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*In Canada, the offering and sale of the Notes may be subject to restrictions within any particular province or territory. The Notes may not be offered or sold in any jurisdiction outside of Canada except in circumstances which do not constitute a public offering or distribution under the laws of the jurisdiction where the Notes are to be offered or sold. Royal Bank and the selling agents require persons into whose possession this Information Statement comes to inform themselves of and observe any and all such restrictions. In particular, the Notes have not been and will not be registered under the Securities Act of 1933 (United States) and may not be offered or sold within the United States or to, or for the account or benefit of, United States persons except in certain transactions exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act of 1933 (United States). No securities commission or similar authority has in any way passed upon the merits of the Notes and any representation to the contrary may be an offence.*



## **Information Statement**

Dated September 13, 2021

Issue Date: October 13, 2021

Maturity Date: October 17, 2028

Price: \$100 per Note

# Royal Bank of Canada

## RBC Principal Protected Guaranteed Return Enhanced Yield LEOS<sup>®</sup>, Series 257

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# Royal Bank of Canada

## RBC Principal Protected Guaranteed Return Enhanced Yield LEOS®, Series 257

### SUMMARY

The following is a summary of the basic terms of the Royal Bank of Canada deposit notes called "RBC Principal Protected Guaranteed Return Enhanced Yield LEOS®, Series 257" (individually a "**Note**" and collectively the "**Notes**"). All references to the Notes and to a Note contained in this Information Statement will include the Global Note (as defined herein). Unless otherwise indicated, references to "\$" are to **Canadian dollars**. Capitalized terms which are not otherwise defined herein are defined under "Definitions". LEOS® is a registered trademark of Royal Bank of Canada.

**Issuer:** Royal Bank of Canada ("**Royal Bank**", "**we**", "**our**" or "**us**"). Our head office is located at 200 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario, M5J 2J5.

**Fundserv Code:** RBC4257

**Equity Portfolio:** Variable interest on the Notes ("**Variable Interest**"), payable in respect of Annual Periods, will be determined by reference to the price performance of an equally weighted notional basket (the "**Equity Portfolio**") consisting of the common shares (each, a "**Share**" and collectively, the "**Shares**") of the following ten Canadian companies (each, a "**Company**" and collectively, the "**Companies**");

Company	Principal Exchange
ALGONQUIN POWER & UTILITIES CORP. (AQN)	TSX
BCE INC. (BCE)	TSX
CANADIAN IMPERIAL BANK OF COMMERCE (CM)	TSX
CAPITAL POWER CORPORATION (CPX)	TSX
EMERA INC. (EMA)	TSX
ENBRIDGE INC. (ENB)	TSX
FORTIS, INC. (FTS)	TSX
POWER CORPORATION OF CANADA (POW)	TSX
THE TORONTO-DOMINION BANK (TD)	TSX
TC ENERGY CORPORATION (TRP)	TSX

For further information on the Companies and the Shares, see "Summary Information Regarding the Companies". The Notes do not represent an interest in the Equity Portfolio and holders will have no right or entitlement to the Shares, including dividends or other distributions. The indicative dividend yield of the Equity Portfolio as of September 10, 2021 was 4.67%.

References to the "Equity Portfolio" and "Shares" are to a notional, rather than actual, group of common shares of the Companies. There is no requirement for Royal Bank to hold a basket of Shares corresponding to the Equity Portfolio.

**Issue Date:** On or about October 13, 2021

**Initial Valuation Date:** October 12, 2021

**Final Valuation Date:** October 12, 2028

**Maturity Date and Term:** On or about October 17, 2028, resulting in a term to maturity of approximately 7 years. The Principal Amount will only be payable at maturity. For further information, see "Payments Under the Notes".

**Variable Interest Payment Dates:** Subject to the occurrence of an Extraordinary Event, Variable Interest, if any, on the Notes will be paid on or about October 17, 2022, October 17, 2023, October 18, 2024, October 17, 2025,

October 16, 2026, October 15, 2027 and October 17, 2028 (each, a "**Variable Interest Payment Date**").

**Variable Interest:**

Variable Interest for each Annual Period in respect of a Note will be an amount, not less than 0.25% (the "**Minimum Coupon**") in respect of each Annual Period, equal to the \$100 Principal Amount of the Note times the average of the Share Return Percentages calculated for each Share in the Equity Portfolio in respect of the Annual Period. The amount and method of determining Variable Interest and the timing of the payment of Variable Interest may be affected by certain Extraordinary Events. See "*Payments Under the Notes – Extraordinary Events*".

For certainty, (a) if the average of the Share Return Percentages for the Equity Portfolio in an Annual Period is less than 0.25%, Variable Interest for such period will be equal to the Minimum Coupon for such Annual Period (being equal to 0.25%), and (b) if the average of the Share Return Percentages for the Equity Portfolio in an Annual Period is equal to or greater than 0.25%, the Variable Interest for such Annual Period shall be the average of the Share Return Percentages for such Annual Period, and shall not exceed 6.00% of the Principal Amount of the Notes.

**Share Return Percentage:**

The Share Return Percentage for a Share in the Equity Portfolio in respect of a particular Annual Period will be determined as follows:

(a) if the Percentage Change measured from the Share's official closing price on the Initial Valuation Date to its official closing price on the first Exchange Day immediately preceding the Anniversary Date marking the end of such Annual Period is greater than zero, the Share Return Percentage will be 6.00%; and

(b) if the Percentage Change in the price of such Share is equal to or less than zero, the Share Return Percentage will be the actual Percentage Change (which, in such circumstances, will be zero or a negative percentage), provided that if the actual Percentage Change is equal to or less than -10.00%, the Percentage Change for such Share shall be deemed to be -10.00%.

Accordingly, depending on the price performance of the Shares in the Equity Portfolio, the amount of interest you receive on a Variable Interest Payment Date will not exceed 6.00% of the Principal Amount. If the price performance of one or more of the Shares in the Equity Portfolio is zero or negative, this will offset the positive price performance of other Shares in the Equity Portfolio, potentially reducing the Variable Interest payable to a Minimum Coupon rate of 0.25%. Variable Interest will not reflect any dividends or distributions declared on the Shares in the Equity Portfolio.

**Percentage Change:**

Percentage Change for a Share in respect of an Annual Period will equal an amount, expressed as a percentage, determined as follows:

$$\frac{(\text{Annual Valuation Price} - \text{Original Valuation Price})}{\text{Original Valuation Price}}$$

where:

"**Original Valuation Price**" for a Share is, subject to adjustments, if any, as described under "*Payments Under the Notes – Modification of Calculation*" or to a delay in the circumstances described under "*Payments Under the Notes – Delay in Determination of the Original Valuation Price and/or Annual Valuation Price*", the official closing price (or deemed closing price, as the case may be) of such Share on the Initial Valuation Date, as determined by the Calculation Agent, rounded to two decimal places; and

"**Annual Valuation Price**" for a Share in respect of an Annual Period is, subject to adjustments, if any, as described under "*Payments Under the Notes – Modification of Calculation*" or to a delay in the circumstances described under "*Payments Under the Notes – Delay in Determination of the Original Valuation Price and/or Annual Valuation Price*", the official closing price (or deemed closing price, as the case may be) of such Share on the Exchange Day immediately prior to the applicable Anniversary Date, as determined by the Calculation Agent, rounded to two decimal places.

<b>Extraordinary Events:</b>	An Extraordinary Event is an event that could have an impact on our ability to perform our obligations under the Notes or to hedge our position in respect of our obligation to make payments under the Notes. An Extraordinary Event could include, among other things, a Market Disruption Event in respect of any Share such as the suspension of or a limitation on trading on any applicable Principal Exchange or Related Exchange, or in the Share; any court or governmental order prohibiting us from performing our obligations; or any governmental action that has a material adverse effect on relevant financial markets. An Extraordinary Event may delay the time at which the Percentage Change is determined in respect of a Share for an Anniversary Date and delay the time of any related interest payment, and may allow us the option of crystallizing the amount of interest payable and (if positive) paying such amount as a single, one-time final payment of Alternative Interest, in which case no further interest would be payable for or in respect of the remaining term of the Notes. See <i>"Payments Under the Notes – Extraordinary Events"</i> .
<b>Eligibility for Investment:</b>	The Notes, if issued on the date of this Information Statement, would be qualified investments for trusts governed by registered retirement savings plans, registered disability savings plans, registered education savings plans, registered retirement income funds, tax-free savings accounts and deferred profit sharing plans within the meaning of the Income Tax Act (Canada) (other than a deferred profit sharing plan to which payments are made by Royal Bank or a corporation or partnership with which Royal Bank does not deal at arm's length). See <i>"Canadian Federal Income Tax Considerations – Eligibility for Investment"</i> , including the summary of the "prohibited investment" rules.
<b>No Early Redemption:</b>	The Notes will not be redeemable by Royal Bank before the Maturity Date.
<b>Risk Factors:</b>	The Notes provide opportunities but may pose risks. You should carefully consider the risks involved in purchasing Notes before reaching a decision and you should discuss with your advisors the suitability of purchasing Notes in light of your particular investment objectives and after reviewing all available information, including the risk factors described at <i>"Risk Factors"</i> .
<b>Suitability for Investment Purposes:</b>	Investors should consult with their advisors regarding the suitability of an investment in the Notes. For further information see <i>"Related Matters - Suitability for Investment Purposes"</i> .
<b>Secondary Market:</b>	<p>The Notes will not be listed on any stock exchange and there is no assurance that a secondary market for Notes will develop or be sustainable. RBC DS may, from time to time, purchase and sell Notes, but will not be obligated to do so. If RBC DS determines, in its sole discretion, to stop facilitating a secondary market for the Notes, holders of Notes may not be able to resell their Notes. If RBC DS offers to purchase Notes in connection with a secondary market transaction, there is no assurance that the purchase price will be the highest possible price available in any secondary market for the Notes and, in particular, any purchase price will be reduced by up to 3.00% of the Principal Amount if the Noteholder sells Notes within 540 days of the Issue Date due to any Early Trading Charge. The resale price of Notes could be below the \$100 Principal Amount per Note.</p> <p>Resales of the Notes in any secondary market will be effected through Fundserv and will be subject to certain procedures, requirements and limitations relating to Fundserv. For further information, see <i>"Related Matters - Resale of Notes Through Fundserv"</i>.</p>
<b>Notes non-CDIC Protected:</b>	The Notes will not constitute deposits that are insured under the <i>Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation Act</i> .
<b>Right of Cancellation:</b>	<p>An initial purchaser will have the right to cancel any order to buy Notes within two Business Days after the later of (i) the day on which the agreement to purchase the Notes is entered into and (ii) the day on which this Information Statement is provided to the initial purchaser.</p> <p>Upon cancellation of the order, the initial purchaser is entitled to a refund of the Principal Amount and any fees relating to the purchase that they may have paid. This right to cancel a purchase order does not extend to investors buying a Note in any secondary market. An initial purchaser of the Notes may cancel their purchase order by calling their investment advisor or RBC DS at (800) 280-4434.</p>
<b>Fees and Expenses:</b>	Selling agents who sell the Notes will receive, from our own funds, an initial selling commission of 2.50% of the Principal Amount of each Note sold. This fee will not reduce the amount of return

payable on the Notes. If an Extraordinary Event occurs, we may incur expenses unwinding any hedge position in respect of our obligation to make payments under the Notes, which could reduce the amount of return otherwise payable on the Notes. For further information, see "*Related Matters – Fees and Expenses*".

**Availability of Information:**

Detailed information about the Notes, including a copy of this Information Statement, will be posted on Royal Bank's structured notes website at [www.rbcnotes.com](http://www.rbcnotes.com) and will be provided in writing on request from RBC DS at (800) 280-4434.

Certain additional information regarding the Notes will also be provided on an ongoing basis at [www.rbcnotes.com](http://www.rbcnotes.com), including (i) the most recent bid price for the Notes and any applicable Early Trading Charge and/or (ii) the last available measure that would be used to determine the Variable Interest.

Such information will also be available from your investment advisor.

## SAMPLE CALCULATIONS OF INTEREST

The examples set out below are included for illustration purposes only. The prices of the Shares included in the Equity Portfolio used to illustrate the calculation of interest are not estimates or forecasts of the prices of the Shares on which the Original Valuation Prices, the Annual Valuation Prices, and/or the calculation of the Share Return Percentages, and in turn Variable Interest, will depend. All examples assume that no Extraordinary Event has occurred.

**Example #1 — Hypothetical calculation of Variable Interest per Note in respect of an Annual Period, where the Variable Interest paid is positive.** It is assumed that the Original Valuation Price and Annual Valuation Price for each Share are as illustrated below (hypothetical). The Share Return Percentages used to calculate interest payable in respect of the Annual Period would be calculated as follows:

Company Name	Symbol	Original Valuation Price	Annual Valuation Price	Percentage Change	Share Return Percentage
ALGONQUIN POWER & UTILITIES CORP. (AQN)	AQN	19.47	22.37	14.90%	6.00%
BCE INC. (BCE)	BCE	66.57	76.42	14.80%	6.00%
CANADIAN IMPERIAL BANK OF COMMERCE (CM)	CM	146.27	148.03	1.20%	6.00%
CAPITAL POWER CORPORATION (CPX)	CPX	43.98	49.26	12.00%	6.00%
EMERA INC. (EMA)	EMA	59.19	67.77	14.50%	6.00%
ENBRIDGE INC. (ENB)	ENB	50.47	54.00	7.00%	6.00%
FORTIS, INC. (FTS)	FTS	58.06	59.57	2.60%	6.00%
POWER CORPORATION OF CANADA (POW)	POW	43.45	43.44	-0.01%	-0.01%
THE TORONTO-DOMINION BANK (TD)	TD	82.20	91.98	11.90%	6.00%
TC ENERGY CORPORATION (TRP)	TRP	61.08	66.70	9.20%	6.00%
Average of Share Return Percentages					5.40%
<b>Interest for Annual Period</b>					<b>5.40%</b>

**Example #2 — Hypothetical calculation of Variable Interest per Note in respect of an Annual Period, where the average of the Share Return Percentages is negative.** It is assumed that the Original Valuation Price and Annual Valuation Price for each Share are as illustrated below (hypothetical). The Share Return Percentages used to calculate interest payable in respect of the Annual Period would be calculated as follows:

Company Name	Symbol	Original Valuation Price	Annual Valuation Price	Percentage Change	Share Return Percentage
ALGONQUIN POWER & UTILITIES CORP. (AQN)	AQN	19.47	18.15	-6.80%	-6.80%
BCE INC. (BCE)	BCE	66.57	56.92	-14.50%	-10.00%
CANADIAN IMPERIAL BANK OF COMMERCE (CM)	CM	146.27	113.36	-22.50%	-10.00%
CAPITAL POWER CORPORATION (CPX)	CPX	43.98	48.20	9.60%	6.00%
EMERA INC. (EMA)	EMA	59.19	44.51	-24.80%	-10.00%
ENBRIDGE INC. (ENB)	ENB	50.47	42.65	-15.50%	-10.00%
FORTIS, INC. (FTS)	FTS	58.06	65.49	12.80%	6.00%
POWER CORPORATION OF CANADA (POW)	POW	43.45	39.41	-9.30%	-9.30%
THE TORONTO-DOMINION BANK (TD)	TD	82.20	80.31	-2.30%	-2.30%
TC ENERGY CORPORATION (TRP)	TRP	61.08	66.46	8.80%	6.00%
Average of Share Return Percentages					-4.04%
<b>Interest for Annual Period</b>					<b>0.25%</b>

## SUMMARY INFORMATION REGARDING THE COMPANIES

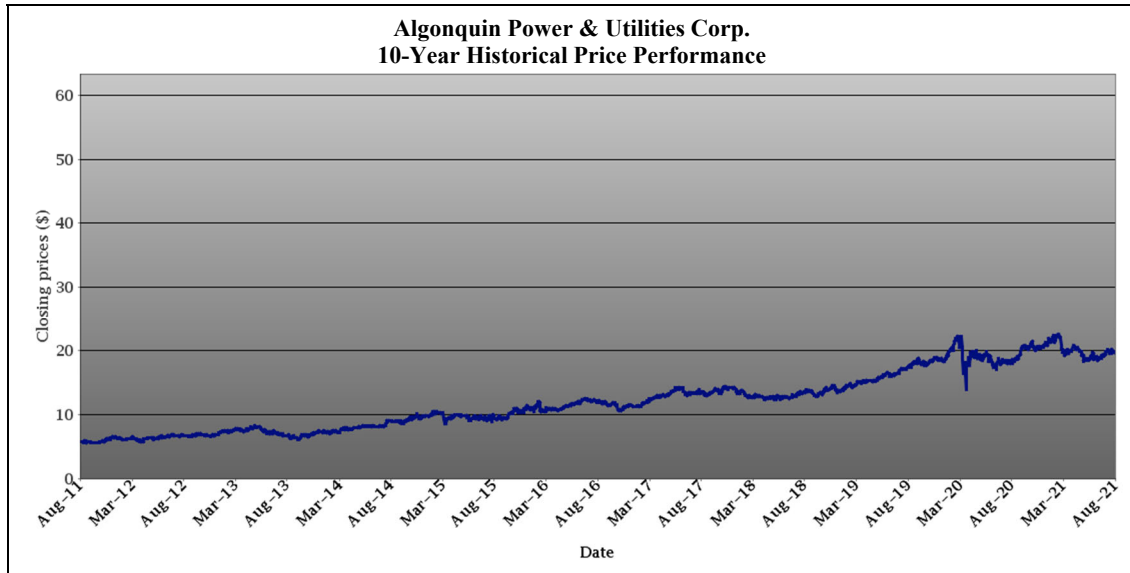
All information in this Information Statement relating to the Companies has been taken from publicly available sources, including Bloomberg Financial Markets and the Companies' Internet web pages, on or before the date of the Information Statement and is presented herein in summary form. Royal Bank has not confirmed that the facts stated in this Information Statement in relation to such Companies are true and accurate. As such, Royal Bank assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of such information. Noteholders are advised to make their own independent investigation as to the financial affairs and condition of the Companies. Royal Bank has no obligation to review the financial condition or affairs of the Companies or to advise of any information coming to its attention relating to such Companies or itself. There can be no guarantee that the Companies will maintain their current level of capitalization, continue to be listed on the securities exchanges listed below or continue to operate their businesses with emphasis in the areas as indicated.

<b>Company</b>	<b>Principal Exchange</b>
ALGONQUIN POWER & UTILITIES CORP. (AQN)	TSX
BCE INC. (BCE)	TSX
CANADIAN IMPERIAL BANK OF COMMERCE (CM)	TSX
CAPITAL POWER CORPORATION (CPX)	TSX
EMERA INC. (EMA)	TSX
ENBRIDGE INC. (ENB)	TSX
FORTIS, INC. (FTS)	TSX
POWER CORPORATION OF CANADA (POW)	TSX
THE TORONTO-DOMINION BANK (TD)	TSX
TC ENERGY CORPORATION (TRP)	TSX

The following are brief descriptions of the businesses of the Companies. The chart accompanying each description shows the monthly closing prices of the Shares of each Company over the specified period. The past market performances of the Companies presented in the accompanying charts are not indicators of future market performances of the Companies. Source: Bloomberg.

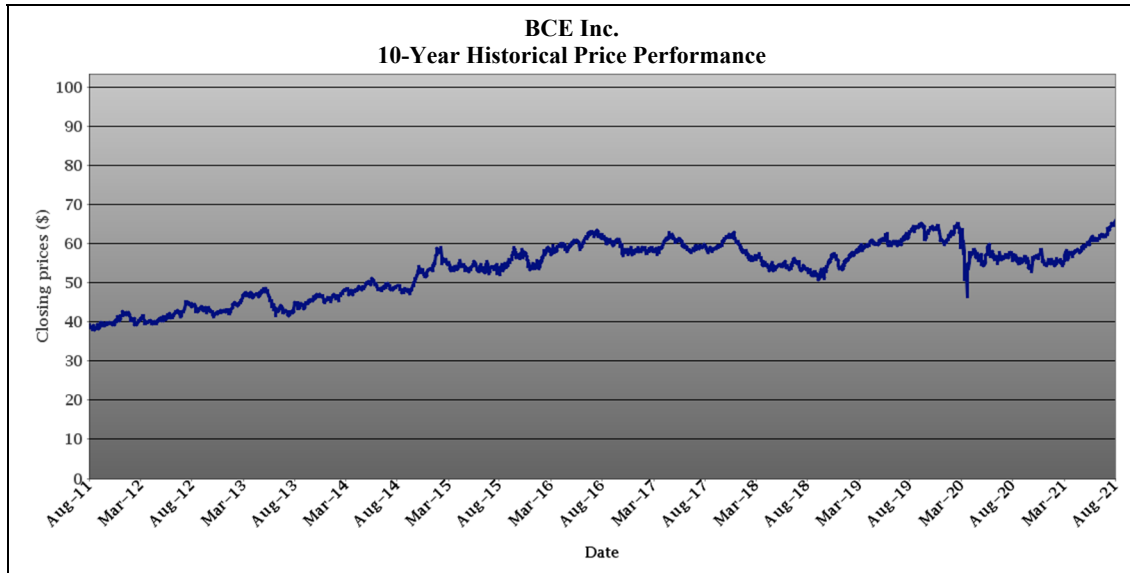
### ALGONQUIN POWER & UTILITIES CORP.

Algonquin Power & Utilities Corp. owns and has interests in a diverse portfolio of renewable power generation and sustainable infrastructure assets across North America. The company's interests include renewable energy facilities, thermal energy facilities, and water distribution and waste-water facilities. The indicative dividend yield as of September 10, 2021 was 4.44%.



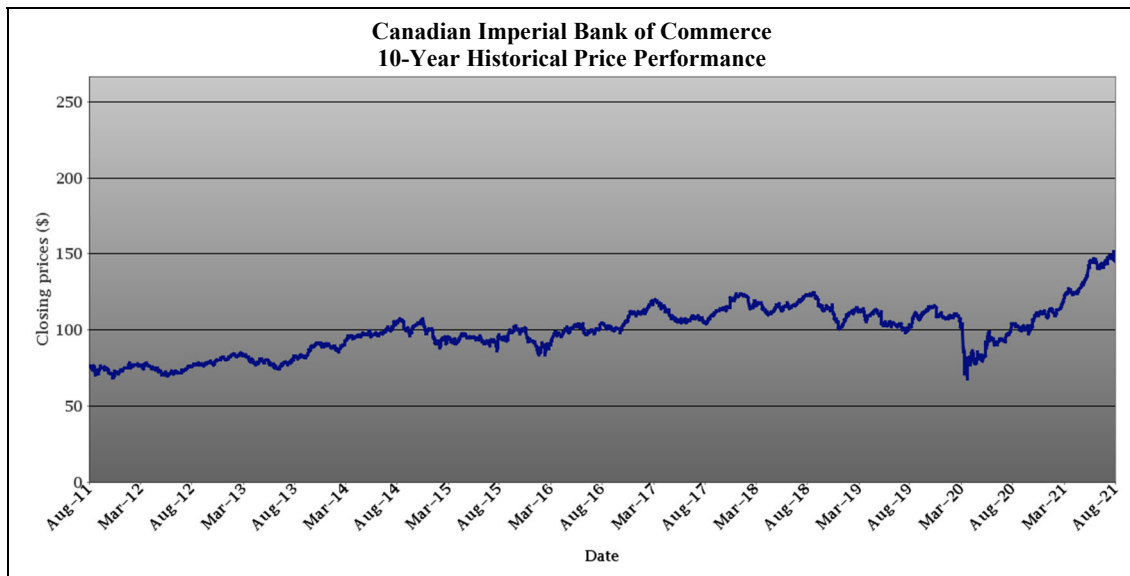
## BCE INC.

BCE Inc., provides a full range of communication services to residential and business customers in Canada. The company's services includes local, long distance and wireless phone services, high speed and wireless Internet access, IP-broadband services, value-added business solutions and direct-to-home satellite and VDSL television services. The indicative dividend yield as of September 10, 2021 was 5.26%.



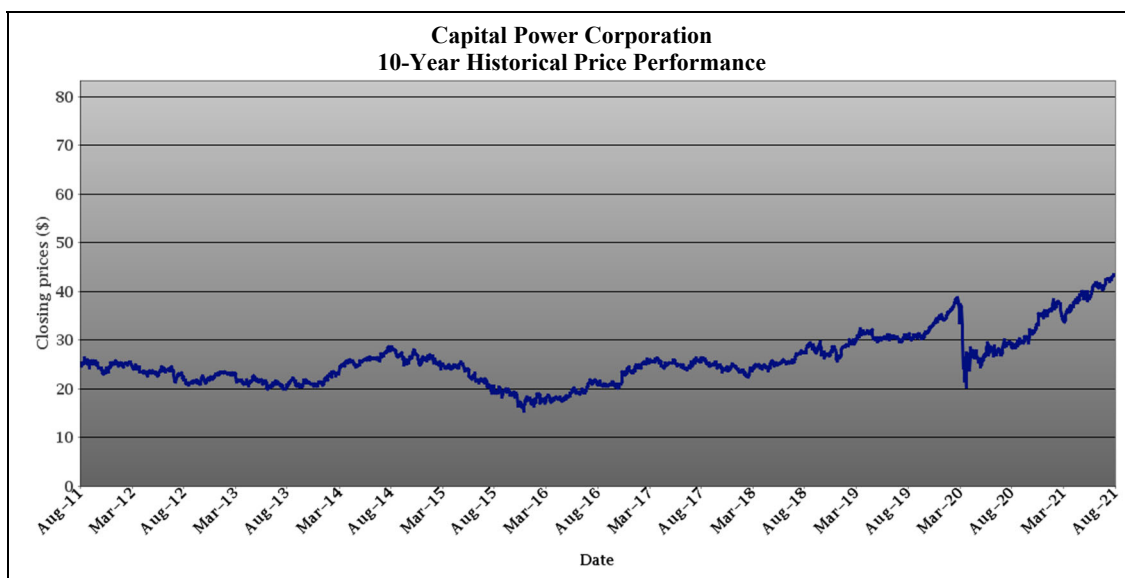
## CANADIAN IMPERIAL BANK OF COMMERCE

Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce provides banking and financial services to consumers, individuals, and corporate clients in Canada and around the world. The indicative dividend yield as of September 10, 2021 was 3.99%.



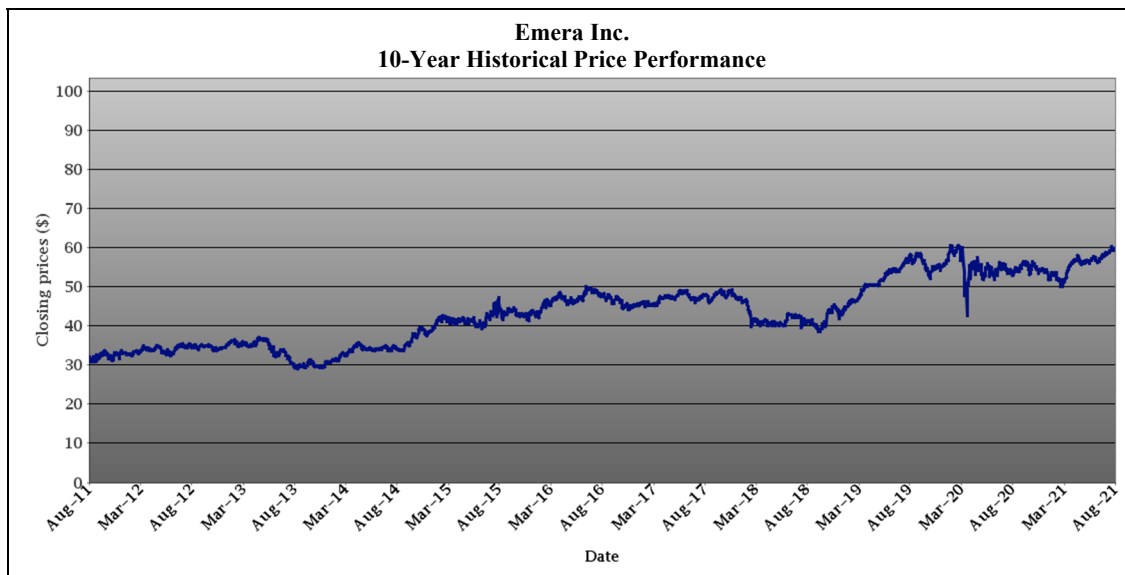
## CAPITAL POWER CORPORATION

Capital Power Corporation operates a diversified portfolio of power generating facilities. The company develops, acquiring and optimizing power generation from a diverse range of energy sources. The indicative dividend yield as of September 10, 2021 was 4.98%.



## EMERA INC.

Emera Inc. owns and operates a broad portfolio of electric and natural gas generation, transmission and distribution assets and services, and has an overall strategic focus on transformation to cleaner energy. The company serves customers across Canada, the Caribbean and the United States, including Florida and New Mexico. The indicative dividend yield as of September 10, 2021 was 4.31%.



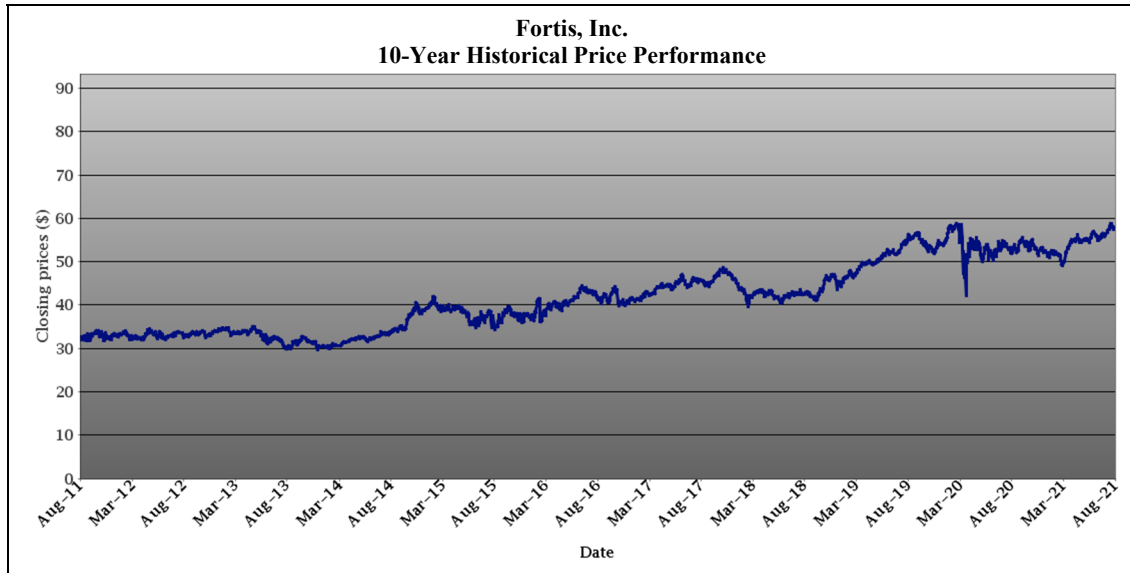
## ENBRIDGE INC.

Enbridge Inc. provides energy transportation, distribution, and related services in North America and internationally. The company operates a crude oil and liquids pipeline system, is involved in international energy projects, and is involved in natural gas transmission and midstream businesses. Enbridge Inc. also distributes natural gas and electricity, and provides retail energy products. The indicative dividend yield as of September 10, 2021 was 6.62%.



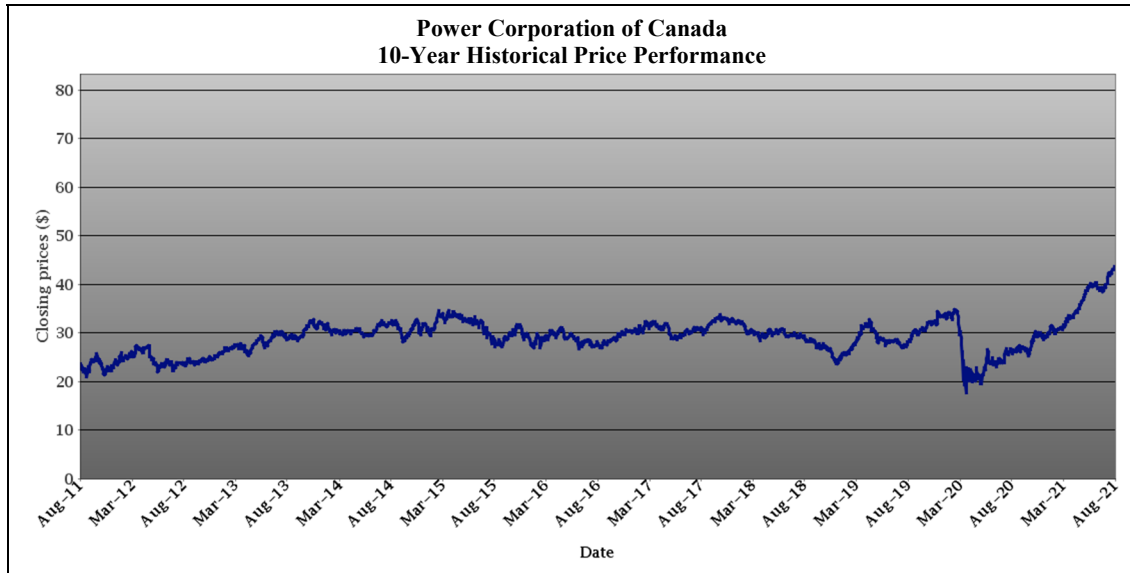
## FORTIS, INC.

Fortis, Inc. operates as a gas and electric distribution company. The company offers regulated utilities comprised of electric and gas as well as engages in non-regulated hydroelectric operations. Fortis serves customers across Canada and in the United States and the Caribbean. The indicative dividend yield as of September 10, 2021 was 3.48%.



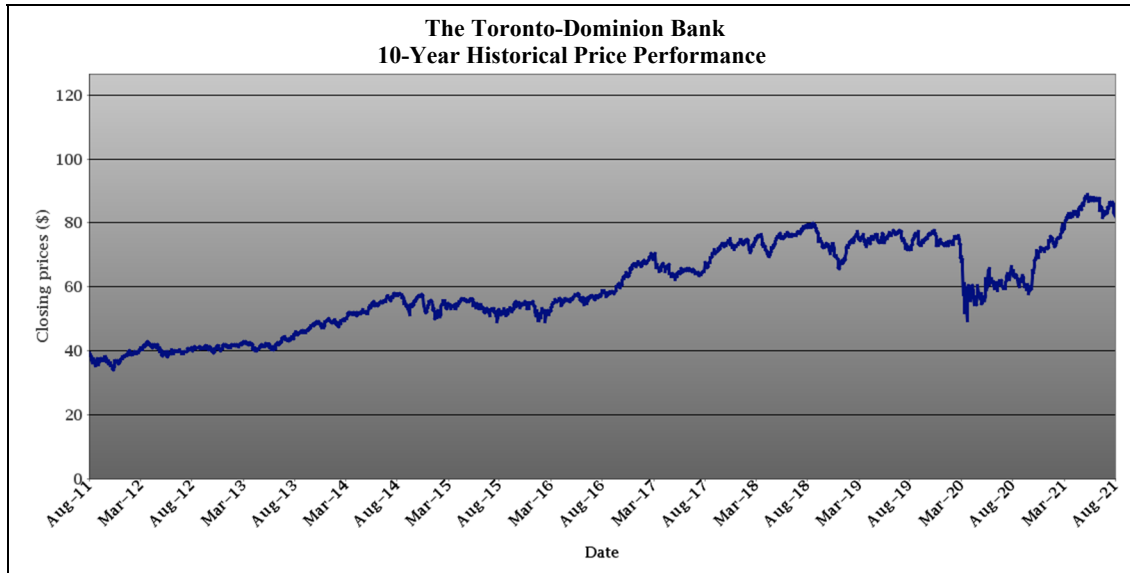
## POWER CORPORATION OF CANADA

Power Corporation of Canada operates as a diversified management and holding company. The company invests in financial services, communications, utility, industrial, and energy sectors. Power Corporation of Canada serves customers worldwide. The indicative dividend yield as of September 10, 2021 was 4.12%.



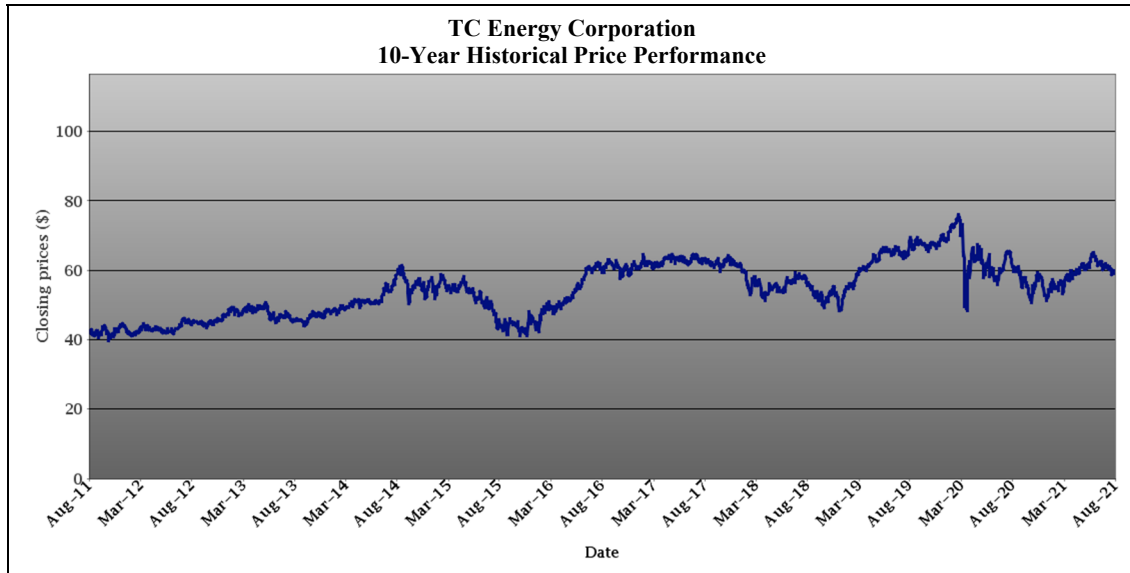
## THE TORONTO-DOMINION BANK

The Toronto-Dominion Bank conducts a general banking business through banking branches and offices located throughout Canada and overseas. The bank and other subsidiaries offer a broad range of banking, advisory services, and discount brokerage to individuals, businesses, financial institutions, governments, and multinational corporations. The indicative dividend yield as of September 10, 2021 was 3.84%.



## TC ENERGY CORPORATION

TC Energy Corporation operates as an energy infrastructure company. The company develops, constructs, and manages, oil and liquids, natural gas, and energy infrastructure projects. TC Energy Corporation serves customers in North America. The indicative dividend yield as of September 10, 2021 was 5.70%.



## PAYMENTS UNDER THE NOTES

The following is a summary description of the basis for the calculation of the amounts payable under the Notes.

### Payment Amount on Maturity

A Noteholder is entitled at maturity to the full payment of the Principal Amount of each Note. A Noteholder will not be paid the Principal Amount prior to maturity.

### Calculation and Payment of Variable Interest

Subject to the occurrence of certain Extraordinary Events, interest on the Notes will be payable in respect of each Annual Period ending on or about (but excluding) October 13 of each year from and including 2022 to and including 2028 (or if such day is not a Business Day, the next following Business Day) (the "**Anniversary Date**"), as listed in the schedule below. Such interest will be calculated in respect of the first Annual Period from and including the Issue Date to but excluding the first Anniversary Date and each following Annual Period from and including the immediately preceding Anniversary Date to but excluding the next following Anniversary Date which marks the end of such Annual Period. Variable Interest will be payable in an amount which is determined by the price performance of an equally weighted basket (the "**Equity Portfolio**") consisting of the common shares (each, a "**Share**" and collectively, the "**Shares**") of ten Canadian companies during the period from October 12, 2021 (the "**Initial Valuation Date**") to the first Exchange Day immediately preceding the applicable Anniversary Date, and subject to certain limitations described under "*Calculation of Variable Interest*".

Subject to the occurrence of certain Extraordinary Events, interest on the Notes will be payable in respect of an Annual Period on the Variable Interest Payment Dates in the schedule below.

### Calculation of Variable Interest and Payment Schedule

Interest Calculation Date	Anniversary Date	Payment Date
October 12, 2022	October 13, 2022	October 17, 2022
October 12, 2023	October 13, 2023	October 17, 2023
October 15, 2024	October 16, 2024	October 18, 2024
October 14, 2025	October 15, 2025	October 17, 2025
October 13, 2026	October 14, 2026	October 16, 2026
October 12, 2027	October 13, 2027	October 15, 2027
October 12, 2028	October 13, 2028	October 17, 2028

### Calculation of Variable Interest

Variable Interest for each Annual Period in respect of a Note will be an amount, not less than 0.25% (the "**Minimum Coupon**") in respect of each Annual Period, equal to the Principal Amount of the Notes times the average of the Share Return Percentages (as described below) calculated for each Share in the Equity Portfolio in respect of the Annual Period. If the average of the Share Return Percentages for the Equity Portfolio in such Annual Period is positive, Variable Interest for such Annual Period shall be the average of the Share Return Percentages for such Annual Period and shall not exceed 6.00% of the Principal Amount of the Notes. Once determined, Variable Interest in respect of each day in an Annual Period will be the total Variable Interest for such Annual Period divided by the number of days the Notes are outstanding during such Annual Period. The amount and method of determining Variable Interest and the timing of the payment of Variable Interest may be affected by certain Extraordinary Events described under "*Extraordinary Events*".

### Calculation of Share Return Percentage

The "**Share Return Percentage**" for each Share in the Equity Portfolio in respect of a particular Annual Period will be determined as follows:

- (a) if the Percentage Change measured from the Share's official closing price on the Initial Valuation Date to its official closing price on the first Exchange Day immediately preceding the Anniversary Date marking the end of such Annual Period, is greater than zero, the Share Return Percentage will be 6.00%; and
- (b) if the Percentage Change in the price of such Share is equal to or less than zero, the Share Return Percentage will be the actual Percentage Change (which, in such circumstances, will be zero or a negative percentage), provided that if the actual Percentage Change is equal to or less than -10.00%, the Percentage Change for such Share shall be deemed to be -10.00%.

For certainty, (a) if the average of the Share Return Percentages for the Equity Portfolio in an Annual Period is less than 0.25%, Variable Interest for such period will be equal to the Minimum Coupon for such Annual Period (being equal to 0.25%), and (b) if the average of the Share Return Percentages for the Equity Portfolio in an Annual Period is equal to or greater than 0.25%, Variable Interest for such Annual Period shall be the average of the Share Return Percentages for such Annual Period, and shall not exceed 6.00% of the Principal Amount of the Notes.

Accordingly, depending on the price performance of the Shares in the Equity Portfolio, the amount of interest you receive on a Variable Interest Payment Date will not exceed 6.00% of the Principal Amount. If the Share Return Percentage of one or more of the Shares in the Equity Portfolio is zero or negative, this will offset the positive performance of other Shares in the Equity Portfolio, potentially reducing the Variable Interest payable to the Minimum Coupon rate of 0.25%. Variable Interest will not reflect any dividends or distributions declared on the Shares in the Equity Portfolio.

### Calculation of Percentage Change

The "**Percentage Change**" for a particular Share in respect of an Annual Period will be an amount, expressed as a percentage determined as follows:

$$\text{Percentage Change} = \frac{(\text{Annual Valuation Price} - \text{Original Valuation Price})}{\text{Original Valuation Price}}$$

where:

"**Original Valuation Price**" for a Share is, subject to adjustments, if any, as described under "– Modification of Calculation" or to a delay in the circumstances described under "– *Delay in Determination of the Original Valuation Price and/or Annual Valuation Price*", the official closing price (or deemed closing price, as the case may be) of such Share on the Initial Valuation Date, as determined by the Calculation Agent, rounded to two decimal places; and

"**Annual Valuation Price**" for a Share in respect of an Annual Period is, subject to adjustments, if any, as described under "– *Modification of Calculation*" or to a delay in the circumstances described under "– *Delay in Determination of the Original Valuation Price and/or Annual Valuation Price*", the official closing price (or deemed closing price, as the case may be) of such Share on the Exchange Day immediately prior to the applicable Anniversary Date, as determined by the Calculation Agent, rounded to two decimal places.

### Extraordinary Events

If we determine at any time that an Extraordinary Event has occurred and is continuing, and if such Extraordinary Event has continued for at least five consecutive days that would have been Exchange Days but for the occurrence of the Extraordinary Event, then we may, at our option, elect to determine and, if positive, pay on all, but not part, of the Notes then issued and outstanding effective the close of business on the effective date notice of such election is given by us, to the Noteholders a single, one-time final payment of Alternative Interest, in which case no further interest would be payable for or in respect of the remaining term of the Notes.

"**Alternative Interest**" will be an amount of interest payable in respect of the remaining term of the Notes, including the period from the Issue Date or last Anniversary Date, as the case may be, to the effective date of notice of an election to determine Alternative Interest, equal to the fair and reasonable amount, as determined by Royal Bank or the Calculation Agent, that a person or company (other than Royal Bank or any of its affiliates) that is an active participant in equity markets relevant to the Shares would pay, taking into account all relevant market circumstances, for a right to receive the remaining interest that, but for the occurrence of the Extraordinary Event, would have been payable on the remaining Anniversary Dates. Calculations and determinations in respect of Alternative Interest will, absent manifest error, be final and binding on Noteholders.

Payment of Alternative Interest will be made on the later of (a) the tenth Business Day after the effective date notice of the election to pay Alternative Interest is given by us through Fundserv, or (b) if any calculation is determined, made or confirmed by the Calculation Agent, the tenth Business Day after such calculation is so determined, made or confirmed.

***In such circumstances, the Principal Amount will remain payable only at maturity. Noteholders will have no further entitlement to receive any interest on their investment during the remaining term of the Notes. Consequently, Noteholders will not receive any Variable Interest for Annual Periods (and partial periods) beginning on and after the Business Day on which notice of our election to pay Alternative Interest is given.***

### **Delay in Determination of the Original Valuation Price and/or Annual Valuation Price**

If a Market Disruption Event occurs and is continuing on a day scheduled to be a day on which the Original Valuation Price or an Annual Valuation Price in respect of a Share is to be determined, then, unless we elect to determine and, if positive, pay Alternative Interest, (a) in the case of a Market Disruption Event continuing on a day scheduled to determine the Original Valuation Price, the date on which the Original Valuation Price will be determined will be the earlier of (i) the next Exchange Day on which there is no such Market Disruption Event in respect of the Share and (ii) the eighth Exchange Day in respect of the Share following the Issue Date, and (b) in the case of a Market Disruption Event continuing on a day scheduled to determine the Annual Valuation Price, the date on which the applicable Annual Valuation Price will be determined will be the earlier of (i) the next Exchange Day on which there is no such Market Disruption Event and (ii) the eighth Exchange Day in respect of the Share following the scheduled Anniversary Date. If a Market Disruption Event is continuing on the date that such a determination is to be made in respect of a Share, then the closing price of such Share will be a value equal to our estimate of the closing price of such Share as of the first Exchange Day after the Initial Valuation Date (in the case of a Market Disruption Event continuing in respect of the calculation of the Original Valuation Price) or the applicable scheduled Anniversary Date (in the case of a Market Disruption Event continuing in respect of the calculation of an Annual Valuation Price), in each case taking into account all relevant market circumstances. If the date on which the price of a Share is to be determined is postponed due to a Market Disruption Event, Variable Interest payable under the Notes for the applicable Annual Period will be paid on the first Business Day after all Share Return Percentages used in the calculation of such Variable Interest have been determined.

### **Available Information Respecting Percentage Change**

A Noteholder may obtain current information with respect to the amount that would be the Percentage Change in respect of each Share in the Equity Portfolio at a point in time from its dealer or financial advisor or by contacting a representative of the Calculation Agent. Such amount will be calculated on the basis described under "*Calculation of Percentage Change*" as if the date on which the information is provided was the Anniversary Date for the Annual Period in respect of which such calculation is made. Neither we nor the Calculation Agent assume responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of such information. We and the Calculation Agent do not, and will not, assume any liability to Noteholders for any calculations or for any actions, including a sale of the Notes, taken by Noteholders in reliance upon our calculations.

### **Modification of Calculation**

In the event of the occurrence of certain Adjustment Events or Merger Events in respect of the Shares, the basis for calculating amounts payable under the Notes may be modified.

### ***Adjustment Events***

"**Adjustment Event**" means, in respect of a Share, the occurrence of any of the following events:

- (a) a share split, reverse share split, rights offering, subdivision, consolidation or reclassification in respect of such Share, or reorganization, recapitalization, reclassification, dissolution or liquidation of the issuer of such Share or similar event, or a free distribution or dividend of a Share to existing holders by way of bonus, capitalization or similar issue;
- (b) a distribution, issue or dividend to existing holders of Shares of (i) Shares, (ii) other share capital or securities granting the right to payment of dividends and/or the proceeds of liquidation of the applicable Company equally or proportionately with such payments to holders of Shares, (iii) share capital or other securities of another issuer acquired or owned (directly or indirectly) by the applicable Company as a result of a spin-off or other similar transaction, or (iv) any other type of securities, rights or warrants or other assets, in any case for payment (cash or other consideration) at less than the prevailing market price as determined by Royal Bank;
- (c) an extraordinary dividend or other distribution in respect of such Shares (where the characterization of a dividend or other distribution as "extraordinary" will be determined by Royal Bank);
- (d) a call by the applicable Company in respect of relevant Shares that is not fully paid;
- (e) a repurchase by the applicable Company or any of its subsidiaries of the relevant Shares, whether out of profits or capital and whether the consideration for such repurchase is cash, securities or otherwise;

- (f) in respect of the applicable Company, an event that results in any shareholder or unitholder rights being distributed or becoming separated from shares of common stock, units or other shares of the capital stock of such Company pursuant to a shareholder rights plan or arrangement directed against hostile takeovers that provides upon the occurrence of certain events for a distribution of preferred stock, warrants, debt instruments or stock rights at a price below their market value, as determined by Royal Bank, provided that any adjustment effected as a result of such an event will be readjusted upon any redemption of such rights; or
- (g) any other event that may have a dilutive or concentrative effect on the theoretical value of the relevant Shares.

Except if such an event is also a Merger Event and an adjustment is made as contemplated under "*Merger Events*" below, Royal Bank will determine whether an Adjustment Event has a dilutive or concentrative effect on the theoretical value of the relevant Shares and, if so, as soon as practicable after such Adjustment Event has occurred in respect of a Share, will (i) make appropriate adjustments, if any, to any one or more of the Original Valuation Price of such Share, the formula for calculating the Share Return Percentage of such Share, or any other component or variable relevant to the determination of Variable Interest as Royal Bank deems appropriate to account for the dilutive or concentrative effect and (ii) determine the effective date of the adjustments. In making such adjustments, Royal Bank will have regard to comparable adjustments made by any options trading exchange on which options on the Share are written or traded. If options on the affected Share are not written or traded, Royal Bank will make such adjustment, if any, as Royal Bank deems appropriate, with reference to the rules and precedents, if any, set by The Options Clearing Corporation to account for the dilutive or concentrative effect of any event that, in the determination of Royal Bank, would have given rise to an adjustment by such exchange if such options were so traded. Except as expressly provided above, Royal Bank will make no adjustment in respect of any distribution of cash.

### ***Merger Events***

"**Merger Event**" means, in respect of a Share, any one or more of the following events:

- (a) a reclassification or change in respect of such Share that results in a transfer of or an irrevocable commitment to transfer all such outstanding Shares to another entity or person;
- (b) a consolidation, amalgamation, merger or binding share exchange of the issuer of the Share with or into another entity or person (other than a consolidation, amalgamation, merger or binding share exchange in which such issuer is the continuing entity and which does not result in any such reclassification or change of all of such Shares outstanding);
- (c) a take-over offer, tender offer, exchange offer, solicitation, proposal or other event by an entity or person to purchase or otherwise obtain 100% of the outstanding Shares of a Company that results in a transfer of or an irrevocable commitment to transfer all such Shares (other than such Shares owned or controlled by the offeror), including the Company being taken private where the Company becomes wholly owned by another entity or where there is no continuing active trading and published market for the Company's or the other entity's shares;
- (d) a consolidation, amalgamation, merger or binding share exchange of the issuer of the Share or its subsidiaries with or into another entity in which such issuer is the continuing entity and which results in the outstanding Shares (other than the Shares owned or controlled by such other entity) prior to the event being less than 50% of the outstanding Shares immediately after such event; or
- (e) such other event having substantially the same effect as the events described above.

If Royal Bank determines that a Merger Event, or an event which, with the completion of certain formalities or the lapse of time or both, would constitute a Merger Event, in respect of a Share (the "**Merger Share**") has occurred or is deemed to have occurred and the consideration for the Merger Share consists of shares or units, as applicable (the "**Successor Shares**") of the successor entity that are listed on a recognized stock exchange and for which a market price is available, an adjustment described under "*Adjustment Events*" will not apply and the Successor Share will become a replacement Share in the Equity Portfolio. For the purposes of calculating any Percentage Change in respect of such Share at any time thereafter, the Original Valuation Price in respect of the Successor Share (as the new Share) will be adjusted and determined thereafter in accordance with the following formula:

$$\text{Original Valuation Price}_{(\text{NEW})} = \text{Original Valuation Price}_{(\text{OLD})} \times \text{Merger Factor}$$

where:

**"Original Valuation Price<sub>(OLD)</sub>"** is the Original Valuation Price of the Merger Share; and

**"Merger Factor"** is the number of Merger Shares exchangeable into one Successor Share under the terms of the Merger Event.

If the consideration for Merger Shares consists in part of non-share proceeds or shares or units that are not listed on a recognized stock exchange and for which a market price is not available, then an amount equal to the value, expressed in the currency in which the Merger Share price is quoted on its Principal Exchange (the **"Applicable Currency"** for such Share), of the net non-share or illiquid share proceeds realizable per Merger Share on disposition as at the time of the Merger Event (after deducting any foreign withholding taxes, duties, charges or other withholdings that would ordinarily be applicable to Canadian holders of the Merger Shares and, if applicable, converted into the Applicable Currency at the time of receipt) (the **"Non-Share Proceeds"**) will thereafter be added to the closing price of the relevant Successor Share in the determination of the applicable Annual Valuation Price of the Successor Share. This approach is intended to be consistent with the adjustments expected to be made by The Options Clearing Corporation to account for such occurrences in relation to exchange traded options to reflect the effect of a Merger Event. In effect, the occurrence of a Merger Event under which Non-Share Proceeds are received by a holder of Merger Shares will crystallize the gain or loss in respect of the Merger Shares to the extent of the Non-Share Proceeds as of the time of the Merger Event, thereby limiting the possibility of any future appreciation in the value of the Share during the remaining term to the Maturity Date. If the holder of a Merger Share is entitled to elect the nature and/or amount from among different types of consideration, the valuation for the purposes of calculating the applicable Annual Valuation Price will be based on a mix of Successor Shares and Non-Share Proceeds that at the time of election maximizes the relative value of the Successor Shares in such calculations.

If the consideration for the Merger Share consists entirely of Non-Share Proceeds received by holders of the Merger Shares in connection with the Merger Event, then the applicable Annual Valuation Price for the Merger Share after the Merger Event will equal the Non-Share Proceeds for a Merger Share.

If the successor price for a Successor Share is reported on the successor Principal Exchange in a currency other than the Applicable Currency, then Royal Bank will make adjustments to the applicable Annual Valuation Price of the Successor Share otherwise determined so that, in Royal Bank's reasonable opinion, such adjustments reflect the foreign currency equivalent value of the Successor Share on the applicable date and, in effect, substantially preserve the Noteholder's economic returns based on changes in the value, expressed in the Applicable Currency, of the Successor Share.

We will make information available concerning any such adjustments upon the written request of any Noteholder or the dealer or financial advisor through whom the Notes were purchased. We will not be responsible for good faith errors or omissions in making any such adjustments.

## METHOD OF PAYMENT

The Principal Amount and Variable Interest or Alternative Interest, as the case may be, payable under the Notes will be made available at our option by RBC DS (or its delegate on our behalf), either through Fundserv to dealers and financial advisors with clients who hold Notes, or if we in our sole discretion determine, directly to Noteholders. Our responsibility and liability in respect of Notes is limited to making payment of any amount due through RBC DS (or its delegate on our behalf) via Fundserv to dealers and financial advisors with clients who hold Notes. Royal Bank will, directly or indirectly through RBC DS, hold all of the beneficial interests in the Notes for and on behalf of Noteholders or their representatives, as a custodial agent appointed for the purpose of holding such beneficial interests and facilitating certain transactions in respect of the Notes through Fundserv. Royal Bank will appoint RBC DS as its agent (who may delegate its responsibilities, without notice to Noteholders, to, and in reliance upon, third party service providers) to record the respective Noteholders' beneficial interests in the Notes, in each case as may be instructed by the dealers and financial advisors representing such Noteholders in accordance with Fundserv procedures and requirements. Holders of Notes should understand that Royal Bank or RBC DS (or its delegate), as the case may be, will only make such recordings as may be instructed through Fundserv by a Noteholder's dealer or financial advisor and will have no obligation to confirm or take notice of any such instructions, appointments, revocations or any other matters pertaining to, a Noteholder's appointment of, or arrangements with, a dealer or financial advisor. See "*Related Matters – Registration*".

Payments of the Principal Amount and Variable Interest or Alternative Interest, as the case may be, if any, on Notes issued in definitive form (which will only occur in certain exceptional circumstances) will be made by cheque mailed to the Noteholder at the address of the Noteholder appearing in a register which we will maintain or cause to be maintained or, if requested in writing by the Noteholder at least five Business Days before the date of the payment and agreed to by us, by electronic funds transfer to a bank account designated by the Noteholder with a bank in Canada. Payment under any Note in definitive form is conditional upon the Noteholder first delivering the Note to us.

We reserve the right, in the case of the determination of Alternative Interest, to mark on the Global Note or the Notes, if represented in definitive form, as the case may be, that Alternative Interest, if any, has been paid in full and only the Principal Amount remains payable at maturity.

Neither we nor the Paying and Transfer Agent will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to, or payments made on account of, beneficial ownership of any Notes or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to such ownership so long as the Notes are represented by the Global Note.

Neither we nor the Paying and Transfer Agent nor RBC DS, acting as depository for the Notes will be bound to see to the execution of any trust affecting the ownership of any Note or be affected by notice of any equity that may be subsisting with respect to any Note. In relation to Royal Bank's role as custodian in connection with the Notes, we will have no obligation to confirm or take notice of any such instructions, appointments, revocations or any other matters pertaining to a Noteholder's appointment of or arrangements with a dealer or financial advisor or any notices given to or through the Fundserv system.

## RELATED MATTERS

The following is a summary of other information relevant to your decision to purchase Notes.

### Differences from Fixed Rate Investments

The Notes are different from conventional fixed rate investments. The Notes will not provide a return at maturity that is calculated by reference to a fixed or floating rate of interest that is specified prior to maturity. Unlike the return on many other deposit liabilities of Canadian banks and other fixed rate investments, return on the Notes for any Annual Period is uncertain in that if the prices of the Shares do not increase sufficiently over the term of the Notes, only the Minimum Coupon rate of 0.25% will be payable on the Notes. There is no assurance that the prices of the Shares will increase over the term of the Notes and there is therefore no assurance that a Noteholder will receive any amount other than a return of 0.25% of the Principal Amount for each Annual Period and repayment of the Principal Amount at maturity.

### Suitability for Investment Purposes

The Notes provide opportunities but also present risks. Investors should consult with their advisors regarding the suitability of an investment in the Notes given their investment objectives. The Notes may be suitable for investors who want to protect their principal investment at maturity and who are looking for the potential to earn an enhanced return over fixed rate investments and who are prepared to assume the risks associated with an investment in the Equity Portfolio. The Notes are only suitable for investors with a long-term investment horizon who are prepared to hold the Notes until maturity and who do not need or expect to receive regular payments of return over the term of the Notes.

### Registration

The Notes will be represented in the form of a fully registered, book-entry only global note (the "**Global Note**") to be held by or on behalf of Royal Bank in Toronto, Canada as custodian of the Global Note, and registered in the name of RBC DS in Toronto, Canada as depository for the Notes. Except in limited circumstances, purchasers of beneficial interests in the Global Note (the "**Noteholders**") will not be entitled to receive Notes in definitive form. Rather, the Notes will be represented in book-entry form only.

Holders of Notes will have an indirect beneficial interest in the Global Note. Royal Bank will, directly or indirectly through RBC DS, hold all of the beneficial interests in the Notes for and on behalf of such Noteholders or their representatives, as a custodial agent appointed for the sole purpose of holding such beneficial interests and facilitating certain transactions in respect of the Notes through Fundserv. These arrangements are provided for in agreements between Royal Bank, as custodian, RBC DS and the dealers or financial advisors who represent Noteholders for the purposes of implementing transactions through the Fundserv system. Royal Bank will appoint RBC DS as its agent to record the respective Noteholders' beneficial interests in the Notes, in each case as may be instructed by the dealers or financial advisors representing such Noteholders in accordance with the Fundserv procedures and requirements. Holders of Notes should understand that Royal Bank and RBC DS will only make such recordings and process such transactions as may be instructed through Fundserv by a dealer or financial advisor recorded under Fundserv as representing the applicable Noteholder and will have no obligation to confirm or take notice of any instructions, appointments, revocations or any other matters pertaining to the Noteholder's appointment of or arrangements with a dealer or financial advisor purporting to act on his or her behalf or in respect of any notices given to or through the Fundserv system. Transactions involving Notes may only be implemented through Fundserv by dealers or financial advisors that have access to the Fundserv system and have an effective agreement with Royal Bank and RBC DS regarding the specific application of the Fundserv procedures to such transactions. If a Noteholder were to replace or transfer his or her investment accounts to another dealer or financial advisor who did not satisfy such conditions, the Noteholder would be required to sell his or her Notes pursuant to the procedures described under "*Resale of Notes Through Fundserv*."

### Plan of Distribution

Each Note will be issued at \$100, being 100% of the Principal Amount of the Note.

The Notes will be offered from time to time by us through selling agents. We may also sell Notes to a selling agent, acting as principal, for resale to one or more investors at varying prices related to prevailing market prices at the time of such resale to be determined by such selling agent. We also reserve the right to sell Notes to investors directly on our own behalf in those jurisdictions in which we are authorized to do so. Sales commissions and related fees are described under "*Fees and Expenses*".

Any selling agent may from time to time purchase and sell Notes in the secondary market, but is not obligated to do so. There can be no assurance that there will be a secondary market for the Notes. The offering price and other selling terms for such sales in the secondary market may, from time to time, be varied by the relevant selling agent. See "*Resale of Notes Through Fundserv*".

We will have the sole right to accept offers to purchase Notes and may reject any proposed purchase of Notes in whole or in part. A selling agent will have the right, in its discretion reasonably exercised, without notice to us, to reject any offer to purchase Notes received by it in whole or in part.

With respect to a purchase of Notes, the full aggregate Principal Amount of the Notes to be purchased must be delivered by the purchaser's dealer or financial advisor through Fundserv no later than three Exchange Days prior to the Issue Date.

Despite the delivery of such funds in respect of an offer to purchase Notes, we reserve the right not to accept any such offer. If for any reason Notes are not issued to a person who has delivered such funds, delivered funds will be forthwith returned to the prospective purchaser's dealer or financial advisor through Fundserv. No interest or other compensation will be paid to the purchaser in respect of delivered funds or to the dealer or financial advisor representing such purchaser.

The Notes may not be offered or sold in any jurisdiction outside of Canada except in circumstances which do not constitute a public offering or distribution under the laws of the jurisdiction where the Notes are to be offered or sold. Royal Bank and the selling agents require persons into whose possession this Information Statement comes to inform themselves of and observe any and all such restrictions. In particular, the Notes have not been and will not be registered under the *Securities Act of 1933* (United States), as amended, and may not be offered or sold within the United States or to, or for the account or benefit of, United States persons except in certain transactions exempt from the registration requirements of the *Securities Act of 1933* (United States), as amended. Terms used in this paragraph have the meanings given to them by Regulation S under the *Securities Act of 1933* (United States), as amended.

#### **Fees and Expenses**

We will pay selling agents who sell the Notes, from our own funds, an initial selling commission of 2.50% of the Principal Amount of each Note. This fee will not reduce the amount of return payable on the Notes. If an Extraordinary Event occurs, we may incur expenses unwinding any hedge position in respect of our obligation to make payments under the Notes, which could reduce the amount of return otherwise payable on the Notes.

Unless Notes are sold by us to a selling agent acting as principal, no part of any commission or fee paid by us to the selling agent may be reallocated, directly or indirectly, to the purchaser of Notes or to others, and the selling agent will not be entitled to receive any commission from any other party in respect of initial sales of Notes. In this regard, it should be noted that the Net Bid Price (described under "*Resale of Notes Through Fundserv*") payable in connection with a resale of Notes would reflect a reduction in respect of an Early Trading Charge, which amount attributes to a selling holder a portion of the fees, costs and other amounts associated with the creation, issuance and maintenance of the Notes subject to such resale.

#### **Purchases by RBC DS**

RBC DS or any of its affiliates, associates or successors, may at any time, subject to applicable laws and the policies of any stock exchange on which the Notes may be listed, purchase Notes at any price in the open market or by private agreement.

#### **No Redemption Prior to Maturity**

The Notes will not be redeemable by Royal Bank before the Maturity Date.

#### **Resale of Notes Through Fundserv**

Holders of Notes wishing to sell Notes prior to the Maturity Date will be permitted to do so using the procedures established to redeem securities through Fundserv commencing the day after the Issue Date. Such sales will be subject to certain procedures, requirements and limitations relating to the Fundserv system. Any other sale of Notes will not be recognized. Holders of Notes wishing to sell all or a part of their holdings should consult with their dealers or financial advisors in advance in order to understand the timing and other procedures, requirements and limitations of selling through the Fundserv system.

RBC DS may, from time to time, purchase and sell Notes but will not be obliged to do so. RBC DS will have the right, in its sole discretion, to cease to offer to purchase or sell Notes. If RBC DS determines to stop facilitating a secondary market for the Notes, holders of Notes may not be able to resell their Notes through the Fundserv system.

To give effect to a sale of Notes through Fundserv, the dealer or financial advisor for a Noteholder must initiate an irrevocable request to "redeem" the applicable Notes in accordance with the then established procedures of Fundserv. The use of Fundserv's redemption procedures for this purpose is a matter of convenience to give effect to a sale transaction within Fundserv's existing systems and procedures. Despite this terminology, Notes will not be "redeemed", but rather Notes will be sold through these procedures to RBC DS. In turn, RBC DS will be able in its discretion to resell such Notes to other third parties at negotiated prices or to hold them for its own account. Noteholders should be aware that, from time to time, the Fundserv "redemption" procedures required to give effect to any resale of Notes may be suspended for any reason without notice, thus effectively preventing Noteholders from selling their Notes. Potential purchasers requiring liquidity should carefully consider this possibility before purchasing Notes.

Generally, to be effective on an Exchange Day, a redemption request will need to be initiated by 2:00 p.m. (Toronto time) on that Exchange Day (or such other time as may be established by Fundserv). Any request received after such time will be deemed to be a request sent and received on the next following Exchange Day.

A sale of a Note will be effected at a sale price (the "**Net Bid Price**") equal to (i) the Fundserv "closing price" of a Note as of the close of business on the Exchange Day on which the order is placed as posted to Fundserv by RBC DS (in its capacity as Calculation Agent) on the following Exchange Day, minus (ii) any applicable pre-determined reduction amount set out below (similar in concept to a deferred sales charge applied in relation to an early redemption of certain mutual fund securities) (an "**Early Trading Charge**"). Accordingly, a Noteholder will not be able to negotiate a sale price for Notes.

An Early Trading Charge of up to 3.00% of the Principal Amount of a Note will be deducted from the amount received by a holder of Notes as sales proceeds if the Noteholder sells Notes within 540 days of the Issue Date. The specific amount of Early Trading Charge in relation to a resale transaction will be determined as follows:

<b>If Sold Within the Following Number of Days from the Issue Date</b>	<b>Early Trading Charge (% of Principal Amount)</b>
1 - 180 days	3.00%
181 - 270 days	2.50%
271 - 360 days	2.00%
361 - 450 days	1.50%
451 - 540 days	0.50%
Thereafter	Nil

RBC DS, in its capacity as Calculation Agent, will act as the "fund sponsor" for the purpose of calculating and posting daily a "net asset value" in relation to Notes within Fundserv. It is required to post a "net asset value" for the Notes on a daily basis. The Net Bid Price will represent the price at which RBC DS may offer to purchase Notes from Noteholders in connection with a secondary market transaction. Such price will be determined as of the close of trading on the Principal Exchange for the applicable Exchange Day. There is no guarantee that the Net Bid Price for any day is the highest possible price available in any secondary market for the Notes, but it will represent a bid price generally available to Noteholders as at the relevant close of business, including clients of RBC DS. The Net Bid Price of a Note at any time will generally be dependent on, among other things, (a) how much the prices of the Shares comprising the Equity Portfolio have risen or fallen since the Issue Date, (b) the fact that the Principal Amount of the Note is only payable on the Maturity Date, and (c) a number of other interrelated factors, including, without limitation, volatility in the prices of the Shares, prevailing interest rates in Canada, the dividends or other distributions paid on the Shares comprising the Equity Portfolio, and the time remaining to maturity. The relationship among these factors is complex and may also be influenced by various political, economic and other factors that can affect the trading price of a Note.

**The Noteholder may wish to consult his or her investment advisor as to whether it would be more favourable in the circumstances at any time to sell Notes (assuming the availability of a secondary market) or hold Notes until the Maturity Date.**

#### **Right of Cancellation**

An initial purchaser will have the right to cancel any order to buy Notes within two Business Days after the later of (i) the day on which the agreement to purchase the Notes is entered into and (ii) the day on which this Information Statement is provided to the initial purchaser.

The agreement to purchase the Notes will be entered into (i) if the order to purchase is received via telephone or electronic means, on the day on which the order to purchase is received, and (ii) if the order to purchase is received in person, on the second day following the later of (a) the day on which this Information Statement is provided to the investor and (b) the day on which the order to purchase is received.

Initial purchasers of the Notes will be deemed to have been provided the Information Statement: (i) on the day recorded as the time of sending by the server or other electronic transmission system, if provided by electronic means; (ii) on the day recorded as the time of sending by a fax machine, if provided by fax; (iii) five Business Days after the postmark date, if provided by mail; and (iv) when it is received, in any other case.

Upon cancellation of the order, the initial purchaser is entitled to a refund of the Principal Amount and any fees relating to the purchase that they may have paid. This right to cancel a purchase order does not extend to investors buying a Note in any secondary market. An initial purchaser of the Notes may cancel their purchase order by calling their investment advisor or RBC DS at (800) 280-4434.

### **Secondary Market Resales**

The Principal Amount of each Note is guaranteed only if the Note is held until the Maturity Date. The resale of a Note by the investor in any secondary market could result in an investor receiving less than the Principal Amount.

### **Governing Law**

The Notes, and the terms thereof, will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the Province of Ontario, Canada, and the federal laws of Canada applicable in Ontario.

### **Further Issuance of Notes**

We reserve the right to issue the Notes in additional tranches and may issue other note obligations, including listed note obligations subject to receipt of necessary approvals. Such other note obligations may have terms substantially similar to the terms of the Notes and may be offered by us concurrently with the offering of this or other tranches of Notes.

### **Notices to Noteholders**

We will provide notice to Noteholders of any material events relating to the Notes, including notice of any amendment to the Notes that impacts the amount of return payable in respect of the Notes.

### **Amendments to the Notes**

The Global Note may be amended without the consent of the Noteholders if in our reasonable opinion the amendment would not materially and adversely affect the rights of the Noteholders. In other cases, the Global Note may be amended if the amendment is approved by a resolution passed by the favourable votes of the Noteholders representing not less than 66 2/3% of the outstanding aggregate principal amount of the Notes represented for the purpose of considering the resolution. Each Noteholder is entitled to one vote per \$100 of principal amount held for the purpose of voting at meetings convened for this purpose. The Notes do not carry the right to vote in any other circumstances.

### **Potential Conflicts of Interest**

We, our subsidiary, RBC DS, or any of our respective affiliates will perform functions or engage in activities in the course of our normal respective business operations that could adversely impact the value of the Notes, your ability to resell your Notes or the amount or timing of receipt of entitlements under the Notes. For example, Royal Bank and RBC DS may from time to time, in the course of our respective normal business operations, have dealings with one or more of the Companies whose Shares comprise the Equity Portfolio, which dealings will not take into account the effect, if any, on the prices of the Shares or Noteholders' interests generally. In addition, we or RBC DS, as our Calculation Agent, will be responsible for determining the amount, if any, of the return payable under the Notes, including the amount of any Alternative Interest payable after the occurrence of an Extraordinary Event. We or RBC DS may exercise judgment and discretion in relation to the calculations, determinations, functions and activities undertaken in respect of the Notes from time to time. Whenever we or RBC DS are required to act, we will do so in good faith and our calculations and determinations in respect of the Notes will, absent manifest error, be final and binding on holders of Notes. We will base all such actions on normal commercial criteria in the particular circumstances and we will not take into account the effect, if any, of such actions on the prices of the Shares, the amount of Variable Interest that may be payable on the Notes or Noteholders' interests generally.

Consequently, potential conflicts between the interests of Noteholders and our interests may arise. Neither we nor the Calculation Agent warrant the accuracy or completeness of the information made available with respect to the Shares in the Equity Portfolio or of calculations made in connection with the Notes.

## CANADIAN FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

In the opinion of Royal Bank's counsel, Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg LLP, the following summary fairly describes the principal Canadian federal income tax considerations under the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) (the "**Tax Act**") generally applicable to an initial purchaser of Notes under this Information Statement who, at all relevant times, for purposes of the Tax Act, deals at arm's length with and is not affiliated with Royal Bank (a "**Holder**").

This summary is based upon the current provisions of the Tax Act and the regulations thereunder (the "**Regulations**"), all specific proposals to amend the Tax Act or such Regulations publicly announced by or on behalf of the federal Minister of Finance prior to the date hereof (the "**Proposals**") and counsel's understanding of the current administrative policies and practices of the Canada Revenue Agency ("**CRA**"). Except for the Proposals, this summary does not take into account or anticipate any changes (including retroactive changes) in the law or the administrative policies or practices of the CRA, whether by judicial, regulatory, governmental or legislative action, nor does it take into account tax laws of any province or territory of Canada, or of any jurisdiction outside Canada. Provisions of provincial income tax legislation vary from province to province in Canada and may differ from federal income tax legislation. No assurance can be given that the Proposals will be implemented in their current form, or at all. This summary assumes that the Holder will neither undertake nor arrange a transaction in respect of the Notes primarily for the purpose of obtaining a tax benefit, has not entered into a "derivative forward agreement" (as defined in the Tax Act) in respect of the Notes and that the Notes are not issued at a discount.

**This summary is of a general nature only and is not intended to constitute, nor should it be relied upon or construed as, tax advice to any particular Holder, nor is it exhaustive of all possible Canadian federal income tax considerations. Holders should consult their own tax advisors as to the potential consequences to them of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of Notes having regard to their particular circumstances.**

A Holder will be subject to tax in a different manner than a direct holder of the Shares comprising the Equity Portfolio.

### **Holders Resident in Canada**

The following discussion applies to a Holder who, at all relevant times, for the purposes of the Tax Act and any applicable income tax treaty or convention, is an individual (other than a trust) resident in Canada who acquires and holds the Notes as capital property (a "**Resident Holder**"). Certain Resident Holders who might not otherwise be considered to hold their Notes as capital property may, in certain circumstances, be entitled to have their Notes, and all other "Canadian securities" (as defined in the Tax Act) owned by such Resident Holders in the taxation year and all subsequent taxation years, treated as capital property by making the irrevocable election permitted by subsection 39(4) of the Tax Act.

#### ***Interest***

Any amount received or receivable by a Resident Holder (depending on the method regularly followed by the Resident Holder in computing income under the Tax Act) in a taxation year as, on account of, in lieu of payment of or in satisfaction of, interest (including Variable Interest and Alternative Interest) will be required to be included in computing the Resident Holder's income for the taxation year, except to the extent that such amount has already been included in the Resident Holder's income for that or a preceding taxation year.

#### ***Disposition of Notes***

On a disposition or deemed disposition of a Note by a Resident Holder to a person (including Royal Bank), the amount of interest accrued on the Note to the time of disposition will be required to be included in computing the Resident Holder's income for the taxation year in which the disposition takes place and will be excluded from the proceeds of disposition of the Note, except to the extent that such amount has already been included in the Resident Holder's income for that or a preceding taxation year. Because a Resident Holder's Variable Interest entitlement, in excess of the Minimum Coupon rate, for an Annual Period may not be determinable until the Exchange Day immediately preceding the Anniversary Date marking the end of that Annual Period, the amount of interest accrued on a Note to the time of such disposition that is in excess of the Minimum Coupon rate may be considered to be uncertain.

In addition, the Resident Holder will realize a capital gain (or capital loss) to the extent that the proceeds of disposition, net of amounts included in income as interest and any reasonable costs of disposition, exceed (or are exceeded by) the adjusted cost base of the Note to the Resident Holder.

One-half of any capital gain realized by a Resident Holder must be included in the income of the Resident Holder. One-half of any capital loss realized by a Resident Holder is deductible against the taxable portion of capital gains realized in the year, in the three preceding years

or in subsequent years, subject to the rules and restrictions contained in the Tax Act. Capital gains realized by an individual may give rise to a liability for alternative minimum tax.

### **Holders Not Resident in Canada**

The following discussion applies to a Holder who, at all relevant times, for the purposes of the Tax Act is neither resident nor deemed to be resident in Canada, deals at arm's length with any Canadian resident (or deemed Canadian resident) to whom the Holder disposes the Notes, is neither a "specified shareholder" of Royal Bank nor a person who does not deal at arm's length with a specified shareholder of Royal Bank for purposes of the "thin capitalization" rule contained in subsection 18(4) of the Tax Act, does not use or hold and is not deemed to use or hold the Notes in the course of carrying on a business in Canada and is not an insurer carrying on an insurance business in Canada and elsewhere (a "**Non-Resident Holder**").

Interest paid or credited or deemed to be paid or credited on the Notes to a Non-Resident Holder (including any amount paid at maturity in excess of the principal amount and interest deemed to be paid in certain cases involving the assignment or other transfer of a Note to a resident or deemed resident of Canada) will not be subject to Canadian non-resident withholding tax unless any portion of such interest is contingent or dependent on the use of or production from property in Canada or is computed by reference to revenue, profit, cash flow, commodity price or any other similar criterion or by reference to dividends paid or payable to shareholders of any class of shares of the capital stock of a corporation ("**Participating Debt Interest**"). Having regard to the terms of the Notes and, in particular, that the Variable Interest is determined in part by reference to the Percentage Change for Shares comprising the Equity Portfolio, whose market value may be considered to be significantly correlated with the market value of Royal Bank shares, interest paid or credited or deemed to be paid or credited on the Notes may be considered to be Participating Debt Interest, although there is uncertainty on this question. Accordingly, Royal Bank expects that such tax will be withheld and remitted at the rate of 25% of the gross amount of such interest paid to a Non-Resident Holder, except that this withholding tax may be reduced pursuant to the terms of an applicable income tax treaty or convention between Canada and the country of residence of the Non-Resident Holder. Non-Resident Holders should consult with their own tax advisors before acquiring Notes. There should be no other taxes on income (including taxable capital gains) payable by a Non-Resident Holder in respect of a Note.

### **Eligibility for Investment**

The Notes, if issued on the date of this Information Statement, would be qualified investments (for purposes of the Tax Act) for trusts governed by registered retirement savings plans ("**RRSPs**"), registered retirement income funds ("**RRIFs**"), tax-free savings accounts ("**TFSAs**"), registered disability savings plans ("**RDSPs**"), registered education savings plans ("**RESPs**") and deferred profit sharing plans ("**DPSPs**"), each within the meaning of the Tax Act (other than a DPSP to which payments are made by Royal Bank or a corporation or partnership with which Royal Bank does not deal at arm's length within the meaning of the Tax Act).

Notwithstanding the foregoing, if Notes are "prohibited investments" (as that term is defined in the Tax Act) for an RRSP, RRIF, TFSA, RDSP or RESP, the annuitant of the RRSP or RRIF, the holder of the TFSA or RDSP, or the subscriber of the RESP, as the case may be (each a "**Plan Holder**"), will be subject to a penalty tax as set out in the Tax Act. Notes will be "prohibited investments" for an RRSP, RRIF, TFSA, RDSP or RESP of a Plan Holder who has a "significant interest" (as defined in the Tax Act for purposes of the prohibited investment rules) in Royal Bank or who does not deal at arm's length, within the meaning of the Tax Act, with Royal Bank.

## RISK FACTORS

**The Notes provide opportunities but may pose risks. You should carefully consider the risks involved in purchasing Notes before reaching a decision and you should discuss with your advisors the suitability of purchasing Notes in light of your particular investment objectives and after reviewing all available information, including the following:**

***Suitability*** – A purchase of Notes is not suitable for a person looking for a guaranteed rate of return. The Notes will not constitute deposits that are insured under the *Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation Act*. We make no recommendation as to the suitability of the Notes for your investment purposes.

***Return on the Notes is capped at a maximum amount*** – It is uncertain how much return will be payable under the Notes in each of the Annual Periods. Return will be limited to an amount between 0.25 and 6.00% of the Principal Amount in each of the Annual Periods. If the Share Return Percentage of one or more of the Shares in the Equity Portfolio is zero or negative, this will offset the positive performance of other Shares in the Equity Portfolio, potentially reducing the Variable Interest payable to the Minimum Coupon rate of 0.25%.

***Return will depend on the price performance of the Shares in the Equity Portfolio*** – Subject to the occurrence of certain Extraordinary Events, return on the Notes for any Annual Period will be calculated based on the prices of the Shares comprising the Equity Portfolio. No assurance can be given that the prices of the Shares will increase. Share prices will be influenced by the overall economic, industry and market trends. A strong economy will generally lead to an increase in the prices of the Shares. Conversely, general economic or industrial downturns will typically lead to a decline in the Share prices. Noteholders are not entitled to any dividends that may be paid by an issuer of the Shares in the Equity Portfolio.

***Differences from a direct investment in the Shares*** – Noteholders do not have an ownership interest in the Shares. The Notes are not equivalent to a direct investment in the Shares in the Equity Portfolio and the Notes do not entitle holders to any interest in such Shares, including any right to receive dividends or other distributions. The indicative dividend yield of the Equity Portfolio as of September 10, 2021 was 4.67%. As such, the Notes are subject to different risks than such a direct investment and any return payable under the Notes will not be identical to the return associated with such Shares.

***Secondary Market*** – The Notes will not be listed on any stock exchange and there is no assurance that a secondary market for Notes will develop or be sustainable. RBC DS may, from time to time, purchase and sell Notes, but will not be obligated to do so. If RBC DS determines, in its sole discretion, to stop facilitating a secondary market for the Notes, holders of Notes may not be able to resell their Notes. If RBC DS offers to purchase Notes in connection with a secondary market transaction, there is no assurance that the purchase price will be the highest possible price available in any secondary market for the Notes and, in particular, any purchase price will be reduced by up to 3.00% of the Principal Amount if the Noteholder sells Notes within 540 days of the Issue Date. The resale price of Notes could be below the \$100 Principal Amount per Note. The value of the Notes in any secondary market will be affected by a number of complex and inter-related factors, including the prices of the Shares comprising the Equity Portfolio; the level of interest rates in Canada; dividends or other distributions paid on the Shares comprising the Equity Portfolio; the volatility of the prices of the Shares comprising the Equity Portfolio; and the time remaining until maturity. The effect of any one factor may be offset or magnified by the effect of another factor.

***Fundserv*** – The Notes may only be purchased, settled and otherwise dealt with in accordance with the clearing and settlement procedures and services operated by Fundserv and certain other rules and protocols established with dealers and financial advisors in connection with such services. Only those dealers and financial advisors that have an effective agreement with Royal Bank will be eligible to deal with Notes on behalf of Noteholders.

***Extraordinary Events*** – The occurrence of certain Extraordinary Events may delay the time at which the amount of any return is determined and may allow us the option of crystallizing the amount of return payable and (if positive) paying such amount before maturity. These include events that could have an impact on our ability to perform our obligations under the Notes or to hedge our position in respect of our obligation to make payments under the Notes. In these circumstances, the amount of return payable under the Notes, if any, will be subject to reduction to reflect the direct or indirect costs of disposing of, terminating, settling, liquidating or otherwise unwinding arrangements to hedge market exposure to the Equity Portfolio or Shares comprising the Equity Portfolio.

***Potential conflicts of interest*** – We or our subsidiary, RBC DS (RBC DS is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Royal Bank of Canada), will perform functions or engage in activities that could adversely impact on the value of the Notes, your ability to resell your Notes or the amount or timing of receipt of entitlements under the Notes. For example, Royal Bank and RBC DS may have dealings with one or more of the Companies whose Shares comprise the Equity Portfolio, which dealings will not take into account the effect, if any, on the prices of the Shares or Noteholders' interests generally. In addition, except in unusual circumstances we or RBC DS, as our Calculation Agent, will be

responsible to determine the amount of the return payable under the Notes, including the amount of any Alternative Interest payable after the occurrence of an Extraordinary Event, and may exercise judgment and discretion in relation to the calculations, determinations, functions and activities undertaken in respect of the Notes from time to time. Royal Bank's and RBC DS' calculations and determinations in respect of the Notes will, absent manifest error, be final and binding on holders of Notes. Consequently, potential conflicts between the interests of Noteholders and our interests may arise.

**Maximum Variable Interest** – The maximum amount of Variable Interest that a Noteholder could receive over the term of the Notes is \$42.00 per Note or 6.00% of the Principal Amount for each of the seven Annual Periods. The Annual Valuation Price for all ten Shares must be greater than the Original Valuation Price in order to receive maximum payment.

**Credit Risk** – The Notes will evidence deposit liabilities of Royal Bank (credit ratings: Moody's Aa2; Standard & Poor's AA-; DBRS AA) and will rank equally and rateably with all other deposit liabilities of Royal Bank and by their terms will be fungible. **Noteholders will not have the benefit of any insurance under the provisions of the *Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation Act*.** The repayment of a Noteholder's Principal Amount and the payment of Variable Interest or Alternative Interest, as the case may be, are subject to the creditworthiness of Royal Bank.

## DEFINITIONS

The following capitalized terms are used frequently in this Information Statement and have the respective meanings set forth below:

"**Adjustment Event**" has the meaning ascribed thereto under "*Payments Under the Notes – Modification of Calculation – Adjustment Events*".

"**Alternative Interest**" has the meaning ascribed thereto under "*Payments Under the Notes – Extraordinary Events*".

"**Anniversary Date**" has the meaning ascribed thereto under "*Payments Under the Notes – Calculation and Payment of Variable Interest*".

"**Annual Period**" means the period from and including the Issue Date to and excluding the first Anniversary Date and each subsequent period from and including the immediately preceding Anniversary Date to and excluding the next following Anniversary Date.

"**Annual Valuation Price**" has the meaning ascribed thereto under "*Payments Under the Notes – Calculation of Percentage Change*".

"**Applicable Currency**" has the meaning ascribed thereto under "*Payments Under the Notes – Modification of Calculation – Merger Events*".

"**Business Day**" means a day on which commercial banks are open for business and able to effect transactions in foreign exchange and foreign currency deposits in Toronto, Canada and a day on which book-entry transfers may be effected through RBC DS. If any date on which any action is otherwise required to be taken in respect of the Notes is not a Business Day, the date on which such action shall be taken shall, except as otherwise indicated, be the next following Business Day and, if the action involves payment of any amount, no interest or other compensation shall be paid as a result of any such delay.

"**Calculation Agent**" means the calculation agent for the Notes appointed by Royal Bank from time to time. The Calculation Agent initially will be RBC Dominion Securities Inc., whose address is P.O. Box 50, Royal Bank Plaza, 2nd Floor, South Tower, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5J 2W7; Attention: Global Equity Derivatives.

"**CDIC**" means Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation.

"**Company**" or "**Companies**" has the meaning ascribed thereto under "*Summary*".

"**CRA**" means the Canada Revenue Agency.

"**Early Trading Charge**" has the meaning ascribed thereto under "*Related Matters – Resale of Notes Through Fundserv*".

"**Equity Portfolio**" has the meaning ascribed thereto under "*Summary*".

"**Exchange Day**" means a day which is (or, but for the occurrence of an Extraordinary Event, would have been) a trading day on each of the Principal Exchanges and Related Exchanges for the Shares comprising the Equity Portfolio or related contracts, options or instruments, including a day on which trading on such an exchange is scheduled to close prior to its regular closing time. If such term is used in relation to a particular Share, "**Exchange Day**" means a day which is (or, but for the occurrence of a Market Disruption Event in respect of the Share, would have been) a trading day on each Principal Exchange and Related Exchange for the Share or related contracts, options or instruments, including a day on which trading on such an exchange is scheduled to close prior to its regular closing time.

"**Extraordinary Event**" means any event, circumstance or cause which Royal Bank determines has or will have a material adverse effect on the ability of Royal Bank to perform its obligations under the Notes or to hedge its position in respect of its obligation to make payment of amounts owing thereunder, including as a result of any of Royal Bank's internal policies, and more specifically includes a Market Disruption Event in respect of any Share or Hedging Event.

"**Final Valuation Date**" means October 12, 2028.

"**Fundserv**" means Fundserv Inc. and its successors.

"**Global Note**" has the meaning ascribed thereto under "*Related Matters – Registration*".

"**Hedging Event**" means, with respect to the Notes, the occurrence of an event that has a material adverse effect on Royal Bank's ability to place, maintain or modify any hedge, including without limitation:

- (a) the adoption of or any change in any applicable law or regulation (including tax law), or the promulgation or any change in the interpretation by any court, tribunal or regulatory authority of any applicable law or regulation (including by a taxing authority);
- (b) the termination or material amendment of any hedging contract with a third party;
- (c) the inability of Royal Bank after using commercially reasonable efforts, to acquire, establish, re-establish, substitute, maintain, unwind or dispose of any transaction or asset for hedging its price risk, or realize, recover or remit the proceeds of any such transaction or asset, including as a result of the application of Royal Bank's internal policies; or
- (d) a material increase in the amount of tax, duty, expense or fee to acquire, establish, re-establish, substitute, maintain, unwind or dispose of any transaction or asset for hedging its price risk or realize, recover or remit the proceeds of any such transaction or asset.

**"Holder"** has the meaning ascribed thereto under *"Canadian Federal Income Tax Considerations"*.

**"Initial Valuation Date"** means October 12, 2021.

**"Issue Date"** means on or about October 13, 2021.

**"LEOS®"** means LEOS (Liquid Equity Option-linked noteS)®.

**"Market Disruption Event"** means, in respect of a Share, any event, circumstance or cause which Royal Bank determines has or will have a material adverse effect on the ability of Royal Bank or any of its affiliates to place, maintain or modify hedges in respect of such Share and, more specifically but without limitation, includes any of the following events to the extent that they have such an effect:

- (a) the occurrence or existence on any Exchange Day for the Share during the one-half hour period that ends at the close of trading of any suspension of or limitation on trading (by reason of movements in price exceeding limits permitted by the relevant Principal Exchange or otherwise) on the relevant Principal Exchange in the Share or a general limitation on price of the Share on the relevant Principal Exchange;
- (b) a delisting of the Share or a suspension, absence or material limitation of trading in futures contracts, forward contracts or options contracts related to the Share on any relevant Principal Exchange or Related Exchange or a limitation on trading in futures, forward contracts or options contracts on any relevant Principal Exchange or Related Exchange on any one day by reason of movements in prices that exceed the level permitted by such exchanges;
- (c) the occurrence of a material change in the content, composition or constitution of the Share;
- (d) the closure on any Exchange Day (or a day that would be an Exchange Day) for the Share on a Principal Exchange or Related Exchange for the Share prior to its scheduled closing time unless such earlier closing time is announced by such exchange at least one hour prior to the earlier of (i) the actual closing time for the regular trading session on such exchange for such day and (ii) the submission deadline for orders to be entered into such exchange's system for execution at the close of trading on such day;
- (e) any event (other than a closure described in (d)) that disrupts or impairs (as determined by Royal Bank) the ability of market participants in general (i) to effect transactions in, or obtain market values for, the Share on a relevant Principal Exchange or Related Exchange or (ii) to effect transactions in, or obtain market values for, futures, forward or options contracts relating to the Share on a relevant Principal Exchange or Related Exchange;
- (f) the failure of any Principal Exchange or Related Exchange for the Share to open for trading during its regular trading session on any Exchange Day (or a day that would be an Exchange Day);
- (g) the enactment, publication, decree or other promulgation of, or any change in, any statute, regulation, rule, policy, practice or order, or the promulgation or change in the interpretation by any court, tribunal or other government authority of any statute, regulation, rule, policy, practice or order which would make it unlawful or impracticable for Royal Bank to perform its obligations under the Notes or for dealers to execute, maintain or modify a hedge in a position in respect of the Share;
- (h) the taking of any action by any governmental, administrative, legislative or judicial authority or power of Canada or any country, or any political subdivision thereof, which has a material adverse effect on the financial markets of Canada or a country in which any applicable Principal Exchange or Related Exchange is located;

- (i) any outbreak or escalation of hostilities or other national or international calamity or crisis (including, without limitation, natural calamities) which has or would have a material adverse effect on the ability of Royal Bank to perform its obligations under the Notes or of a dealer to execute, maintain or modify a hedge of a position with respect to any of the Shares or a material and adverse effect on the economy of Canada or a country in which any Principal Exchange or Related Exchange is located or the trading of securities, contracts or other instruments generally on any Principal Exchange or Related Exchange;
- (j) an event that has a dilutive or concentrative effect on the value of the Share;
- (k) an adjustment made to the exercise, settlement payment or other terms of futures contracts, options or other derivatives on the Share;
- (l) a Merger Event; or
- (m) a Tender Offer.

For the purpose of determining whether a Market Disruption Event exists at any time, a limitation on the hours or number of days of trading shall not constitute a Market Disruption Event if it results from an announced change in the regular business hours of a Principal Exchange or a Related Exchange, and an "absence" or "limitation on trading" of or on such Principal Exchange or Related Exchange will not include any time when such Principal Exchange or Related Exchange itself is closed for trading under ordinary circumstances.

**"Maturity Date"** means on or about October 17, 2028.

**"Merger Event"** has the meaning ascribed thereto under *"Payments Under the Notes – Modification of Calculation – Merger Events"*.

**"Merger Factor"** has the meaning ascribed thereto under *"Payments Under the Notes – Modification of Calculation – Merger Events"*.

**"Merger Share"** has the meaning ascribed thereto under *"Payments Under the Notes – Modification of Calculation – Merger Events"*.

**"Minimum Coupon"** has the meaning ascribed thereto under *"Payments Under the Notes – Calculation of Variable Interest"*.

**"Net Bid Price"** has the meaning ascribed thereto under *"Related Matters – Resale of Notes Through Fundserv"*.

**"Non-Resident Holder"** has the meaning ascribed thereto under *"Canadian Federal Income Tax Considerations"*.

**"Non-Share Proceeds"** has the meaning ascribed thereto under *"Payments Under the Notes – Modification of Calculation – Merger Events"*.

**"Note"** or **"Notes"** has the meaning ascribed thereto under *"Summary"*.

**"Noteholders"** has the meaning ascribed thereto under *"Related Matters - Registration"*.

**"Original Valuation Price"** has the meaning ascribed thereto under *"Payments Under the Notes – Calculation of Percentage Change"*.

**"Paying and Transfer Agent"** means the paying and transfer agent for the Notes appointed by us from time to time. The Paying and Transfer Agent will initially be RBC Dominion Securities Inc. whose address is P.O. Box 50, Royal Bank Plaza, 6th Floor, South Tower, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5J 2W7; Attention: National Operations.

**"Percentage Change"** has the meaning ascribed thereto under *"Payments Under the Notes – Calculation of Percentage Change"*.

**"Plan Holder"** has the meaning ascribed thereto under *"Canadian Federal Income Tax Considerations"*.

**"Principal Amount"** means \$100 per Note.

**"Principal Exchange"** means, in respect of a Share, any stock exchange or quotation system on which such Share is listed. As of the date of this Information Statement, the Principal Exchange for each Share is as set forth under *"Summary Information Regarding the Companies"*.

**"Proposals"** has the meaning ascribed thereto under *"Canadian Federal Income Tax Considerations"*.

**"RBC DS"** means RBC Dominion Securities Inc. and its successors and assigns.

**"Regulations"** has the meaning ascribed thereto under *"Canadian Federal Income Tax Considerations"*.

**"Related Exchange"** means, in respect of a Share, an exchange in respect of which futures contracts, forward contracts or options contracts are traded in respect of the Share and through which Royal Bank expects to effect, directly or indirectly, transactions to hedge its position in respect of the Notes.

**"Resident Holder"** has the meaning ascribed thereto under *"Canadian Federal Income Tax Considerations"*.

**"Royal Bank"** means Royal Bank of Canada and its successors and assigns.

**"Share"** or **"Shares"** has the meaning ascribed thereto under *"Summary"*.

**"Share Return Percentage"** has the meaning ascribed thereto under *"Payments Under the Notes – Calculation of Share Return Percentage"*.

**"Successor Shares"** has the meaning ascribed thereto under *"Payments Under the Notes – Modification of Calculation – Merger Events"*.

**"Tax Act"** has the meaning ascribed thereto under *"Canadian Federal Income Tax Considerations"*.

**"Tender Offer"** means a takeover bid, takeover offer, tender offer, exchange offer, solicitation, proposal or other event by any entity or person that results in such entity or person purchasing, or otherwise obtaining or having the right to obtain, greater than 10% and less than 100% of the Shares of a Company.

**"TSX"** means the Toronto Stock Exchange and its successors.

**"Variable Interest"** has the meaning ascribed thereto under *"Summary"*.

**"Variable Interest Payment Date"** has the meaning ascribed thereto under *"Summary"*.

## SCHEDULE A – DISCLOSURE FOR SALES IN PERSON OR BY TELEPHONE

### Term of the Notes

The Notes mature and the Principal Amount of the Notes will be repaid on or about October 17, 2028 for a term to maturity of about 7 years. All amounts payable in respect of the Notes will be made available by Royal Bank in book entry form through RBC DS.

### How Return on the Notes is Calculated

The Notes are linked to the price performance of an equally weighted Equity Portfolio comprised of the Shares of ten Canadian companies. Return on the Notes will be determined for each annual period and will equal the average Share Return Percentage for the Companies. Subject to the occurrence of certain extraordinary events, Variable Interest payable for each Note will be an amount, not less than 0.25% (the “**Minimum Coupon**”) in respect of an Annual Period, equal to the \$100 Principal Amount of the Note times the average of the Share Return Percentages calculated for each Share in the Equity Portfolio in respect of the Annual Period.

The Share Return Percentage will be calculated for a Share in the Equity Portfolio in respect of a particular Annual Period will be determined as follows:

- (a) if the Percentage Change measured from the Share's official closing price on the Initial Valuation Date to its official closing price on the first Exchange Day immediately preceding the Anniversary Date marking the end of such Annual Period, is greater than zero, the Share Return Percentage will be 6.00%; and
- (b) if the Percentage Change in the price of such Share is equal to or less than zero, the Share Return Percentage will be the actual Percentage Change (which, in such circumstances, will be zero or a negative percentage), provided that if the actual Percentage Change is equal to or less than -10.00%, the Percentage Change for such Share shall be deemed to be -10.00%.

For certainty, (a) if the average of the Share Return Percentages for the Equity Portfolio in an Annual Period is less than 0.25%, Variable Interest for such period will be equal to the Minimum Coupon for such Annual Period (being equal to 0.25%), and (b) if the average of the Share Return Percentages for the Equity Portfolio in an Annual Period is equal to or greater than 0.25%, Variable Interest for such Annual Period shall be the average of the Share Return Percentages for such Annual Period, and shall not exceed 6.00% of the Principal Amount of the Notes.

Accordingly, for any Annual Period, Variable Interest per Note could be as low as 0.25% and cannot exceed 6.00% of the Principal Amount. If the price performance of one or more of the Shares in the Equity Portfolio is zero or negative, this will offset the positive performance of other Shares in the Equity Portfolio, potentially reducing the Variable Interest payable to the Minimum Coupon rate of 0.25%.

Return on the Notes will be paid for each Annual Period during the term of the Notes, unless an Extraordinary Event occurs, in which case Alternative Interest may be paid prior to maturity.

The Noteholder is not entitled to any dividends or other distributions that are paid in respect of the Shares. The indicative dividend yield of the Equity Portfolio as of September 10, 2021 was 4.67%.

### Fees and Expenses

Selling agents who sell the Notes will receive an initial selling commission of 2.50% of the \$100 Principal Amount of each Note. This fee will not affect the amount of return payable under the Notes. If an Extraordinary Event occurs, we may incur expenses unwinding any hedge position in respect of our obligation to make payments under the Notes, which could reduce the amount of return otherwise payable on the Notes.

### Risk Factors

Risks of owning the Notes include the following:

- the Notes may not be a suitable investment for all investors;
- return on the Notes will be between 0.25% and 6.00% of the Principal Amount in each Annual Period. If the price performance of one or more Shares in the Equity Portfolio is zero or negative, this will offset the positive price performance of other Shares in the Equity Portfolio, potentially reducing the Variable Interest payable to the Minimum Coupon rate of 0.25%;
- the return will depend on the price performance of the Shares;

- Noteholders have no direct ownership interest in the Shares;
- a secondary market for the Notes may not develop or be sustainable;
- the Notes may be purchased, settled and cleared only through Fundserv's facilities;
- the occurrence of an Extraordinary Event could affect the return payable on the Notes or result in a payment of Alternative Interest prior to maturity;
- we or RBC DS may engage in activities that could adversely impact the Notes;
- the maximum amount of Variable Interest that a Noteholder could receive over the term of the Notes is \$42.00 per Note or 6.00% of the Principal Amount for each of the seven Annual Periods; and
- the repayment of a Noteholder's Principal Amount and the payment of Variable Interest or Alternative Interest, as the case may be, are subject to the creditworthiness of Royal Bank. **Noteholders will not have the benefit of any insurance under the provisions of the *Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation Act*.**

#### Tax Considerations

Potential Canadian income tax consequences for investors in Notes are described in the Information Statement under "*Canadian Federal Income Tax Considerations*".

Investors should, however, consider the following:

- all payments of interest on the Notes (including Alternative Interest) should be included in an individual Noteholder's income for the taxation year in which the amount of interest is received or receivable;
- on a disposition of a Note to a person (including to Royal Bank), the amount of any interest accrued on the Note will be required to be included in computing income and will be excluded from the proceeds of disposition of the Note, except to the extent that such amount has already been included in income; and
- while the matter is not free from doubt and will depend on the actual facts, the Noteholder should also realize a capital gain (or capital loss on a disposition of a Note prior to maturity other than to Royal Bank).

***This summary is not intended to constitute, nor should it be relied upon as, tax advice to any particular Noteholder. All Noteholders should consult their own tax advisors with respect to their tax positions and the tax consequences of holding Notes.***

#### Differences from Conventional Fixed Rate Investments

The Notes are different from conventional fixed rate investments. The Notes will not provide a return at maturity that is calculated by reference to a fixed or floating rate of interest that is specified prior to maturity. Unlike the return on many other deposit liabilities of Canadian banks and other fixed rate investments, return on the Notes for any Annual Period is uncertain in that if the prices of the Shares do not increase sufficiently over the term of the Notes, only the Minimum Coupon rate of 0.25% will be payable on the Notes. There is no assurance that the prices of the Shares will increase over the term of the Notes and there is therefore no assurance that a Noteholder will receive any amount other than a return of 0.25% of the Principal Amount for each Annual Period and repayment of the Principal Amount at maturity.

#### Secondary Market

RBC DS intends to take steps to establish a secondary market for the Notes. The price paid to a Noteholder in connection with any resale made during the first 540 days will reflect a predetermined Early Trading Charge of up to 3.00%. The Notes will not be listed on any stock exchange and may only be dealt with through Fundserv. Despite the intention of RBC DS to take steps to establish a secondary market for the Notes, RBC DS reserves the right, without providing prior notice to Noteholders, to choose not to do so in its sole discretion.

#### Secondary Market Resales

The Principal Amount of each Note is guaranteed only if the Note is held until maturity. The resale of a Note by the investor in any secondary market could result in the investor receiving less than the Principal Amount invested.

#### Right of Cancellation

The investor will have the right to cancel any order to buy Notes within two Business Days after the later of (i) the day on which the agreement to purchase the Notes is entered into and (ii) the day on which this Information Statement is provided to the initial purchaser. The purchaser may exercise this right by contacting their investment advisor or RBC DS.

#### Suitability of the Notes for Investment Purposes

The Notes may be suitable for:

- investors who want to protect their principal investment at maturity and the potential for an enhanced annual coupon;
- investors who are prepared to assume the risks associated with an investment in the Equity Portfolio; and
- investors with a long-term investment horizon who are prepared to hold the Notes until maturity.

#### Non-CDIC Protected

The Notes will not constitute deposits that are insured under the *Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation Act*.

#### No Early Redemption by Royal Bank

The Notes will not be redeemable by Royal Bank before the Maturity Date.

#### Availability of Information

Detailed information about the Notes, including a copy of the Information Statement, will be posted at [www.rbcnotes.com](http://www.rbcnotes.com) and will be provided in writing on request from RBC DS at (800) 280-4434.

Certain additional information regarding the Notes will also be provided on an ongoing basis at [www.rbcnotes.com](http://www.rbcnotes.com), including (i) the most recent bid price for the Notes and any applicable Early Trading Charge, and/or (ii) the last available measure that would be used to determine the Variable Interest.

#### Amendments to the Notes

The Global Note may be amended without the consent of the Noteholders if in our reasonable opinion the amendment would not materially and adversely affect the rights of the Noteholders. In other cases, the Global Note may be amended if the amendment is approved by the Noteholders representing not less than 66 2/3% of the outstanding aggregate principal amount of the Notes represented at such vote.

#### Potential Conflicts of Interest

Royal Bank or its subsidiary, RBC DS, will perform functions or engage in activities in the course of their normal respective business operations that could adversely impact the value of the Notes, your ability to resell your Notes or the amount or timing of receipt of entitlements under the Notes.

Royal Bank or RBC DS, as Calculation Agent and/or as market maker for the Notes, may have financial interests that differ from and may be adverse to those of the Noteholders.