based on account size.

Canaccord's SMA program is known as the *Complete Canaccord Investment Counselling Program (ICP)*. Since 2005, Canaccord has expanded its SMA program to include a selection of 10 portfolio managers and over 20 mandates. Together, these accounts offer professional portfolio management with a choice of strategies based on a client's investment objectives. The minimum account size for the *Complete Canaccord Investment Counselling Program* starts at \$100,000.

#### Advisor managed accounts (Canada)

In addition to the *Complete Canaccord Investment Counselling Program*, Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management provides an advisor managed account program known as the *Complete Canaccord Private Investment Management Program*. Through this program, Investment Advisors who have their Associate Portfolio Manager or Portfolio Manager designation have the ability to provide discretionary management services similar to those offered by a registered investment counsel.

The Company continues to develop products and services with the purpose of offering Advisory Teams the freedom to present the best product mix to their clients, while reinforcing an entrepreneurial culture in which Advisory Teams may continue their business. As part of the *Complete Canaccord Private Investment Management Program* platform, the Company added a sophisticated suite of Portfolio Management application tools designed specifically to support Portfolio and Associate Portfolio Managers. National training sessions have also been offered to aid these Advisors in building the *Complete Canaccord Private Investment Management Program* platform.

# Competition

In the retail brokerage sector, Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management faces competition from other investment dealers, online brokerage firms, banks, insurance companies and other financial institutions. Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management competes on the basis of quality of its service, price, product selection, expertise, innovation and reputation.

There is also competition for Investment Advisors and other securities industry professionals. Similar to the competition for personnel in the Canaccord Genuity division of the business, the Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management division competes with other financial institutions for advisors and other specialized personnel on the basis of its service and product breadth, its management, its entrepreneurial culture, and its compensation structure, including ownership programs.

# Corporate and Other segment

Revenue	Revenue for the years ended March 31			
(C\$ thousands)	2015	2014	2013	
Corporate and Other	\$16,768	\$15,418	\$24,477	

The Corporate and Other segment includes Pinnacle Correspondent Brokerage Services (Pinnacle) along with interest, foreign exchange revenue and expenses not specifically allocable to Canaccord Genuity and Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management.

The Company operates a correspondent brokerage services operation under Pinnacle. Pinnacle provides secure and confidential fully integrated clearing and settlement, administrative, trading and research services to other brokerage firms. The development of Pinnacle was a natural extension and application of the Company's substantial investment in its information technology and operating infrastructure. The Company's management believes that with the segregation of the Canadian securities industry into groups (bank or foreign-owned large dealers; large, full-service independent dealers; and an increasing number of small boutique and specialized dealers) there is significant growth potential for Pinnacle to provide correspondent brokerage services to the dealers in the boutique and specialized dealer category.

The Corporate and Other segment also includes operations and support services such as front- and back-office information technology (IT), compliance and risk management, operations, legal, finance, and other administrative functions. The IT team maintains and supports the Company's front- and back-office IT systems. The compliance department is responsible for client credit and account monitoring in relation to certain legal and regulatory requirements. The operations group carries out all activity in connection with processing securities transactions including trade execution and settlement of securities transactions. They are also responsible for the custody of client securities. The finance department is responsible for internal financial accounting and controls, and external financial and regulatory reporting and compliance.

Operations and support staff, on March 31, 2015, numbered approximately 324. Most of these employees are located in the Company's Vancouver and Toronto offices.

The Company's front-office IT systems include applications for providing and enhancing client service and increasing the effectiveness and information access capabilities of the Company's Advisory Teams, Investment Professionals and Fund Managers, and Advisors as well as Canaccord Genuity professionals. The Company's back-office IT systems include applications for information and transaction processing, control systems, and management information reporting. All IT systems are supported by an overall network architecture comprised of hardware, software and key relationships with strategic service providers. For more information, please refer to the Information Technology section.

The Company's risk management and compliance activities include procedures to identify, control, measure and monitor the Company's risk exposure at all times. These principal risk areas relate to market risk, credit risk, operational risk and other risks. For more information, please refer to the Risk Management section.

#### Information Technology

The Company is committed to providing its Advisory Teams and other wealth management professionals, capital markets professionals and management with the information processing capability and real-time solutions required for maintaining a superior level of client service. The Company is also committed to ensuring that its technology platform continues to provide the resources necessary to meet the increased level of service, secure access to information and processing requirements critical to future growth and business development. To accomplish these objectives, the Company's strategy is to invest in the best, most cost effective, proven technology available and utilize strategic business technology relationships to provision the latest in hardware, software and business process solutions.

An important factor in the Company's success to date has been the development of strategic, adaptive relationships with key financial industry suppliers providing flexibility to adopt new technologies on a cost effective basis. With this strategy, the Company has developed key relationships with the following organizations:

- Broadridge Financial Solutions a real time integrated transaction system for client recordkeeping and reporting, multi-functional order management, transaction processing, account maintenance and account history
- Hewlett Packard computer hardware and software related to servers, network storage, desktop hardware and critical systems support
- Telus fully managed wide area network and telecommunications services
- Microsoft software support for servers, workstations and business systems
- Cisco network and telecommunications equipment and network monitoring software

- Thomson Reuters real time stock quotes and market information
- Fidessa trading systems and market data information

The Company also draws on the key relationships described above and others for project development and non-strategic services allowing the technology department to focus more on strategic, value-added initiatives, business applications, and systems and network management.

Other projects include continued improvements to the network and hardware architecture and security posture, enhancement of client services through the addition of value-added information processing applications and improvements to control systems, information processing and management information reporting.

Continued investment in improving its information technology platform and business solutions is a significant factor in the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the Company's business.

# Share-based payment plans

Canaccord Genuity Group has the following share-based payment plans in place:

# Long-term incentive plan

Under the long-term incentive plan (LTIP), eligible participants are awarded restricted share units (RSUs), which generally vest over three years. For employees in Canada, an employee benefit trust has been established. Prior to June 30, 2014, for employees in the United States and the United Kingdom, at the time of each RSU award, the Company allotted common shares and these shares were issued from treasury to plan participants following vesting of the RSUs.

Effective from June 2014, employee benefit trusts have also been established in the United States and the United Kingdom. The Company or certain of its subsidiaries, as the case may be, fund the employee benefit trusts (the Trusts) with cash that is used by the trustees to purchase common shares on the open market, which will be held in the Trusts until the RSUs vest. The Company also has the option to issue common shares from treasury to plan participants following vesting of the RSUs.

The costs of the RSUs are amortized over the vesting period of three years. Compensation expense of \$36.5 million has been recognized for the year ended March 31, 2015 (March 31, 2014 – \$28.8 million).

#### **Bonus Compensation Plan**

On October 1, 2005, the Company implemented a Bonus Compensation Plan (BCP) aimed at rewarding and retaining IAs within the Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management business segment. The Company rewards IAs through this program based on their gross production and certain minimum requirements. The cost of the BCP program for fiscal 2015 was \$0.3 million (2014 – \$(0.8) million). This program ended on March 31, 2015.

#### Forgivable common share purchase loans

Canaccord Genuity Group provides loans to certain employees for the purpose of partially funding the purchase of shares of the Company and increasing share ownership by the employees. These loans are forgiven over a three- to five-year period from the initial advance of the loan or at the end of that three- to five-year period. During fiscal 2015, the amortized portion of these loans was \$15.8 million (2014 – \$6.6 million).

### Replacement plans

As a result of the acquisition of CSHP, the following share-based payment plans were introduced to replace the share-based payment plans that existed at CSHP at the acquisition date:

# <u>Canaccord Genuity Group Inc. Collins Stewart Hawkpoint Replacement Annual Bonus Equity Deferral (ABED)</u> Plan

On March 21, 2012, the Company introduced the Replacement ABED Plan, which replaced the ABED plans that existed at CSHP as of the acquisition date. Eligible employees who participated in the CSHP ABED plans were granted awards under the Replacement ABED Plan. The shares granted vest between one and three years from the acquisition date of CSHP. As of March 31, 2015, all the awards have been fully vested.

#### Canaccord Genuity Group Inc. Collins Stewart Hawkpoint Replacement Long-Term Incentive Plan Award

On March 21, 2012, the Company introduced the Replacement LTIP, which replaced the existing LTIPs at CSHP on the acquisition date. Eligible employees who participated in the CSHP LTIPs were granted awards under the Replacement LTIP. The shares granted vest annually on a graded basis over a three-year period. As of March 31, 2015, all the awards have been fully vested.

In aggregate, during the year ended March 31, 2015, the Company incurred \$0.1 million (2014 – \$3.5 million) of expense related to the replacement plans.

#### **CSH** inducement plan

In connection with the acquisition of CSHP, the Company agreed to establish a retention plan for key CSHP staff. On each vesting date, the RSUs entitle the awardee to receive cash or common shares of the Company. If at the vesting date the share price is less than \$8.50 per share, then the Company, at its election, will either (a) pay cash to the employee equal to \$8.50 multiplied by the number of RSUs vesting on such date, or (b) pay cash to the employee equal to the difference between \$8.50 and the vesting date share price, multiplied by the number of RSUs vesting on that date plus that number of shares equal to the number of RSUs vesting on such date. If the share price is greater than \$8.50, then the Company will settle the RSUs in common shares.

The costs of the RSUs are amortized over the vesting period of three years. Compensation expense of \$4.1 million has been recognized for the year ended March 31, 2015 (March 31, 2014 – \$5.7 million).

#### **Share options**

The Company previously granted share options to purchase common shares of the Company to independent directors and senior management. Share options to independent directors vest over a four-year period and expire seven years after the grant date or 30 days after the participant ceases to be a director. Share options to senior management vest over a five-year period and expire on the earliest of: (a) seven years from the grant date; (b) three years after death or any other event of termination of employment; (c) after any unvested optioned shares held by the optionee are cancelled for any reason (other than early retirement but including resignation without entering into a formal exit agreement and termination for cause); and (d) in the case of early retirement, after a determination that the optionee has competed with the Company or violated any non-competition, non-solicitation or non-disclosure obligations. The exercise price is based on the fair market value of the common shares at grant date.

The following is a summary of the Company's share options awarded to directors and senior management as at March 31, 2015 and changes during the year ended March 31, 2015:

Number of options

	•	• •
Balance, March 31, 2014	1,959,632	\$9.23
Exercised	(234,636)	\$9.47
Expired	(115,624)	\$9.47
Balance, March 31, 2015	1,609,354	\$9.25

Weighted average exercise price (\$)

Compensation expense of \$0.2 million was recognized for the year ended March 31, 2015 (\$0.8 million for the year ended March 31, 2014).

#### **Deferred share units**

Beginning April 1, 2011, the Company adopted a deferred share unit (DSU) plan for its Independent Directors. Independent Directors must elect annually as to how they wish their directors' fees to be paid and can specify the allocation of their directors' fees between DSUs and cash. When a director leaves the Board of Directors, outstanding DSUs are paid out in cash, with the amount equal to the number of DSUs granted multiplied by the closing share price as of the end of the fiscal quarter immediately following such terminations. Under the plan, the directors are not entitled to receive any common shares in the Company, and under no circumstances will DSUs confer on any participant any of the rights or privileges of a holder of common shares.

Compensation expense of \$(0.3) million was recognized for the year ended March 31, 2015 (\$0.2 million for the year ended March 31, 2014).

# Other retention and incentive plans

#### Employee Stock Purchase Plan

On April 1, 2005, the Company implemented the Employee Stock Purchase Plan (ESPP). The ESPP is available to all Canada and US-based full-time permanent employees. Employee contributions are matched on a one-to-one basis by the Company to a maximum of \$3,000 per year per employee. The ESPP is managed by an independent company, and all stock purchases through the ESPP take place in the open market. The ESPP cost for fiscal 2015 of \$1.9\$ million (2014 - \$1.8\$ million), or 0.2% (2014 - 0.2%) of Canaccord Genuity Group's annual consolidated revenue, is included in salaries and benefits expense.

During the course of the fiscal year, the Company may have other retention and incentive plans with individual employees, for which the amount incurred was not significant in aggregate.

# Risk management

#### Overview

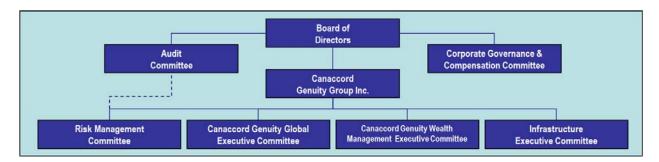
Uncertainty and risk are inherent when conducting operations within financial markets. As an active participant in the Canadian and international capital markets, Canaccord Genuity Group is exposed to risks that could result in financial losses. The Company has identified its principal risks as: market risk, credit risk, operational risk and other risks. Accordingly, risk management and control of the balance between risk and return are critical elements in maintaining the Company's financial stability and profitability. Therefore, an effective risk management framework is integral to the success of the Company.

# Risk management structure and governance

Canaccord Genuity Group's disciplined risk management process encompasses a number of functional areas and requires frequent communication, judgment and knowledge of the business, products and markets. The Company's senior management is actively involved in the risk management process and has developed policies, procedures and reports that enable the Company to assess and control its risks. These policies and procedures are subject to ongoing review and modification as activities, markets and circumstances change.

As part of Canaccord Genuity Group's risk philosophy, the first line of responsibility for managing risk lies with branch managers, department heads and trading desk managers (within prescribed limits). The monitoring and control of the Company's risk exposure is conducted through a variety of separate, but complementary, financial, credit, operational, compliance and legal reporting systems.

Canaccord Genuity Group's governance structure includes the following elements:



The Board of Directors (the Board) has oversight of the company-wide risk management framework. These responsibilities are delegated to the Audit and Risk Management Committees. See Schedule A of this Annual Information Form for details of the Audit Committee's mandate as it relates to risk management.

The Audit Committee assists the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibility by monitoring the effectiveness of internal controls and the control environment. It also receives and reviews various quarterly and annual updates and reports on key risk metrics as well as the overall risk management program.

The Risk Management Committee assists the Board in fulfilling its responsibilities for monitoring risk exposures against the defined risk appetite and for general oversight of the risk management process. The Risk Management Committee is led by the CFO, and committee members include the CEO and senior management representation from the key revenue producing businesses and functional areas of Canaccord Genuity Group. The Committee identifies, measures and monitors the principal risks facing the business through review and approval of Canaccord Genuity Group's risk appetite, policies, procedures and limits/thresholds.

The segregation of duties and management oversight are important aspects of Company's risk management framework. Canaccord Genuity Group has a number of functions that are independent of the revenue producing businesses that perform risk management activities, including the monitoring, evaluating and analyzing of risk. These functions include Enterprise Risk Management, Compliance, Operations, Internal Controls and Financial Analysis, Treasury, Finance and Legal.

#### Market risk

Market risk is the risk that a change in market prices and/or any of the underlying market risk factors will result in losses. Within a set of risk limits set by the Risk Management Committee and approved by the Board, each business area is responsible for ensuring that their market risk exposure is prudent. In addition, Canaccord Genuity Group has established procedures to ensure that risks are measured, closely monitored, controlled and visible to senior levels of management.

Canaccord Genuity Group is exposed to equity price risk, liquidity risk and volatility risk as a result of its principal trading activities in equity securities. Canaccord Genuity Group is also exposed to specific interest rate risk, credit spread risk and liquidity risk in respect of its principal trading in fixed income securities. In addition to active supervision and review of trading activities by senior management, Canaccord Genuity Group mitigates its risk exposure through a variety of limits to control concentration, capital allocation and usage, as well as through trading policies and guidelines. Canaccord Genuity Group manages and monitors its risks in this area using both qualitative and quantitative measures, on a company-wide basis, and also by trading desk and by individual trader. Canaccord Genuity Group operates a firm-wide scenario analysis and Value-at-Risk (VaR) risk measurement system for its equity and fixed income inventories. Management also regularly reviews and monitors inventory levels and positions, trading results, position aging and concentration levels. Consequently, Canaccord Genuity Group can ensure that it is adequately diversified with respect to market risk factors and that trading activity is within the risk tolerance levels established by senior management.

#### Value-at-Risk (VaR)

In order to better understand the market risk of Canaccord Genuity Group's inventories, VaR is calculated daily for each of Canaccord Genuity Group's trading desks as well as for the Company as a whole. These calculations include all of Canaccord Genuity Group's equity and fixed income principal positions and exclude client-related holdings.

The calculation of VaR is a statistical method that attempts to predict the minimum worst-case loss to Canaccord Genuity Group's trading portfolio at a specific confidence level (e.g., 95%) over a certain period of time (e.g., daily) under normal market conditions. Canaccord Genuity Group's VaR is calculated at a 95% confidence level over a single day holding period. This can be interpreted as the single day minimum loss Canaccord Genuity Group should expect to incur in its trading portfolios 5% of the time (i.e., one out of every 20 days). For example, a one-day 95% VaR of \$1 million predicts that the portfolio would lose at least \$1 million, one out of every 20 days. One of the benefits of VaR is that it is a simple metric that allows management to easily assess and compare market risk objectively across business units and products.

#### Limitations of VaR

As VaR does not estimate the maximum daily loss Canaccord Genuity Group could incur, additional scenario analysis and stress testing are performed in order to attempt to understand how the value of the trading portfolio will change under extreme market conditions. Under this additional analysis, individual market factors such as market indices, credit spreads, key interest rates or commodity prices are shocked, and the resulting predicted change in the portfolio is examined to understand how the portfolio would react under extreme market conditions. Combining the stress testing/scenario analysis with VaR reporting helps Canaccord Genuity Group management better understand the risk profile of the Company's trading portfolios.

VaR is limited in its effectiveness as its predictions are based on the historical price movements of assets within the trading portfolio as well as the historical correlations between assets over a trailing 12-month period. As the past is no indication of the future, VaR's reliance on historical data is one of its main drawbacks. To help ensure that the calculated VaR is adequately capturing the Company's true market risk, periodic backtesting is performed. The process involves examining the Company's past trading profit and loss (P&L) and comparing it to the trading losses predicted by VaR. In the event that actual P&L is inconsistent with VaR's predicted losses at the specified confidence interval, the inputs and assumptions used in the VaR calculation are examined and modified as necessary.

Another drawback to the one-day VaR calculation is that it assumes that positions can be liquidated in a single day, which, depending on the size and liquidity of the position, may not always be the case. To mitigate this, Canaccord Genuity Group calculates liquidity risk statistics to highlight the Company's most illiquid positions. This is done by comparing the size of each of the Company's positions with each position's average exchange traded volume. This liquidity risk statistic gives management useful additional information in assessing the Company's riskiest positions.

#### Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk of loss associated with counterparty's inability to fulfill its payment obligations. One of the primary sources of credit risk to Canaccord Genuity Group is in connection with trading activity by clients in the Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management business segment and private client margin accounts. In order to minimize financial exposure in this area, Canaccord Genuity Group applies certain credit standards and conducts financial reviews with respect to clients and new accounts.

Canaccord Genuity Group provides financing to clients by way of margin lending. In a margin-based transaction, Canaccord Genuity Group extends credit for a portion of the market value of a securities transaction in a client's account, up to certain limits. Margin loans are collateralized by securities in the client's account. In connection with this lending activity, Canaccord Genuity Group faces a risk of financial loss in the event that a client fails to meet a margin call if market prices for securities held as collateral decline and if Canaccord Genuity Group is unable to

recover sufficient value from the collateral held. For margin lending purposes, Canaccord Genuity Group has established limits that are generally more restrictive than those required by applicable regulatory policies.

Canaccord Genuity Group also faces a risk of financial loss with respect to trading activity by clients if such trading results in overdue or unpaid amounts in under-secured cash accounts. Canaccord Genuity Group has developed a number of controls within its automated trade order management system to ensure that trading for individual clients is done in accordance with customized limits and risk parameters.

Canaccord Genuity Group is engaged in various trading and brokerage activities whose counterparties primarily include broker dealers, banks, clearing agents, exchanges, financial intermediaries and other financial institutions. These activities include agency trading, securities borrowing and lending, and entering into repurchase agreements and reverse repurchase agreements. In the event that counterparties do not fulfill their obligations, Canaccord Genuity Group may be exposed to losses. The risk of default depends on the creditworthiness of the counterparty. Canaccord Genuity Group manages this risk by imposing and monitoring individual and aggregate position limits within each business segment for each counterparty, conducting regular credit reviews of financial counterparties, reviewing security and loan concentrations, holding and marking to market collateral on certain transactions, and conducting business through clearing organizations that guarantee performance.

Canaccord Genuity Group records a provision for bad debts in general and administrative expenses. Any actual losses arising from or associated with client trading activity as described above are charged to this provision. Historically, this provision has been sufficient to cover actual losses.

# Operational risk

Operational risk is the risk of loss resulting from inadequate or failed internal processes, fraud, people and systems, or from external events such as the occurrence of disasters or security threats. Operational risk exists in all of Canaccord Genuity Group's activities, including processes, systems and controls used to manage other risks. Failure to manage operational risk can result in financial loss, reputational damage, regulatory fines and failure to manage market or credit risks.

Canaccord Genuity Group operates in different markets and relies on its employees and systems to process a high number of transactions. In order to mitigate this risk, Canaccord Genuity Group has developed a system of internal controls and checks and balances at appropriate levels, which include overnight trade reconciliation, control procedures related to clearing and settlement, transaction and daily value limits within all trading applications, cash controls, physical security, independent review procedures, documentation standards, billing and collection procedures, and authorization and processing controls for transactions and accounts. In addition, Canaccord Genuity Group has implemented an operational risk program that helps Canaccord Genuity Group measure, manage, report and monitor operational risk issues (see "RCSA" below). Canaccord Genuity Group also has disaster recovery procedures in place, business continuity plans and built-in redundancies in the event of a systems or technological failure. In addition, Canaccord Genuity Group utilizes third party service agreements and security audits where appropriate.

Risk and Control Self-Assessments (RCSAs)

The purpose of RCSAs is to:

- Identify and assess key risks inherent to the business and categorize them based on severity and frequency of occurrence
- Rate the effectiveness of the control environment associated with the key risks
- Mitigate the risks through the identification of action plans to improve the control environment where appropriate
- Provide management with a consistent approach to articulate and communicate the risk profiles of their areas
  of responsibility
- Meet regulatory requirements and industry standards

Canaccord Genuity Group has established a process to determine what the strategic objectives of each group/unit/department are and identify, assess and quantify operational risks that hinder the Company's ability to achieve those objectives. The RCSA results are specifically used to calculate the operational risk regulatory capital requirements for Canaccord Genuity Group in the UK and operational risk exposure in all geographies. The RCSAs are periodically updated and results are reported to the Risk Management and Audit Committees.

#### Other risks

Other risks encompass those risks that can have an adverse material impact on the business but do not belong to market, credit or operational risk categories.

### Regulatory and legal risk

Regulatory risk results from non-compliance with regulatory requirements, which could lead to fines and/or sanctions. Canaccord Genuity Group has established procedures to ensure compliance with all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements in each jurisdiction. These procedures address issues such as regulatory capital requirements, disclosure requirements, internal controls over financial reporting, sales and trading practices, use of and safekeeping of client funds, credit granting, collection activity, anti-money laundering, insider trading, conflicts of interest and recordkeeping.

Legal risk results from potential criminal, civil or regulatory litigation against Canaccord Genuity Group which could materially affect Canaccord Genuity Group's business, operations or financial condition. Canaccord Genuity Group has in-house legal counsel as well as access to external legal counsel to assist the Company in addressing legal matters related to operations and defending Canaccord Genuity Group's interest in various legal actions.

Losses or costs associated with routine regulatory and legal matters are included in general and administrative expenses in Canaccord Genuity Group's consolidated financial statements.

#### Reputational risk

Reputational risk is the risk that an activity undertaken by an organization or its representatives will impair its image in the community or lower public confidence in it, resulting in loss of revenue, legal action or increased regulatory oversight. Possible sources of reputational risk could come from operational failures, non-compliance with laws and regulations, or leading an unsuccessful financing. Reputational risk can also be reflected within customer satisfaction and external ratings, such as equity analyst reports. In addition to its various risk management policies, controls and procedures, Canaccord Genuity Group has a formal Code of Business Conduct and Ethics and an integrated program of marketing, branding, communications and investor relations to help manage and support Canaccord Genuity Group's reputation.

#### Control risk

As of March 31, 2015, senior officers and directors of the Company collectively owned approximately 18.0% of the issued and outstanding (23.0% fully diluted) common shares of Canaccord Genuity Group Inc. If a sufficient number of these shareholders act or vote together, they will have the power to exercise significant influence over all matters requiring shareholder approval, including the election of the Company's directors, amendments to its articles, amalgamations and plans of arrangement under Canadian law and mergers or sales of substantially all of its assets. This could prevent Canaccord Genuity Group from entering into transactions that could be beneficial to the Company or its other shareholders. Also, third parties could be discouraged from making a tender offer or takeover bid to acquire any or all of the outstanding common shares of the Company. In addition, as at March 31, 2015, the single largest shareholder that management was aware of was RBC Global Asset Management Inc. The most recent filing that confirms their total holdings was filed on March 9, 2015, which indicated the company owned 5,156,774 shares of Canaccord Genuity Group Inc. Canaccord Genuity Group has not been made aware of any shareholding changes since this filing. Their ownership outlined in this filing represents 5.03% of common shares issued and outstanding as at March 31, 2015. Any significant change in these shareholdings through sale or other disposition, or significant acquisitions by others of the common shares in the public market or by way of private transactions

could result in a change of control and changes in business focus or practices that could affect the profitability of Canaccord Genuity Group's business.

Restrictions on ownership and transfer of common shares

Restrictions on ownership and transfer of common shares in the articles of Canaccord Genuity Group to prevent unauthorized change in control without regulatory approval, in certain cases, could affect the marketability and liquidity of the common shares.

# Risk factors

#### Overview

The securities industry and Canaccord Genuity Group's activities are by their very nature subject to a number of inherent risks. Economic conditions, competition and market factors such as volatility in the Canadian and international markets, interest rates, commodity prices, market prices, trading volumes and liquidity will have a significant impact on Canaccord Genuity Group's profitability. Revenue from Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management's activity is dependent on assets under management and trading volumes and, therefore, is linked to the level of market activity and investor confidence. Revenue from Canaccord Genuity's activity is dependent on corporate clients retaining Canaccord Genuity for advisory engagements, financing activity by corporate issuers and the willingness of institutional clients to actively trade and participate in capital markets transactions. There may also be a lag between market fluctuations and the level of Canaccord Genuity Group's market activity and the impact that these factors have on Canaccord Genuity Group's operating results and financial position. Furthermore, Canaccord Genuity Group's business is cyclical and thus experiences considerable variations in revenue and income from quarter to quarter and year to year due to the factors discussed above. These factors are beyond Canaccord Genuity Group's control and, as a result, revenue and net income will fluctuate, as they have historically.

An investment in the common or preferred shares of Canaccord Genuity Group involves a number of risks. Some of these, including market risk, credit risk, operational risk and other risks could be substantial and are inherent in Canaccord Genuity Group's business. Risk management at Canaccord Genuity Group is a significant priority due to the importance of its effectiveness on Canaccord Genuity Group's operations. For the discussion on risk management, please see "Risk Management" above. A summary of the general risk factors as well as the risk factors specific to preferred shares related to the Company are listed below. Risks include, but are not necessarily limited to, those set out below. Investors should carefully consider the following information about risks, together with the other information in this document, before making investment decisions. It should be noted that this list is not exhaustive, but contains risks that Canaccord Genuity Group considers to be of particular relevance. Other risk factors may apply. The risk factors are broken out into two sections:

- A. Summary of risk factors
- B. Summary of risk factors specific to preferred shares

#### A. Summary of risk factors:

- 1. Risks associated with the financial services business generally
- 2. Regulation risk
- 3. Risk from changes in market volume, prices or liquidity
- 4. Risk from changes in global economic, political or market conditions
- 5. Risk from periods of declining prices or reduced activity in targeted industries
- 6. Significant fluctuations in results
- 7. Principal trading risk
- 8. Foreign exchange risk
- 9. Interest rate risk
- 10. Liquidity risk
- 11. Underwriting risk
- 12. Credit/Counterparty risk

- 13. Derivatives trading risk
- 14. Employee misconduct
- 15. Inadequate risk management policies and procedures
- 16. Dependence on information and communication systems
- 17. Inability to retain and recruit skilled personnel
- 18. Potential conflicts of interest
- 19. Legal risk
- 20. Significant competition
- 21. Lack of available funding or regulatory capital
- 22. Insufficient management of growth

#### 1. Risks Associated with the Financial Services Business Generally

The financial services business is, by its nature, subject to numerous and substantial risks, particularly in volatile or illiquid markets and in markets influenced by sustained periods of low or negative economic growth. In addition, there is the risk of losses resulting from the underwriting or ownership of securities, principal trading, a counterparty's failure to meet commitments, customer fraud, employee errors, misconduct and fraud (including unauthorized transactions by traders), failures in connection with the processing of securities transactions, litigation, lower revenue in periods of reduced demand for public offerings or less activity in the secondary markets, and the risk of smaller spreads on the trading of securities.

# 2. Regulation risk

The financial services business is subject to extensive regulation in Canada, the US, the UK and elsewhere. Compliance with many of the regulations applicable to Canaccord Genuity Group involves a number of risks, particularly in areas where applicable regulations may be subject to interpretation. In the event of non-compliance with applicable regulation, securities regulators such as the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada (IIROC), the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and other authorities may institute administrative or judicial proceedings that may result in censure, fines, civil penalties, issuance of cease-and-desist orders, deregistration or suspension, loss of status as a Nomad, suspension or disqualification of the investment dealer's officers or employees, or other adverse consequences. The imposition of any such penalties or orders on Canaccord Genuity Group could have a material adverse effect on its operating results and financial condition.

Additional regulation, changes in existing laws and rules, or changes in interpretations or enforcement of existing laws and rules often directly affect the method of operation and profitability of securities firms. Canaccord Genuity Group cannot predict the effect any such changes might have. Furthermore, Canaccord Genuity Group's business may be materially affected not only by regulations applicable to Canaccord Genuity Group as a financial market intermediary, but also by regulations of general application. For example, Canaccord Genuity Group's revenue in a given time period could be adversely affected by, among other things, proposed tax legislation, changes to competition policy and other governmental regulations and policies.

Canaccord Genuity Group's ability to comply with all applicable laws and regulations is dependent on the creation, implementation and maintenance of effective compliance systems, policies and procedures and on its ability to hire and retain qualified compliance personnel.

#### 3. Risk from changes in market volume, prices or liquidity

Canaccord Genuity Group's revenue may decrease in the event of a decline in market volume, prices or liquidity. Declines in the volume of securities transactions and in market liquidity generally result in lower revenue from trading activities and commissions. Lower price levels of securities may also result in a decreased volume of underwriting transactions and could cause a reduction in revenue from corporate finance activities as well as losses from declines in the market value of securities held in trading, investment and underwriting positions, a reduction in Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management fees, and a reduction in assets under management, either as a result of a decrease in market prices and/or the withdrawal of funds by clients. Sudden sharp declines in market values of securities can result in illiquid markets and the failure of issuers and counterparties to perform their obligations, as

well as increases in claims and litigation. In such markets, Canaccord Genuity Group may also experience declining revenue or losses in its principal trading and market-making activities.

#### 4. Risk from changes in global economic, political or market conditions

Reductions in the number and size of public offerings and mergers and acquisitions, and reduced securities trading activities, due to changes in global economic, political or market conditions that are beyond Canaccord Genuity Group's control, could cause revenues from Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management's and Canaccord Genuity's activities to decline materially. The amount and profitability of these activities are affected by many national and international factors, including economic, political and market conditions; the level and volatility of interest rates; legislative and regulatory changes; exposure to fluctuations in currency values; inflation; inflows and outflows of mutual funds and pension funds; financial scandals; war or insurgency; and availability of short-term and long-term funding and capital.

#### 5. Risk from periods of declining prices or reduced activity in targeted industries

Canaccord Genuity Group's revenue is likely to be lower during periods of declining prices or inactivity in the market for securities of companies in Canaccord Genuity Group's focus sectors. Canaccord Genuity Group's business is particularly dependent on the market for equity offerings by companies in the Metals & Mining, Energy, Agriculture, Technology, Sustainability, Transportation & Industrials, Financials, Healthcare & Life Sciences, Real Estate & Hospitality, Consumer & Retail, Support Services, Media & Telecommunications, Paper & Forestry Products, Infrastructure, Investment Companies, Aerospace & Defense, Leisure, Diversified and Private Equity sectors. These markets have historically experienced significant volatility, not only in the number and size of equity offerings, but also in the aftermarket trading volume and prices of newly issued securities.

Canaccord Genuity Group's revenue growth in prior years is partially attributable to the increased number and size of underwritten transactions by companies in Canaccord Genuity Group's target industries and by the related increase in agency trading for such companies. Underwriting activities in Canaccord Genuity Group's target industries can decline for a number of reasons, including market uncertainty, inflation, rising interest rates and related issues. Underwriting and brokerage activity can also be materially adversely affected for a company or industry segment by disappointments in quarterly performance relative to an analyst's expectations or by changes in long-term prospects.

Canaccord Genuity Group's investment banking clients generally retain Canaccord Genuity Group on a short-term, non-recurring basis for specific capital markets or advisory transactions. During reduced market activity in its target industries, if Canaccord Genuity Group is unable to generate a substantial number of new engagements that generate fees from the successful completion of transactions, then its business and results of operations would likely be adversely affected.

#### 6. Significant fluctuations in results

Canaccord Genuity Group's revenue and operating results may fluctuate from quarter to quarter and from year to year due to a combination of factors, including the number of underwriting and advisory transactions completed, the realized and unrealized gains or losses on principal trading inventories, the level of institutional and retail brokerage transactions, variations in expenditures for personnel, litigation expenses and expenses of establishing or expanding new business units or product and service offerings. Canaccord Genuity Group's revenue from underwriting and advisory transactions is recorded only when the underlying transaction is substantially complete under the engagement terms and related revenue is reasonably determinable. Accordingly, the timing of recognition of revenue from a significant transaction can materially affect quarterly and annual operating results. Canaccord Genuity Group's cost structure is oriented to meet the current level of demand for investment banking transactions. As a result, despite the variability of incentive compensation, Canaccord Genuity Group could experience losses if demand for these transactions declines more quickly than its ability to change its cost structure, which includes fixed salaries and benefits expenses. Due to the foregoing and other factors, there can be no assurance that Canaccord Genuity Group will be able to sustain profitability on a quarterly or annual basis.

# 7. Principal trading risk

Canaccord Genuity Group generates a considerable amount of revenue from principal trading. This activity includes market-making, hedging and proprietary trading. Consequently, Canaccord Genuity Group may incur trading losses relating to the purchase, sale or short sale of securities which include, but are not limited to, fixed income securities, interest rate derivatives, equity securities, equity options, exchange traded funds, closed end funds, American depository receipts and global depository receipts. These losses in Canaccord Genuity Group's inventory positions are most often the result of a decline in market volume, prices or liquidity. A decline in any or all of these factors may result in both mark to market losses on securities held in inventory or in losses realized in executing trades done on a principal basis. In addition, Canaccord Genuity Group may engage in transactions that are meant to hedge exposure, but that fail to be effective and could result in losses. Canaccord Genuity Group attempts to mitigate potential losses from principal trading by imposing strict position and desk level limits and through vigilant risk oversight of all principal trading activity.

#### 8. Foreign exchange risk

Canaccord Genuity Group incurs foreign exchange risk primarily on its net investments in foreign subsidiaries and on financial instruments held by its operating subsidiaries that are denominated in currencies other than its functional currency. Canaccord Genuity Group's results are reported in Canadian dollars. A portion of Canaccord Genuity Group's business is conducted and denominated in UK pounds sterling, in US dollars, in Australian dollars, in Hong Kong dollars, in Chinese Yuan, and in Singaporean dollars. Any fluctuations in the value of any of these currencies relative to the Canadian dollar may result in variations in the comprehensive income of Canaccord Genuity Group. Canaccord Genuity Group manages some of its foreign exchange settlement risk by periodically hedging pending settlements in foreign currencies. However, these procedures may not be adequate and do not address the impact that any changes in currency values may have on Canaccord Genuity Group's financial reporting in Canadian dollars and the possibility that such changes may have an adverse impact on Canaccord Genuity Group's business and financial condition.

# 9. Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk arises from the possibility that changes in interest rates will affect the value of financial instruments and fixed income securities held by Canaccord Genuity Group. Canaccord Genuity Group strives to reduce and monitor its exposure to interest rate risk through quantitative analysis of its net positions in fixed income securities. Canaccord Genuity Group hedges its positions when required in order to minimize its net exposure to interest rate risk.

Related to interest rate risk is the risk that there is a change in the difference between interest rates charged on risky assets and risk-free assets, commonly referred to as credit spread. This change in credit spreads may adversely affect the value of fixed income securities held by Canaccord Genuity Group.

#### 10. Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Company cannot meet a demand for cash or fund its obligations as they become due. Liquidity, or ready access to funds, is essential to the Company and all financial services firms generally. Insufficient liquidity can be a cause of failure for financial services firms. In addition, perceived liquidity issues rather than actual liquidity problems may also be a cause of failure for such firms. Perceptions of insufficient liquidity may affect Canaccord Genuity Group's customers and counterparties' willingness to engage in brokerage transactions with the Company. Canaccord Genuity Group's liquidity could be impaired because of circumstances that the Company may be unable to control, such as operating losses, counterparty failure, a general market disruption, a prolonged market downturn or operational problems.

Lack of adequate funding would also limit the Company's ability to pay dividends or to repay debt. The Company has, in the past, satisfied its need for funding from internally generated funds, sales of shares of common and preferred stock and short-term loans or term debt from third parties. While the Company currently has adequate

capital and liquid resources, adequate funding may not continue to be available to the Company in the future on terms that are acceptable to the Company or at all.

# 11. Underwriting risk

Canaccord Genuity Group's participation in underwritings involves both financial and regulatory risks. Canaccord Genuity Group may incur losses if it is unable to resell the securities it has committed to purchase or if it is forced to liquidate its commitment below the agreed purchase price.

In addition, Canaccord Genuity Group may retain a significant concentration in individual securities. Increasing competition is expected to continue to erode underwriting spreads, thereby reducing profitability. Canaccord Genuity Group may also be subject to substantial liability for material misstatements or omissions in prospectuses and other communications or offering documents with respect to underwritten offerings, and may be exposed to claims and litigation arising from such offerings.

# 12. Credit/Counterparty risk

Canaccord Genuity Group is exposed to the risk that third parties owing Canaccord Genuity Group money, securities or other assets will not meet their obligations. These parties include trading counterparties, clients, clearing agents, exchanges, clearing houses and other financial intermediaries as well as issuers whose securities are held by Canaccord Genuity Group. These parties may default on their obligations due to bankruptcy, lack of liquidity, operational failure or other reasons.

Canaccord Genuity Group provides financing to private clients by way of margin lending. In a margin-based transaction, Canaccord Genuity Group extends credit for a portion of the market value of a securities transaction in a client's account up to certain limits. Margin loans are collateralized by securities in the client's account. In connection with this lending activity, Canaccord Genuity Group faces a risk of financial loss in the event that a client fails to meet a margin call if market prices for securities held as collateral decline and if Canaccord Genuity Group is unable to sell the securities held as collateral at a price that will cover the amount of the outstanding loan.

Although Canaccord Genuity Group regularly reviews credit exposure to specific clients, counterparties, industries, countries and regions that it believes may present credit concerns, default risk may arise from events or circumstances that are difficult to detect, such as fraud. Canaccord Genuity Group may also fail to receive full or accurate information with respect to the credit risks of a counterparty.

# 13. Derivatives trading risk

In addition to the risks that are associated with all investments, Canaccord Genuity Group faces certain derivative specific risks, including, without limitation, the following: derivative prices are affected by several factors other than the price of the underlying security; there is no guarantee a market will exist when Canaccord Genuity Group wants to buy or sell one of these derivative contracts; the other party to the contract may not be able to meet its financial obligations; a derivative hedging strategy to reduce risk may not be effective and the market value of the investment being hedged and the derivative instrument being used may not be perfectly correlated; and investors may speculate in derivatives, driving the price up or down, all of which could result in a loss to Canaccord Genuity Group. Although many derivatives are exchange traded (e.g. equity options and futures) which helps mitigate against counterparty risk via a central clearing house and liquidity risk via standardized contracts with publicly available market prices, Canaccord Genuity Group may also engage in over the counter derivative trading where there is neither a central clearing house nor a public market and, as a result, the counterparty and liquidity risks may be greater.

# 14. Employee misconduct

Within the financial services industry, there have been a number of highly publicized cases involving fraud or other misconduct by employees in recent years, and Canaccord Genuity Group runs the risk that employee misconduct could occur. Misconduct by employees could include binding Canaccord Genuity Group to transactions that exceed

authorized limits or present unacceptable risks, or hiding from Canaccord Genuity Group unauthorized or unsuccessful activities, which may result in unknown and unmanaged risks or losses. Employee misconduct could also involve the improper use of confidential information, which could result in regulatory sanctions and serious reputational harm. It is not always possible to deter employee misconduct and the precautions Canaccord Genuity Group takes to prevent and detect this activity may not be effective in all cases.

# 15. Inadequate risk management policies and procedures

Canaccord Genuity Group's risk management policies and procedures are based on historical market behaviour and depend on evaluations of certain information regarding markets, clients and other matters. Canaccord Genuity Group's risk management strategies and techniques may not be fully effective in mitigating its risk exposure in all market environments or against all types of risk, and there may be situations where existing procedures and methods do not adequately identify existing risk exposure or predict future risk exposure or where risk exposure may be substantially higher than historical measures indicate. Accordingly, there is no certainty that Canaccord Genuity Group's risk management policies, systems and procedures will be adequate to prevent substantial financial loss.

#### 16. Dependence on information and communication systems

Canaccord Genuity Group's business is highly dependent on communications and information systems. Any failure or interruption of Canaccord Genuity Group's systems, or those of third parties such as service providers, clearing corporations and exchanges, could cause delays or other problems in Canaccord Genuity Group's sales, trading, clearing, settlement and other client services, which could have a material adverse effect on its operating results and financial condition. To mitigate this risk, any software developed for Canaccord Genuity Group is thoroughly tested before being employed to ensure that it is performing as intended. There can be no assurance that Canaccord Genuity Group will be able to prevent any systems failures or interruptions, including those caused by an earthquake, fire, other natural disaster, power or telecommunications failure, act of God, operator error, act of war or terror or otherwise, or that back-up procedures and capabilities in the event of failure or interruption will be adequate. Even though Canaccord Genuity Group has back-up procedures, duplicate systems, excess capacity and business continuity plans in place, there is no assurance that procedures and plans will be sufficient or adequate in the event of a failure or catastrophe and, consequently, such an event could have a material adverse effect on Canaccord Genuity Group's operating results and financial condition.

Canaccord Genuity Group's operations also rely on the secure processing, storage and transmission of confidential and other information in computer systems and networks. Although Canaccord Genuity Group takes protective measures and tries to modify them as circumstances warrant, computer systems, software and networks may be vulnerable to cyber-attacks, unauthorized access, computer viruses or other malicious code and events that could have a security impact. If one or more of these events occur, this could potentially jeopardize Canaccord Genuity Group's, or its clients' or counterparties' confidential and other information processed and stored in, and transmitted through, computer systems and networks, or otherwise cause interruptions or malfunctions in clients', counterparties' or third parties' operations. Canaccord Genuity Group may be required to expend significant additional resources to modify protective measures or to investigate and remediate vulnerabilities or other exposures, and Canaccord Genuity Group may be subject to litigation and financial losses that are either not insured against or not fully covered through any insurance maintained by Canaccord Genuity Group.

# 17. Inability to retain and recruit skilled personnel

Canaccord Genuity Group's business is dependent on highly skilled and, often, highly specialized employees. The establishment and maintenance of relationships with clients and potential clients depends in part on individuals. Retention of Investment Advisors, Investment Professionals and Fund Managers, advisors, investment banking, research, sales and trading professionals, and management and administrative personnel is particularly important to Canaccord Genuity Group.

The level of competition for key personnel is very high, particularly due to the market entry efforts of new retail brokerage operations, certain non-brokerage financial services companies and other investment banks targeting or increasing their efforts in all or some of the areas in which Canaccord Genuity Group operates. While Canaccord Genuity Group aims to limit the turnover in professional employees, there can be no assurance that losses of key

personnel, due to competition or otherwise, will not occur in the future. The loss of an investment advisor, investment banking, research, or sales and trading professional, particularly any member of senior management or other senior professional with a broad range of contacts in an industry, could materially and adversely affect Canaccord Genuity Group's operating results.

Competition for the recruiting and retention of employees is responsible for the compensation costs contributing significantly to Canaccord Genuity Group's overall costs, and Canaccord Genuity Group expects that this trend will continue in the future. There can be no assurance that Canaccord Genuity Group will be able to recruit a sufficient number of new employees with the desired qualifications, in a timely manner and on financial terms that are acceptable to Canaccord Genuity Group. The failure to recruit new employees could materially and adversely affect future operating results.

#### 18. Potential conflicts of interest

Executive officers, directors and employees of Canaccord Genuity Group from time to time may invest in securities of private or public companies or investment funds in which Canaccord Genuity Group, or an affiliate of Canaccord Genuity Group, is an investor or for which Canaccord Genuity Group carries out investment banking assignments, publishes research or acts as a market maker. There are certain risks that, as a result of such investment, a director, officer or employee may take actions that would conflict with the best interests of Canaccord Genuity Group.

In addition, certain directors of Canaccord Genuity Group also serve as directors of other companies involved in a wide range of industry sectors. Consequently, there exists the possibility these directors could potentially be in a conflict of interest.

#### 19. Legal risk

Many aspects of Canaccord Genuity Group's business involve substantial risks of liability. An underwriter is exposed to substantial liability under securities laws, other laws and court decisions, including decisions with respect to underwriters' liability and limitations on indemnification of underwriters by issuers. For example, a firm that acts as an underwriter may be held liable for misstatements or omissions of fact in a prospectus used in connection with the securities being offered and firms may be held liable for statements made by its securities analysts or other personnel. Risks also include potential liability for fairness opinions and other advice Canaccord Genuity Group provides to participants in strategic transactions. Such advice frequently requires complex analysis and professional judgment, which could give rise to subsequent disputes. In recent years, there has been increasing litigation involving the securities industry, including class actions that seek substantial damages. Canaccord Genuity Group is subject to the risk of litigation, including litigation that may be without merit. As Canaccord Genuity Group intends to actively defend itself against any such litigation, significant legal expenses could be incurred, and the Company could suffer substantial reputational harm which could adversely affect future business opportunities and activity. An adverse resolution of any actions or claims against Canaccord Genuity Group may materially affect its operating results and financial condition.

The legal risks facing Canaccord Genuity Group also include potential liability under securities laws or through civil litigation in the event that Canaccord Genuity Group's Investment Advisors, Investment Professionals, Fund Managers or employees violate investor suitability requirements, make materially false or misleading statements in relation to securities transactions, effect unauthorized transactions, fail to properly implement instructions, commit fraud, misuse client funds, or breach any other statute, regulatory rule or requirement. This could have a material adverse effect on Canaccord Genuity Group's operating results or financial condition.

When Canaccord Genuity Group recruits investment advisors with existing clients from other employers, there may be existing non-competition or non-solicitation agreements and other contractual or common law obligations. The former employer may claim damages or injunctive relief against the investment advisor or Canaccord Genuity Group, and Canaccord Genuity Group may incur expenses in awards, settlements and legal expenses.

# 20. Significant competition

Canaccord Genuity Group is engaged in the highly competitive securities brokerage and financial services business. Canaccord Genuity Group competes directly with large domestic and international securities firms, securities subsidiaries of major chartered banks, major regional firms and smaller niche players. Many other companies have more personnel and greater financial resources than Canaccord Genuity Group does. These companies compete directly with Canaccord Genuity Group for private clients, investment banking clients, investment advisors, professional staff and other industry personnel. Larger competitors are able to advertise their products and services on a regional or national basis and may have a greater number and variety of distribution outlets for their products, including retail distribution. Discount brokerage firms market their services through aggressive pricing and promotional efforts. In addition, some competitors have a much longer history of investment banking activities than Canaccord Genuity Group and, therefore, may possess a relative advantage with regard to access to deal flow and capital. This competition could have a material adverse effect on Canaccord Genuity Group's operating results as well as Canaccord Genuity Group's ability to attract and retain highly skilled individuals. There can be no assurance that Canaccord Genuity Group will be able to compete effectively.

# 21. Lack of available funding or regulatory capital

Canaccord Genuity Group's business depends on the availability of adequate funding and regulatory capital under applicable regulatory requirements. Underwriting commitments require a charge against capital and, accordingly, Canaccord Genuity Group's ability to make underwriting commitments may be limited by the requirement that it must at all times be in compliance with applicable net capital regulations. Other Canaccord Genuity activity and Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management activity also require charges against capital for regulatory purposes. Although Canaccord Genuity Group expects to have sufficient capital to satisfy all of its capital requirements, there can be no assurance that any, or sufficient, funding or regulatory capital will continue to be available to Canaccord Genuity Group in the future on acceptable terms.

# 22. Insufficient management of growth

Over the past several years, Canaccord Genuity Group has experienced significant growth in its business activities. This growth has required and will continue to require increased investment in management personnel, financial and management systems, and controls and facilities, which, in the absence of continuing revenue growth, would cause Canaccord Genuity Group's operating margins to decline from current levels.

As part of Canaccord Genuity Group's business strategy, Canaccord Genuity Group has acquired and may make further acquisitions of assets or businesses related to, or complementary to, its current operations. Any acquisitions will be accompanied by certain risks including inability to retain key employees of acquired companies, impairment of relationships with clients and business partners, exposure to unknown liabilities of acquired companies, higher than anticipated acquisition costs and expenses, increased investments in management and operational personnel, financial and management systems and facilities, the difficulty and expense of integrating operations and personnel of acquired companies, disruption of ongoing business, diversion of management's time and attention, and possible dilution to shareholders. In addition, acquisitions often involve the recording of a significant amount of goodwill and other intangible assets. Under IFRS, Canaccord Genuity Group must assess, at least annually and potentially more frequently, whether the value of goodwill and other indefinite-lived intangible assets has been impaired. Amortizing intangible assets will be assessed for impairment in the event of an impairment indicator. Any reduction or impairment of the value of goodwill or other intangible assets will result in a charge against earnings, which could materially adversely affect Canaccord Genuity Group's results of operations and shareholders' equity in future periods.

Canaccord Genuity Group may not be able to successfully address these risks and other problems associated with acquisitions, which could adversely affect the Company's results of operations and shareholders' equity in future periods.

#### B. Summary of Risk Factors Specific to Preferred Shares:

- 1. Unpredictability and volatility of market price
- 2. Inability to meet its financial obligations
- 3. Preferred share credit rating
- 4. Limitations on ability to liquidate preferred shares
- 5. Limitations on the payment of dividends
- 6. Limitations on repurchase of shares
- 7. The Company may redeem the preferred shares
- 8. Creditors of the Company rank ahead of preferred shareholders
- 9. Dividend rates of the preferred shares will reset
- 10. Interest rate risk for floating rate preferred shares
- 11. Conversion of preferred shares without the holders' consent
- 12. Dividends declared at the Board's discretion
- 13. No voting rights, except under limited circumstances

# 1. Unpredictability and volatility of market price

From time to time, the stock market experiences significant price and volume volatility that may affect the market price of the Preferred Shares for reasons unrelated to the Company's performance. The value of the preferred shares is also subject to market fluctuations based upon factors that influence the Company's operations, such as legislative or regulatory developments, competition, technological change and global capital market activity. The value of the preferred shares will also be affected by the general creditworthiness of the Company.

The market value of the Company's preferred shares, as with other preferred shares, is primarily affected by changes (actual or anticipated) in prevailing interest rates and in the credit rating assigned to such shares. Real or anticipated changes in ratings on the preferred shares may also affect the cost at which the Company can transact or obtain funding, and thereby affect its liquidity, financial condition or results of operations.

Prevailing yields on similar securities will affect the market value of the preferred shares. Assuming all other factors remain unchanged, the market value of the preferred shares would be expected to decline as prevailing yields for similar securities rise and would be expected to increase as prevailing yields for similar securities decline. Spreads over the Government of Canada Yield, T-Bill Rate and comparable benchmark rates of interest for similar securities may affect the market value of the preferred shares in an analogous manner.

The market value of the preferred shares may also depend on the market price of the common shares. The prices at which the common shares will trade cannot be predicted. The price at which the common shares trade is influenced by the Company's financial results and by complex and interrelated political, economic, financial and other factors that can affect the capital markets generally, the stock exchanges on which the common shares are traded and the market segment of which the Company is a part.

# 2. Inability to meet its financial obligations

As the Company is a holding company, the Company's ability to pay dividends and other operating expenses and interest and to meet its obligations depends to a significant extent upon receipt of sufficient funds from its principal subsidiaries, the returns generated by its investments, its ability to raise additional capital and the value of its underlying business and assets. Accordingly, the likelihood that holders of the preferred shares will receive dividends will depend to a significant extent upon the financial position and creditworthiness of the Company's principal subsidiaries and affiliates, the principal entities in which the Company invests and its underlying business and assets. The payment of interest and dividends to the Company by certain of these principal subsidiaries or investee entities is also subject to restrictions set forth in certain laws and regulations that require that solvency and capital standards be maintained by such companies.

### 3. Preferred share credit rating

The preferred share credit rating applied to the preferred shares is an assessment, by DBRS, of the Company's ability to pay its obligations. The rating is based on certain assumptions about the future performance and capital structure of the Company that may or may not reflect the actual performance or capital structure of the Company. Changes in the credit rating of the preferred shares may affect the market price or value and the liquidity of the preferred shares. There is no assurance that any rating assigned to the preferred shares will remain in effect for any given period of time or that any rating will not be lowered or withdrawn entirely by the relevant rating organization.

## 4. Limitations on ability to liquidate preferred shares

The preferred shares do not have a fixed maturity or redemption date and they are not redeemable at the option of the holders thereof. The ability of a holder to liquidate his, her or its holdings of preferred shares, as applicable, may be limited.

## 5. Limitations on the payment of dividends

Although the preferred shares carry cumulative dividends, the Company may not be in a position pursuant to law to declare and pay such dividends. The Company may not declare or pay a dividend if there are reasonable grounds for believing that (i) the Company is unable to pay its debts as they become due in the ordinary course of its business, or (ii) the payment of the dividend would render the Company unable to pay its debts as they become due in the ordinary course of its business.

## 6. Limitations on the repurchase of shares

The Company may not make a payment or provide any consideration to purchase or otherwise acquire any of its shares if there are reasonable grounds for believing that (i) the Company is unable to pay its debts as they become due in the ordinary course of its business, or (ii) the making of the payment or providing the consideration would render the Company unable to pay its debts as they become due in the ordinary course of its business.

### 7. The Company may redeem the preferred shares

The Company may choose to redeem the preferred shares from time to time, including when prevailing interest rates are lower than yields borne by the preferred shares. If prevailing rates are lower at the time of redemption, a purchaser would not be able to reinvest the redemption proceeds in a comparable security at an effective yield as high as the yields on the preferred shares being redeemed. The Company's redemption right also may adversely impact a purchaser's ability to sell the preferred shares as the optional redemption date or period approaches.

The Company may not make a payment or provide any consideration to redeem any of its shares if there are reasonable grounds for believing that (i) the Company is unable to pay its debts as they become due in the ordinary course of its business, or (ii) the making of the payment or providing the consideration would render the Company unable to pay its debts as they become due in the ordinary course of its business.

### 8. Creditors of the Company rank ahead of preferred shareholders

All the Company's preferred shares that may be outstanding in the event of insolvency or winding-up of the Company rank equally. If the Company becomes insolvent or is wound-up, the Company's assets must be used to pay debt, including subordinated and inter-company debt, before payments may be made on the preferred shares.

## 9. Dividend rates of the preferred shares will reset

The dividend rate in respect of the Series A Preferred Shares will reset on September 30, 2016 and on September 30 every five years thereafter. The dividend rate in respect of the Series C Preferred Shares will reset on June 30, 2017 and on June 30 every five years thereafter. The dividend rate in respect of the floating rate preferred shares will

reset quarterly. In each case, the new dividend rate is unlikely to be the same as, and may be lower than, the dividend rate for the applicable preceding dividend period.

#### 10. Interest rate risk for floating rate preferred shares

The resetting of the applicable rate on a floating rate preferred share may result in a lower yield compared to fixed rate preferred shares. The applicable rate on a floating rate preferred share will fluctuate in accordance with fluctuations in the T-Bill Rate on which the applicable rate is based, which in turn may fluctuate and be affected by a number of interrelated factors, including economic, financial and political events over which the Company has no control.

#### 11. Conversion of preferred shares without the holders' consent

An investment in the fixed rate preferred shares, or in the floating rate Preferred Shares, as the case may be, may become an investment in floating rate preferred shares, or in fixed rate preferred shares, respectively, without the consent of the holder in the event of an automatic conversion in the circumstances described in the Short Form Prospectuses under which the preferred shares were sold. Upon the automatic conversion of the fixed rate preferred shares into floating rate preferred shares, the dividend rate on the floating rate preferred shares will be a floating rate that is adjusted quarterly by reference to the T-Bill Rate which may vary from time to time while, upon the automatic conversion of the floating rate preferred shares into fixed rate preferred shares, the dividend rate on the fixed rate preferred shares will be, for each five-year period, a fixed rate that is determined by reference to the Government of Canada Yield on the 30th day prior to the first day of each such five-year period. In addition, holders may be prevented from converting their fixed rate preferred shares into floating rate preferred shares, and vice versa, in certain circumstances.

#### 12. Dividends declared at the Board's discretion

Holders of the preferred shares do not have a right to dividends on such shares unless declared by the Board of Directors of the Company. The declaration of dividends is at the discretion of the Board of Directors even if the Company has sufficient funds, net of its liabilities, to pay such dividends.

The Company may not declare or pay a dividend if there are reasonable grounds for believing that (i) the Company is unable to pay its debts as they become due in the ordinary course of its business, or (ii) the payment of the dividend would render the Company unable to pay its debts as they become due in the ordinary course of its business. Debts of the Company will include those arising in the course of its business, indebtedness, including inter-company debt, and amounts, if any, that are owed by the Company under guarantees in respect of which a demand for payment has been made.

## 13. No voting rights, except under limited circumstances

Holders of preferred shares will generally not have voting rights at meetings of the shareholders of the Company except under limited circumstances. Holders of preferred shares will have no right to elect the Board of Directors of the Company.

## Risk factors specific to Canaccord Genuity Group's outstanding preferred shares

For a detailed list of the risk factors specific to the Series A and Series B Preferred Shares, see "Risk Factors" in the Company's Short Form Prospectus dated June 16, 2011.

For a detailed list of the risk factors specific to the Series C and Series D Preferred Shares, see "Risk Factors" in C the Company's Short Form Prospectus dated April 2, 2012.

## **Dividends**

The Company declared the following dividends on its common shares for the three years ending March 31, 2015:

Quarter	Dividends	Record date	Payment date
Q1/13	\$0.05	August 24, 2012	September 10, 2012
Q2/13	\$0.05	November 30, 2012	December 10, 2012
Q3/13	\$0.05	March 1, 2013	March 15, 2013
Q4/13	\$0.05	May 31, 2013	June 10, 2013
Q1/14	\$0.05	August 30, 2013	September 10, 2013
Q2/14	\$0.05	November 22, 2013	December 10, 2013
Q3/14	\$0.05	February 21, 2014	March 10, 2014
Q4/14	\$0.05	June 20, 2014	July 2, 2014
Q1/15	\$0.05	August 29, 2014	September 10, 2014
Q2/15	\$0.10	November 21, 2014	December 10, 2014
Q3/15	\$0.05	February 27, 2015	March 10, 2015
Q4/15	\$0.05	June 19, 2015	July 2, 2015

The Company declared the following dividends on its preferred shares for the three years ended March 31, 2015:

	Series A Preferred	Series C Preferred		
Quarter	dividends	dividends	Record date	Payment date
Q1/13	\$0.34375	\$0.359375	September 14, 2012	October 1, 2012
Q2/13	\$0.34375	\$0.359375	December 14, 2012	December 31, 2012
Q3/13	\$0.34375	\$0.359375	March 15, 2013	April 1, 2013
Q4/13	\$0.34375	\$0.359375	June 21, 2013	July 2, 2013
Q1/14	\$0.34375	\$0.359375	September 13, 2013	September 30, 2013
Q2/14	\$0.34375	\$0.359375	December 20, 2013	December 31, 2013
Q3/14	\$0.34375	\$0.359375	March 14, 2014	March 31, 2014
Q4/14	\$0.34375	\$0.359375	June 13, 2014	June 30, 2014
Q1/15	\$0.34375	\$0.359375	September 19, 2014	September 30, 2014
Q2/15	\$0.34375	\$0.359375	December 19, 2014	December 31, 2014
Q3/15	\$0.34375	\$0.359375	March 20, 2015	March 31, 2015
Q4/15	\$0.34375	\$0.359375	June 19, 2015	June 30, 2015

# **Dividend Policy**

Although dividends are expected to be declared and paid quarterly, the Board of Directors, in its sole discretion, will determine the amount and timing of any dividends. All dividend payments will depend on general business conditions, Canaccord Genuity Group's financial condition, results of operations, capital requirements and such other factors as the Board determines to be relevant.

## **Description of Capital Structure**

The authorized capital of the Company consists of an unlimited number of common shares, without nominal or par value and three classes of preferred shares, each unlimited in number and issuable in series, of which 102,572,826 common shares, 4,540,000 Series A Preferred Shares, and 4,000,000 Series C Preferred Shares are issued and outstanding as of May 31, 2015,

Holders of common shares are entitled to receive dividends as and when declared by the Board of Directors of the Company and are entitled to one vote per share on all matters to be voted on at all meetings of shareholders. Upon voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding-up of the Company, the holders of common shares are entitled to share ratably in the remaining assets available for distribution, after payment of liabilities.

The preferred shares may be issued from time to time in one or more series. The Board of Directors of the Company may:

- (a) Determine the maximum number of shares of each series or determine that there is no such maximum number or alter any such determination;
- (b) Create an identifying name for the shares of each series or alter such identifying name; and
- (c) Attach special rights and restrictions to the shares of each series or alter any such special rights and restrictions.

## i. Series A Preferred Shares

In fiscal 2012, the Company issued 4,540,000 Cumulative 5-Year Rate Reset First Preferred Shares, Series A (Series A Preferred Shares) at a purchase price of \$25.00 per share, for gross proceeds of \$113.5 million. The aggregate net amount recognized after deducting issue costs, net of deferred taxes of \$1.0 million, was \$110.8 million.

Quarterly cumulative cash dividends, if declared, will be paid at an annual rate of 5.5% for the initial five-year period ending on September 30, 2016. Thereafter, the dividend rate will be reset every five years at a rate equal to the five-year Government of Canada bond yield plus 3.21%.

Holders of Series A Preferred Shares have the right, at their option, to convert any or all of their shares into an equal number of Cumulative Floating Rate First Preferred Shares, Series B (Series B Preferred Shares), subject to certain conditions, on September 30, 2016 and on September 30 every five years thereafter. Holders of the Series B Preferred Shares will be entitled to receive floating rate, cumulative, preferential dividends payable quarterly, if declared, at a rate equal to the three-month Government of Canada Treasury Bill yield plus 3.21%.

The Company has the option to redeem the Series A Preferred Shares on September 30, 2016 and on September 30 every five years thereafter, in whole or in part, at \$25.00 per share together with all declared and unpaid dividends. The Series B Preferred Shares are redeemable at the Company's option on September 30, 2021 and on September 30 every five years thereafter, in whole or in part, at \$25.00 per share together with all declared and unpaid dividends.

## ii. Series C Preferred Shares

In fiscal 2013, the Company issued 4,000,000 Cumulative 5-Year Rate Reset First Preferred Shares, Series C (Series C Preferred Shares) at a purchase price of \$25.00 per share for gross proceeds of \$100.0 million. The aggregate net amount recognized after deducting issue costs, net of deferred taxes of \$1.0 million, was \$97.5 million. Quarterly cumulative cash dividends, if declared, will be paid at an annual rate of 5.5% for the initial five-year period ending on June 30, 2016. Thereafter, the dividend rate will be reset every five years at a rate equal to the five-year Government of Canada bond yield plus 4.03%.

Holders of Series C Preferred Shares have the right, at their option, to convert any or all of their shares into an equal number of Cumulative Floating Rate First Preferred Shares, Series D (Series D Preferred Shares), subject to certain conditions, on June 30, 2017 and on June 30 every five years thereafter. Holders of the Series D Preferred Shares will be entitled to receive floating rate, cumulative, preferential dividends payable quarterly, if declared, at a rate equal to the three-month Government of Canada Treasury Bill yield plus 4.03%.

The Company has the option to redeem the Series C Preferred Shares on June 30, 2017 and on June 30 every five years thereafter, in whole or in part, at \$25.00 per share together with all declared and unpaid dividends. The Series D Preferred Shares are redeemable at the Company's option on June 30, 2022 and on June 30 every five years thereafter, in whole or in part, at \$25.00 per share together with all declared and unpaid dividends.

## Restrictions on ownership and transfer of shares of the Company

Pursuant to rules established by certain securities regulatory authorities in Canada and the United States, the ownership of shares of an investment dealer is subject to certain restrictions. To enable the Company to comply with these requirements, the articles of the Company contain the following provisions:

- The Company may require a proposed subscriber or transferee of shares to submit a declaration with respect to the holding of shares of the Company as beneficial owner and any other matter that the directors consider relevant to determine if the registration of the subscription or transfer would result in a violation of the articles or applicable legislative or regulatory requirements. The Company also may require a declaration at any time if proxies are solicited from shareholders at any meeting of shareholders or before such a meeting or when, in the opinion of the directors, the holding of shares by any person could violate the articles or applicable legislative or regulatory requirements.
- The Company has the power to refuse to issue or record a transfer and to withdraw the voting rights, of any share of any class if:
  - (a) Following the issue or recording of the transfer, the shareholder (along with his or her associates and affiliates) would beneficially own or control, directly or indirectly, a "significant equity interest" in the Company, unless the required approvals from all relevant securities regulatory authorities have been obtained; or
  - (b) The person requesting the issue or recording of the transfer refuses to sign and deliver a declaration with respect to his or her beneficial ownership of shares of the Company.

For these purposes, a "significant equity interest" in the context of the Company means:

- (a) In respect of the applicable rules of the IIROC and the TSX Venture Exchange Inc., the holding of: (i) voting securities carrying 10% or more of the votes carried by all voting securities of the Company, (ii) 10% or more of the outstanding participating securities of the Company or (iii) an interest of 10% or more of the total equity in Canaccord Genuity Corp.;
- (b) In respect of the applicable rules of the Toronto Stock Exchange, the holding, directly or indirectly and alone or in combination with any other person, of securities: (i) carrying 20% or more of the votes carried by all voting securities, (ii) carrying the right to receive 20% or more of any distribution of earnings and (iii) accounting for 20% or more of the total capital or equity of the Company;
- (c) In respect of the applicable rules of the Bourse de Montréal Inc. (the Bourse) (where a significant equity interest is referred to as a "major position"), having the power to direct or cause the direction of the management or policies of Canaccord Genuity Corp. whether through ownership of securities, by contract or otherwise and a person is considered to hold a major position in the capital of the Company pursuant to the rules of the Bourse if such person, directly or indirectly: (i) has the right to vote 10% or more of the voting securities or (ii) is entitled to receive 10% or more of the net profits of the Company;

- (d) In respect of the applicable rules of the Autorité des marchés financiers in Québec, the direct or indirect ownership or holding of more than 10% of the voting rights attached to securities issued by the Company; and
- (e) In respect of the applicable rules of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) in the United States, a change in the equity ownership of the Company that results in one person or entity directly or indirectly owning or controlling 25% or more of the equity.

The Company is entitled to sell, as agent, through a stock exchange designated by the directors of the Company or, in the absence of such a designation, by private contract or in any other manner, any number of shares of any class held by any person in violation of the articles, if the directors of the Company determine that the sale is necessary or advisable to ensure compliance with the articles and applicable legislative and regulatory requirements. The Company is also entitled to affect such a sale if a person fails to reply to a request for a declaration contemplated by the articles. Any such sale will be subject to certain procedural requirements (which are set out in the articles) including notice of the proposed sale.

These restrictions relating to the transfer and the issue of shares of the Company do not generally apply in the case of an issue or a transfer in favour of an investment dealer or a holding company of an investment dealer so long as the transfer is affected in the ordinary course of the activities of its securities business. The Board of Directors of the Company has the power to establish the rules and procedures that it considers necessary and appropriate to implement these provisions.

As the Company is the parent company of Canaccord Genuity Limited and other subsidiaries that are regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) in the UK, the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (UK) places an obligation on controllers and proposed controllers of such subsidiaries to obtain the approval of the FCA before becoming a controller or increasing the level of control held (in certain circumstances). Failure to obtain approval is an offence under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (UK). A "controller" in the context of Canaccord Genuity Limited and the other FCA regulated subsidiaries is a person who (along with his or her associates) holds 10% or more of the shares or voting rights in the Company or is able to exercise significant influence over the management of the Company through his or her shareholding in the Company.

Similar obligations exist under the laws of Hong Kong, Singapore, and Jersey and Guernsey in the Channel Islands in relation to the subsidiaries of the Company that are regulated by the securities and futures regulatory authorities in those jurisdictions.

These restrictions on the ownership and transfer of the common shares may have an effect on the marketability and liquidity of the common shares. For more information, please refer to the Risk Factors section.

### **Market for Securities**

The common shares of the Company are listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX) under the symbol "CF". The common shares are also listed on the London Stock Exchange, under the symbol "CF.".

The Company's Series A Preferred Shares are listed on the TSX under the symbol "CF.PR.A". The Company's Series C Preferred Shares are listed on the TSX under the symbol "CF.PR.C".

## Trading price and volume

The following table presents the high and low closing prices and the monthly trading volume for the Company's common shares on the TSX.

Month	High	Low	Monthly trading volume
March 2015	\$7.11	\$6.40	4,278,100
February 2015	\$6.97	\$6.00	5,577,800
January 2015	\$7.91	\$6.22	4,493,300
December 2014	\$9.15	\$5.98	10,288,100
November 2014	\$9.92	\$8.76	5,894,400
October 2014	\$11.47	\$8.59	12,642,700
September 2014	\$12.73	\$11.07	5,686,500
August 2014	\$12.80	\$10.72	7,275,500
July 2014	\$13.49	\$11.75	6,810,000
June 2014	\$13.05	\$10.74	23,907,800
May 2014	\$11.07	\$9.17	4,699,400
April 2014	\$9.65	\$7.80	3,479,600

The following table provides the price range and trading volume of the Series A and Series C Preferred Shares on the TSX for the periods indicated. Prices are based on the reported amounts from "Thomson One".

	Series A			Series C		
Month	High	Low	Monthly trading volume	High	Low	Monthly trading volume
March 2015	\$16.20	\$14.01	184,117	\$18.71	\$17.05	119,215
February 2015	\$18.43	\$16.13	117,385	\$21.25	\$18.23	109,081
January 2015	\$19.68	\$18.01	60,286	\$22.10	\$19.77	65,521
December 2014	\$21.17	\$17.69	113,451	\$22.75	\$20.67	70,179
November 2014	\$21.75	\$20.53	65,734	\$22.70	\$21.87	66,611
October 2014	\$21.14	\$19.52	78,840	\$22.61	\$21.26	70,272
September 2014	\$21.84	\$20.89	56,517	\$23.73	\$22.00	83,322
August 2014	\$21.52	\$20.99	50,957	\$23.49	\$22.62	62,860
July 2014	\$21.95	\$21.15	94,041	\$23.50	\$22.52	84,547
June 2014	\$22.42	\$21.50	102,112	\$23.37	\$22.49	121,526
May 2014	\$22.75	\$21.89	132,860	\$23.14	\$22.35	124,565
April 2014	\$22.23	\$20.37	157,715	\$22.60	\$20.79	134,409

## **Escrowed Securities**

To the Company's knowledge, the following common shares are held in escrow as of March 31, 2015 or are subject to contractual restrictions that prohibit transfer before a certain date. In the case of all escrows, the Company may exercise discretion to release the shares from the escrow or from the date restrictions before the date otherwise set for the release.

	Total number of common shares held in escrow or subject	Percentage of	To be released in fiscal year		
	to contractual restrictions	diluted shares outstanding	2016	2017	2018 or later
Employee retention escrow	7,728,101	7.4%	6,447,195	681,739	599,167

The "Employee retention escrow" are shares restricted from trading held in connection with retention plans and hiring agreements for employees of the Company as of March 31, 2015. The shares are held in escrow and released based on the terms of each individual agreement. As a result of the acquisition of Genuity capital markets in 2010, 26.5 million shares were issued and held in escrow by Computershare Trust Company of Canada on April 23, 2010. These shares are released rateably over five years; consequently, 5.3 million shares were released on April 23, 2012, 5.2 million shares were released on April 23, 2013, 5.1 million shares were released on April 23, 2014 and 5.0 million shares were released on April 23, 2015. Furthermore, as a result of the acquisition of Canaccord Genuity (Australia) Limited (formerly "Canaccord BGF"), 623,796 shares were issued and held in escrow by Computershare Trust Company of Canada on November 1, 2011. These shares are released ratably over five years.

## **Directors and Officers**

## Name, occupation and security holding

Set forth below, is his or her name, municipality of residence, office, period of service and principal occupation during the immediately preceding five years for each director of the Company. Each director of the Company holds office until the next Annual General Meeting of the shareholders of the Company (which has been called for August 5, 2015) or until his or her successor is duly elected or appointed, unless his or her office is vacated earlier in accordance with the articles of the Company or he or she becomes disqualified to act as a director.

Name, municipality of residence and position held	Principal occupation for the past five years	Director since
CHARLES N. BRALVER <sup>(2)</sup> Westport, Connecticut Director	Managing Director, Massif Partners LLP; Corporate director and advisor	2010
MASSIMO C. CARELLO <sup>(1)</sup> London, England Director	Corporate director and private investor in public companies	2008
KALPANA DESAI Hong Kong Director	Corporate director and advisor; Head of Macquarie Capital Asia	2014
WILLIAM J. EEUWES (1,2) Burlington, Ontario Director	Corporate director and advisor; Senior Vice President & Global Head, Private Equity, Manulife Financial	2002
MICHAEL D. HARRIS (2,3) East York, Ontario Director	Senior business advisor of Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP; President of own consulting firm, Steane Consulting Ltd., Senior business advisor of Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP	2004
DAVID J. KASSIE <sup>(4)</sup> Toronto, Ontario Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer and Director	Group Chairman of the Company and Canaccord Genuity Corp.	2010
TERRENCE A. LYONS (1, 2,5) Vancouver, British Columbia Lead Director	Corporate director and advisor, Chairman of the Board of Sprott Resource Corp.; Chairman of the Board of Martinrea International Inc. and Polaris Materials Corporation; Chairman of the Board of Northgate Minerals Corporation	2004
DENNIS A. MILLER Pacific Palisades, California Director	Corporate director and advisor; General Partner at Spark Capital	2014
DIPESH J. SHAH Middlesex, United Kingdom Director	Corporate director and advisor	2012

- (1) Member of the Audit Committee.
- (2) Member of the Corporate Governance and Compensation Committee.
- (3) Mr. Harris was a director of Naturade, Inc., a company publicly traded in the United States, until August 2006. Within a year after his resignation as a director, that company filed for reorganization under Chapter 11 of the US Bankruptcy Code. Mr. Harris was a director of Grant Forest Products Inc. On June 25, 2009, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice (Commercial List) made an order under the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act (CCAA) in respect of Grant Forest Products Inc. Mr. Harris remained a director of Grant Forest Products Inc. until June 30, 2010 to assist with the orderly completion of the arrangement under the CCAA.
- (4) Mr. Kassie was Chairman and a director of SkyPower Corporation at the time when, on August 12, 2009, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice (Commercial List) made an order under the CCAA in respect of SkyPower Corporation. The realizations in the estate of the corporation (now called Interwind Corp.) are ongoing and any shortfall to the creditors is unknown at this time. Mr. Kassie was also a director of ACE Aviation Holdings Inc. at the time when, on April 25, 2012, it passed a shareholder resolution approving liquidation of the company pursuant to the *Canada Business Corporations Act*. The liquidation process is continuing. Mr. Reynolds passed away on April 1, 2015. Mr. Kassie assumed the position of Chief Executive Officer of the Company on such date.
- (5) Mr. Lyons was a director and executive officer of FT Capital Ltd. (FT Capital) which was subject to cease trade orders in July and August 2003 in each of the provinces of Manitoba, Ontario and Québec due to the failure of FT Capital to file financial statements since the financial year ended December 31, 2002. FT Capital was wound up and dissolved on June 30, 2009 and Mr. Lyons ceased to be a director. Until January 1, 2014, Mr. Lyons was also a director of Royal Oak Ventures Inc. (Royal Oak), which was subject to cease trade orders in each of the provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and Québec due to the failure of Royal Oak to file financial statements since the financial year ended December 31, 2003. Mr. Lyons was elected to the boards of directors of each of FT Capital and Royal Oak largely because of his valuable experience and expertise in financial restructurings in the insolvency context.

In addition to David Kassie, the only executive officers of Canaccord Genuity Group Inc. are Brad Kotush of Toronto, Ontario, who is an Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Canaccord Genuity Group Inc. and Canaccord Genuity Corp., Peter Virvilis of Vancouver, British Columbia, who is the Executive Vice President of Operations and Treasurer of Canaccord Genuity Group Inc. and Canaccord Genuity Corp., and Scott Davidson of Toronto, Ontario, who is the Executive Vice President, Global Head of Corporate Development and Strategy of

Canaccord Genuity Group Inc. Mr. Kotush joined Canaccord Genuity Corp. in 1998 as Vice President of Special Projects and has served as Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Secretary for Canaccord Capital (Europe) Limited (the successor to the business of which is Canaccord Genuity Limited), and Chief Information Officer and Senior Vice President of Finance for Canaccord Genuity Corp. Mr. Virvilis joined Canaccord Genuity Corp. in 1987 as Treasurer. Mr. Davidson joined Canaccord Genuity Corp. in 2002 and is currently responsible for assessing strategies for the Company's global growth and for corporate communications.

As of May 31, 2015, the 12 directors and executive officers of the Company mentioned above, as a group, beneficially own, directly or indirectly, or exercise control or direction over an aggregate of 4,773,421 common shares, representing 4.7% of the common shares issued and outstanding at that time.

## Conflicts of interest

Executive officers, directors and employees of Canaccord Genuity Group from time to time may invest in securities of private or public companies, or investment funds in which Canaccord Genuity Group, or an affiliate of Canaccord Genuity Group, is an investor or for which Canaccord Genuity Group carries out investment banking assignments, publishes research or acts as a market maker. There are certain risks that, because of such investment, a director, officer or employee may take actions that would conflict with the best interests of Canaccord Genuity Group. In addition, certain of the directors of Canaccord Genuity Group also serve as directors of other companies involved in a wide range of industry sectors; consequently, there exists the possibility for such directors to be in a conflict of interest.

## **Legal Proceedings**

In the normal course of business, the Company is involved in litigation, and as of March 31, 2015, it was a defendant in various legal actions. The Company has established provisions for matters where payments are probable and can be reasonably estimated. While the outcome of these actions is subject to future resolution, management's evaluation and analysis of these actions indicate that, individually and in the aggregate, the probable ultimate resolution of these actions will not have a material effect on the financial position of the Company. The amounts claimed in respect of two actions are material and, accordingly, these actions are described below.

In 2002, two actions were commenced in the Superior Court of Québec against Canaccord Genuity Corp. and other defendants including another investment dealer. Both were class action proceedings in which the plaintiffs made allegations of certain wrongful trading and disclosure practices by the Company and another defendant and that the Company was negligent in respect of a private placement in 2000. These actions were set for trial starting in September 2014, but they have been settled comprehensively by way of court approval (granted on October 27, 2014) of a settlement agreement. The 30-day appeal period expired without any appeal, and the Company has now paid its share of the settlement.

Certain claims have been asserted against the Company in respect of the sale of certain conventional wealth management tax advantaged film partnership products in the UK by a predecessor which could be material if such claims are advanced, additional claims are made and the Company's assumptions used to evaluate the matter as neither probable nor estimable change in future periods. In that event, the Company may be required to record a provision for an adverse outcome which could have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial position. The aggregate investment by the Company's clients in respect of these products is estimated to be \$11.0 million. The aggregate initial tax deferral realized by the Company's clients in respect of these products when they were purchased by those clients during the period from 2006 to 2009 is estimated to be \$15.0 million. Litigation underway in the UK in respect of the taxation of other similar products sold by other financial advisors (the Litigation) and enforcement in accordance with recent announcements from the UK taxation authority could result in tax liabilities to the purchasers of those products in excess of the initial tax deferral amount. The potential tax liability for the Company's clients that is in excess of the initial tax deferral amount is estimated to be \$15.6 million. The probable outcome of the Litigation and the resulting impact on taxation in respect of this matter and the likelihood of a loss to the Company in connection with any claims asserted against the Company, or which may be asserted against the Company, is not determinable at the date of the March 31, 2015 audited consolidated financial statements.

The Company is also subject to asserted and unasserted claims arising in the normal course of business that, as of March 31, 2015, have not resulted in the commencement of legal actions. The Company cannot determine the effect of all asserted and unasserted claims on its financial position; however, where losses arising from asserted and unasserted claims are considered probable and where such losses can be reasonably estimated, the Company has recorded a provision.

## **Interest of Management and Others in Material Transactions**

To the best of the Company's knowledge, except as described herein, after due inquiry, none of the directors, executive officers or principal shareholders of the Company, nor any associate or affiliate of those directors, executive officers or principal shareholders, has had any direct or indirect material interest in any transaction or proposed transaction that has materially affected or is reasonably expected to materially affect the Company during the three most recently completed financial years or during the current financial year.

## **Transfer Agent and Registrar**

The Company's transfer agent and registrar is Computershare Investor Services Inc., at its principal offices in Vancouver and Toronto.

### **Material Contracts**

Other than contracts entered into in the ordinary course of business, Canaccord Genuity Group has not entered into any contract before the most recently completed financial year but that is still in effect, which can reasonably be regarded as material.

## **Experts**

The Company's auditors are Ernst & Young, LLP; they have prepared the Independent Auditors' Report on page 64 of the fiscal 2015 Annual Report.

#### **External Auditor Service Fees**

The aggregate fees billed for professional services rendered for the years ended March 31, 2015 and March 31, 2014 are as follows:

	2015	2014
Audit fees	\$3,036,150	\$2,967,800
Audit related fees (1)	144,947	45,820
Tax fees (2)	913,128	472,137

<sup>(1)</sup> Include accounting and advisory work on various matters

## **Board Committees**

## **Audit Committee**

The Audit Committee assists the Board of Directors in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities by monitoring Canaccord Genuity Group's financial reporting practices and financial disclosures. The members of the Audit Committee are Terrence Lyons (Chair), Massimo Carello and William Eeuwes. Each of them is financially literate. Mr. Lyons, Mr. Carello and Mr. Eeuwes are independent of management.

<sup>(2)</sup> Preparation and review of corporate and commodity tax returns. Also includes advisory work on various corporate tax matters, including acquisition-related tax advisory fees

Specific responsibilities and duties of the Audit Committee include:

- Reviewing Canaccord Genuity Group's annual and interim consolidated financial statements, annual and interim management's discussion and analyses and press releases prior to dissemination to the public
- Assessing Canaccord Genuity Group's accounting policies and discussing the appropriateness of such policies with management and Canaccord Genuity Group's external auditors
- Assisting management to identify Canaccord Genuity Group's principal business risks
- Reviewing the external auditor's plans for evaluating and testing Canaccord Genuity Group's internal financial controls
- Overseeing Canaccord Genuity Group's external auditors, including the approval of the external auditor's terms of engagement
- Ensuring adequate risk management policies are in place to manage the risks to which the Company is exposed

The education and related experience (as applicable) of each Audit Committee member is described below.

**Terrence** (**Terry**) **Lyons ICD.D** (**Chair**) – Mr. Lyons is a corporate director. He is a director of several public and private corporations including Sprott Resource Corp. (Chairman), Martinrea International Inc. and Polaris Materials Corporation (Chairman). Mr. Lyons is a retired Managing Partner of Brookfield Asset Management and past Chairman of Northgate Minerals Corporation, which was acquired by AuRico Gold Inc. to create a new mid-cap gold company. He was also Chairman of Eacom Timber Corporation, which was sold to a private equity firm in 2013. In 2014, he stepped down as a director of BC Pavilion Corporation (Pavco), Royal Oak Ventures, which was privatized by Brookfield, and the BC Board of the Institute of Corporate Directors.

Mr. Lyons is a Civil Engineer (UBC) with an MBA from the University of Western Ontario. He sits on the Advisory Board of the Richard Ivey School of Business and has been active in a number of sports and charitable organizations including Junior Achievement, Special Olympics and United Way and is a past Governor of the Olympic Foundation of Canada, past Chairman of the Mining Association of BC, past Governor and member of the Executive Committee of the BC Business Council and in 2007was awarded the INCO Medal by the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy for distinguished service to the mining industry. He has received his ICD.D certification from the Institute of Corporate Directors.

Massimo Carello – Mr. Carello is a corporate director and a private investor in public companies. Mr. Carello was the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Diners Club UK Ltd. from 2001 to 2004 and was the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Fiat UK Ltd. from 1990 to 2001. Mr. Carello served as a member of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) President's Committee from 1998 to 2003 and was a member of the CBI European Committee. He was Vice President of the Italian Chamber of Commerce in the UK from 1998 to 2005. He is the Honorary Vice-President of CLIC Sargent, the UK's leading cancer charity for children and young people.

In addition to Canaccord Genuity Group Inc., Mr. Carello is a director and a member of the Audit Committees of the following public companies: Canadian Overseas Petroleum Limited and Orsu Metals Corporation. Until December 2010, he was also a director and a member of the Audit Committee of Uranium One Inc.

William J. Eeuwes – Mr. Eeuwes retired in April 2015 as Senior Vice President & Global Head, Private Equity, Manulife Financial. In that position, he had executive responsibility for Regional Power Inc., NAL Resources Limited (oil and gas), and two private equity teams: Manulife Capital in Canada and Hancock Capital Management in the US.

Before joining Manulife in 1999, Mr. Eeuwes was a career banker with 25 years of experience in underwriting and the management of a broad range of financing including LBOs, corporate lending and project finance. Mr. Eeuwes is a graduate of the Richard Ivey School of Business at the University of Western Ontario. Mr. Eeuwes is a director of several private companies in Canada, and is a member of the Institute of Corporate Directors. Mr. Eeuwes is not a director of any public companies other than Canaccord Genuity Group Inc.

A copy of the Audit Committee charter is attached hereto as Schedule "A". The auditors track on an ongoing basis all fees for audit-related and non-audit services. The Board of Directors has established a policy that fees for services other than audit and tax must not exceed 25% of the fees for audit and tax services without the prior approval of the Committee.

## Corporate Governance and Compensation Committee

The Corporate Governance and Compensation Committee strives to maintain the high standards of corporate governance with a focus on a strong and diligent board of directors and prudent management of executive compensation. The committee must be comprised of at least three members appointed annually by the Board of Directors. Currently, the members of the Corporate Governance and Compensation Committee are Michael Harris (Chair), Charles Bralver, William Eeuwes and Terrence Lyons, each of whom is independent of management as determined under applicable securities legislation.

The Corporate Governance and Compensation Committee's mandate includes:

- The development and recommendation to the Board of Directors of appropriate corporate governance guidelines
- The identification of future Board and committee members and the annual review of the Board's performance
- Evaluating the Chief Executive Officer's performance and determining his compensation
- Reviewing and making recommendations to the Board of Directors with respect to the compensation of all executive officers
- Fixing and determining (or delegating the authority to fix and determine) awards to employees of stock or share options under Canaccord Genuity Group's incentive plans
- Reviewing key human resources policies and programs

The education and related experience (as applicable) of each committee member is described below.

**Michael D. Harris, ICD.D** (Chair) – Michael Harris, ICD.D, is a senior business advisor with the law firm of Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP in Toronto, and the President of his own consulting firm, Steane Consulting Ltd., and, in this capacity, acts as a consultant to various Canadian companies. Before joining Fasken Martineau in September 2013, he was a senior business advisor with the law firm of Cassels Brock & Blackwell in Toronto from March 2010 and before that a senior business advisor with the law firm of Goodmans LLP in Toronto.

Mr. Harris was born in Toronto in 1945 and was raised in Callander and North Bay, Ontario. Before his election to the Ontario Legislature in 1981, Mike Harris was a schoolteacher, a school board trustee and chair and an entrepreneur in the Nipissing area. On June 8, 1995, Mr. Harris became the 22nd Premier of Ontario following a landslide election victory. In 1999, he was re-elected – making him the first Ontario Premier in over 30 years to form a second consecutive majority government.

In addition to sitting on several boards of Canadian corporations, he also serves as a director of the Luminato Festival and the Manning Centre for Building Democracy. He is the Honorary Chair of the North Bay District Hospital Campaign and the Nipissing University and Canadore College Capital Campaign. Mr. Harris is also a Senior Fellow of the Fraser Institute. He has received his ICD.D certification from the Institute of Corporate Directors.

In addition to Canaccord Genuity Group Inc., Mr. Harris is a director of the following public companies: Chartwell Retirement Residences (Chair), FirstService Corporation, and Routel Inc. (Chair).

**Charles N. Bralver -** Charles N. Bralver is a financial services executive with over thirty years of capital markets experience. For more than 23 years – from 1984 to 2007 – Mr. Bralver was a founder and Vice Chairman of management consultancy Oliver, Wyman & Co. where he specialized in strategy, risk and operational work for leading investment banks, asset managers, exchanges and other market utilities. He continues to serve as a member of the senior advisory board of Oliver Wyman. Mr. Bralver served as Senior Associate Dean for International

Business and Finance at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy from 2007 to 2010, from 2007 to 2009 as a strategic advisor to Warburg Pincus LLC. Mr. Bralver serves as a director of the Company, as a director and member of the risk committee of NewStar Financial, Inc. and on the Board of Visitors of the Fletcher School. Mr. Bralver started his career at Booz Allen Hamilton. He is a US citizen and a graduate of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and Dartmouth College.

In addition to Canaccord Genuity Group Inc., Mr. Bralver is a director of the following public companies: NewStar Financial, Inc. and the Co-operative Bank p.l.c.

William J. Eeuwes – refer to profile presented under "Audit Committee".

**Terrence A. Lyons** – refer to profile presented under "Audit Committee".

### **Additional Information**

Additional information relating to the Company may be found on SEDAR's website at sedar.com.

Additional information including directors' and executive officers' remuneration and indebtedness, principal holders of the Company's securities, and options to purchase securities is contained in the Company's information circular for its most recent annual meeting of shareholders.

Additional financial information is also provided in the Company's consolidated financial statements and management's discussion and analysis for its most recently completed financial year.

## Schedule "A" Audit Committee Charter

(As approved by the Audit Committee on January 27, 2005, and amended on May 22 and November 6, 2012 and on February 4, 2015)

#### 1. MANDATE

The primary mandate of the audit committee (the "Audit Committee") of the Board of Directors of the Company (the "Board") is to assist the Board in overseeing the Company's financial reporting and disclosure. This oversight includes:

- (a) reviewing the financial statements and financial disclosure that is provided to shareholders and disseminated to the public;
- (b) reviewing the systems of internal controls to ensure integrity in the financial reporting of the Company;
- (c) approving risk management policies that establish the appropriate approval levels for decisions and other checks and balances to manage risk;
- (d) satisfying itself that policies are in place to manage the risks to which the Company is exposed, including market, operational, liquidity, credit, regulatory and legal, and reputational risk; and
- (e) monitoring the independence and performance of the Company's external auditors and reporting directly to the Board on the work of the external auditors.

#### 2. COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMITTEE

- 2.1 The Audit Committee must have at least three directors.
- 2.2 Subject to the applicable securities legislation (including exemptions), every Audit Committee member must be independent. A member of the Audit Committee is independent if the member has no direct or indirect material relationship with an issuer. A material relationship means a relationship which could, in the view of the issuer's board of directors, reasonably interfere with the exercise of a member's independent judgment.<sup>1</sup>
- 2.3 Every Audit Committee member must be financially literate. Financial literacy is 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 the issuer's financial statements.<sup>2</sup>
- 2.4 The Board will appoint from themselves the members of the Audit Committee on an annual basis for one-year terms. Members may serve for consecutive terms.
- 2.5 The Board will also appoint a chair of the Audit Committee (the "Chair of the Audit Committee") for a one-year term. The Chair of the Audit Committee may serve as the chair of the committee for any number of consecutive terms.
- A member of the Audit Committee may be removed or replaced at any time by the Board. The Board will fill any vacancies in the Audit Committee by appointment from among members of the Board.

<sup>(1)</sup> National Instrument 52-110 (Audit Committees), section 1.4.

<sup>(2)</sup> National Instrument 52-110 (Audit Committees), section 1.5.

### 3. MEETINGS

- 3.1 The Audit Committee will meet at least four times a year. Special meetings may be called by the Chair of the Audit Committee as required.
- 3.2 Quorum for a meeting of the Audit Committee will be a majority of the members in attendance.
- 3.3 Members may attend meetings of the Audit Committee by teleconference, videoconference, or by similar communication equipment by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can communicate with each other.
- 3.4 The Audit Committee Chair will set the agenda for each meeting, after consulting with management and the external auditor. Agenda materials such as draft financial statements must be circulated to Audit Committee members for members to have a reasonable time to review the materials prior to the meeting.
- 3.5 The Company's auditors will be advised of the names of the members of the Audit Committee and will receive notice of and be invited to attend meetings of the Audit Committee and to be heard at those meetings on matters related to the Auditor's duties.
- 3.6 Minutes of the Audit Committee meetings will be accurately recorded, with such minutes recording the decisions reached by the committee. Minutes of each meeting must be distributed to members of the Board, the Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Financial Officer and the external auditor.

#### 4. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

4.1 To assist the Board, the Audit Committee will:

#### **External Auditor**

- (a) select, evaluate and recommend to the Board, for shareholder approval, the external auditor to examine the Company's accounts, controls and financial statements;
- (b) evaluate, prior to the annual audit by external auditors, the scope and general extent of their review, including their engagement letter,
- (c) set the compensation to be paid to the external auditors and recommend such payment to the Board.
- (d) obtain written confirmation from the external auditor that it is objective and 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 it belongs;
- (e) recommend to the Board, if necessary, the replacement of the external auditor;
- (f) meet at least annually with the external auditors, independent of management, and report to the Board on such meetings;
- (g) pre-approve any non-audit services to be provided to the Company by the external auditor and the fees for those services;

## **Financial Statements and Financial Information**

(h) review and discuss with management and the external auditor the annual audited financial statements of the Company and recommend their approval by the Board;

- (i) review and discuss with management the quarterly financial statements and, if appropriate, recommend their approval by the Board;
- (j) review and if appropriate, recommend to the Board for approval the financial content of the annual report;
- (k) review the process for the certification of financial statements by the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer;
- (l) review the Company's management discussion and analysis, earnings guidance press releases, annual and interim earnings press releases, and audit committee reports before the Company publicly discloses this information;
- (m) review annually with external auditors the Company's accounting principles and the reasonableness of management's judgments and estimates as applied in its financial reporting;
- (n) review and consider any significant reports and recommendations issued by the external auditor, together with management's response, and the extent to which recommendations made by the external auditors have been implemented;

#### **Internal Controls and Information Systems**

- (o) review with the external auditors and with management the general policies and procedures used by the Company with respect to internal accounting and financial controls;
- (p) review adequacy of security of information, information systems and recovery plans;
- (q) review management plans regarding any changes in accounting practices or policies and the financial impact thereof;
- (r) review with the external auditors and, if necessary, legal counsel, any litigation, claim or contingency, including tax assessments, that could have a material effect upon the financial position of the Company and the manner in which these matters are being disclosed in the financial statements;
- (s) discuss with management and the external auditor correspondence with regulators, employee complaints, or published reports that raise material issues regarding the Company's financial statements or disclosure;
- (t) review the Company's insurance, including directors' and officers' coverage, and provide recommendations to the Board;

#### **Risk Management**

- (u) assist management to identify the Company's principal business risks (including market, operational, liquidity, credit, regulatory and legal, and reputational risk);
- (v) review with management the Company's policies and procedures on risk identification and monitoring including emerging risk identification;
- (w) approve, where appropriate, policies developed and implemented to measure the Company's risk exposures and for identifying, evaluating and managing the significant risks to which the Company is exposed, and review such policies and procedures at least once a year to satisfy itself that they remain appropriate and prudent;

(x) monitor, on a regular basis, the Company's risk management performance and obtain, on a regular basis, reasonable assurance that the Company's risk management policies are being adhered to:

#### Other

- (y) review the Company's significant loans to employees/consultants; and
- (z) conduct special reviews and/or other assignments from time to time as requested by the Board.

### 5. PROCESS FOR HANDLING COMPLAINTS REGARDING FINANCIAL MATTERS

- 5.1 The Audit Committee will establish a procedure for the receipt, retention and follow-up of complaints received by the Company regarding accounting, internal controls, financial reporting, or auditing matters.
- 5.2 The Audit Committee will ensure that any procedure for receiving complaints regarding accounting, internal controls, financial reporting, or auditing matters will allow the confidential and anonymous submission of concerns by employees.

#### 6. REPORTING

- 6.1 The Audit Committee will report to the Board on:
  - (a) the external auditor's independence;
  - (b) the performance of the external auditor and the Audit Committee's recommendations;
  - (c) regarding the reappointment or termination of the external auditor;
  - (d) the adequacy of the Company's internal controls and disclosure controls;
  - (e) its review of risk management policies, risk management performance and any material risk management issues;
  - (f) the Audit Committee's review of the annual and interim financial statements;
  - (g) the Audit Committee's review of the annual and interim management discussion and analysis;
  - (h) the Company's compliance with legal and regulatory matters to the extent they affect the financial statements of the Company; and
  - (i) all other material matters dealt with by the Audit Committee.

### 7. AUTHORITY OF THE COMMITTEE

- 7.1 The Audit Committee will have the resources and authority appropriate to discharge its duties and responsibilities. The Audit Committee may at any time retain outside financial, legal or other advisors at the expense of the Company without approval of management.
- 7.2 The external auditor will report directly to the Audit Committee.