

Note 1: Basis of Presentation

Bank of Montreal (“the bank”) is a chartered bank under the *Bank Act (Canada)* and is a public company incorporated in Canada. We are a highly diversified financial services company, providing a broad range of personal and commercial banking, wealth management and investment banking products and services. The bank’s head office is at 129 rue Saint-Jacques, Montreal, Quebec. Its executive offices are at 100 King Street West, 1 First Canadian Place, Toronto, Ontario. Our common shares are listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange and the New York Stock Exchange.

We have prepared these consolidated financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (“IFRS”) as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (“IASB”). We also comply with interpretations of IFRS by our regulator, the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions Canada (“OSFI”).

Our consolidated financial statements have been prepared on a historic cost basis, except for the revaluation of the following items: assets and liabilities held for trading; available-for-sale financial assets; financial assets and liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss; financial assets and financial liabilities designated as hedged items in qualifying fair value hedge relationships; cash-settled share-based payment liabilities; defined benefit pension and other employee future benefit liabilities; and insurance-related liabilities.

These consolidated financial statements were authorized for issue by the Board of Directors on December 5, 2017.

Basis of Consolidation

These consolidated financial statements are inclusive of the financial statements of our subsidiaries as at October 31, 2017. We conduct business through a variety of corporate structures, including subsidiaries, structured entities (“SEs”), associates and joint ventures. Subsidiaries are those entities where we exercise control through our ownership of the majority of the voting shares. We also hold interests in SEs, which we consolidate when we control the SE. These are more fully described in Note 7. All of the assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses of our subsidiaries and consolidated SEs are included in our consolidated financial statements. All intercompany transactions and balances are eliminated on consolidation.

We hold investments in associates, where we exert significant influence over operating, investing and financing decisions (generally companies in which we own between 20% and 50% of the voting shares). These are accounted for using the equity method. The equity method is also applied to our investments in joint ventures. Joint ventures are those entities where we exercise joint control through an agreement with other shareholders. Under the equity method of accounting, investments are initially recorded at cost, and the carrying amount is increased or decreased to recognize our share of investee net income or loss, including other comprehensive income or loss. Our equity accounted investments are recorded as securities, other, in our Consolidated Balance Sheet and our share of the net income or loss is recorded in investments in associates and joint ventures, in our Consolidated Statement of Income. Any other comprehensive income amounts are reflected in the relevant section of our Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Non-controlling interest in subsidiaries is presented in our Consolidated Balance Sheet as a separate component of equity that is distinct from our shareholders’ equity. The net income attributable to non-controlling interest in subsidiaries is presented separately in our Consolidated Statement of Income.

Specific Accounting Policies

To facilitate a better understanding of our consolidated financial statements, we have disclosed our significant accounting policies throughout the following notes with the related financial disclosures by major caption:

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Translation of Foreign Currencies

We conduct business in a variety of foreign currencies and present our consolidated financial statements in Canadian dollars, which is our functional currency. Monetary assets and liabilities, as well as non-monetary assets and liabilities measured at fair value that are denominated in foreign currencies, are translated into Canadian dollars at the exchange rate in effect at the balance sheet date. Non-monetary assets and liabilities not measured at fair value are translated into Canadian dollars at historical rates. Revenues and expenses denominated in foreign currencies are translated using the average exchange rate for the year.

Unrealized gains and losses arising from translating our net investment in foreign operations into Canadian dollars, net of related hedging activities and applicable income taxes, are included in our Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income within net gain (loss) on translation of net foreign operations. When we dispose of a foreign operation such that control, significant influence or joint control is lost, the cumulative amount of the translation gain (loss) and any applicable hedging activities and related income taxes is reclassified to our Consolidated Statement of Income as part of the gain or loss on disposition.

Foreign currency translation gains and losses on available-for-sale debt securities that are denominated in foreign currencies are included in foreign exchange, other than trading, in our Consolidated Statement of Income. Foreign currency translation gains and losses on available-for-sale equity securities that are denominated in foreign currencies are included in accumulated other comprehensive income on available-for-sale securities, net of taxes, in our Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity. All other foreign currency translation gains and losses are included in foreign exchange, other than trading, in our Consolidated Statement of Income as they arise.

From time to time, we enter into foreign exchange hedge contracts to reduce our exposure to changes in the value of foreign currencies. Realized and unrealized gains and losses that arise on the mark-to-market of foreign exchange contracts related to economic hedges are included in non-interest revenue in our Consolidated Statement of Income. Changes in the fair value of forward contracts that qualify as accounting hedges are recorded in our Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income within net change in unrealized gains (losses) on cash flow hedges, with the spot/forward differential (the difference between the foreign currency exchange rate at the inception of the contract and the rate at the end of the contract) recorded in interest income (expense) over the term of the hedge.

Dividend and Fee Income

Dividend Income

Dividend income is recognized when the right to receive payment is established. This is the ex-dividend date for listed equity securities.

Fee Income

Fee income (including commissions) is recognized based on the services or products for which the fee is paid. See Note 4 for the accounting treatment for lending fees.

Investment management and custodial fees are based primarily on the balance of assets under management and assets under administration, as at the period end, respectively, for services provided.

Securities commissions and fees and underwriting and advisory fees are recorded as revenue when the related services are completed.

Deposit and payment service charges and insurance fees are recognized over the period in which the related services are provided.

Card fees primarily include interchange income, late fees, cash advance fees and annual fees. Card fees are recorded as billed, except for annual fees, which are recorded evenly throughout the year.

Leases

We are lessors in both financing leases and operating leases. Leases are classified as financing leases if they transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the leased asset to the lessee. Otherwise they are classified as operating leases, as we retain substantially all the risks and rewards of asset ownership.

As lessor in a financing lease, a loan is recognized equal to the investment in the lease, which is calculated as the present value of the minimum payments to be received from the lessee, discounted at the interest rate implicit in the lease, plus any unguaranteed residual value we expect to recover at the end of the lease. Finance lease income is recognized in interest, dividend and fee income, loans, in our Consolidated Statement of Income.

Assets under operating leases are recorded in other assets in our Consolidated Balance Sheet. Rental income is recognized on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease in non-interest revenue, other, in our Consolidated Statement of Income. Depreciation on these assets is recognized on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease in non-interest expense, other, in our Consolidated Statement of Income.

Assets Held-for-Sale

Non-current non-financial assets classified as held-for-sale are measured at the lower of their carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell and are presented within other assets in our Consolidated Balance Sheet. Subsequent to its initial classification, a non-current asset is no longer depreciated or amortized, and any subsequent write-down in fair value less costs to sell is recognized in non-interest revenue, other, in our Consolidated Statement of Income.

Use of Estimates and Judgments

The preparation of the consolidated financial statements requires management to use estimates and assumptions that affect the carrying amounts of certain assets and liabilities, certain amounts reported in net income and other related disclosures.

The most significant assets and liabilities for which we must make estimates include allowance for credit losses; financial instruments measured at fair value; pension and other employee future benefits; impairment of securities; income taxes and deferred taxes; purchased loans; goodwill and intangible assets; insurance-related liabilities; and provisions. We make judgments in assessing whether substantially all risks and rewards have been transferred in respect of transfers of financial assets and whether we control SEs, as discussed in Notes 6 and 7, respectively. If actual results were to differ from the estimates, the impact would be recorded in future periods.

We have established detailed policies and control procedures that are intended to ensure these judgments are well controlled, independently reviewed and consistently applied from period to period. We believe that our estimates of the value of our assets and liabilities are appropriate.

Allowance for Credit Losses

The allowance for credit losses adjusts the value of loans to reflect their estimated realizable value. In assessing their estimated realizable value, we must rely on estimates and exercise judgment regarding matters for which the ultimate outcome is unknown. These include economic factors, developments affecting companies in particular industries, and specific issues with respect to single borrowers. Changes in circumstances may cause future assessments of credit risk to be materially different from current assessments, which could result in an increase or decrease in the allowance for credit losses.

Additional information regarding the allowance for credit losses is included in Note 4.

Financial Instruments Measured at Fair Value

Fair value measurement techniques are used to value various financial assets and financial liabilities and are used in performing impairment testing on certain non-financial assets. Detailed discussions of our fair value measurement techniques are included in Notes 3 and 17.

Pension and Other Employee Future Benefits

Our pension and other employee future benefits expense is calculated by our independent actuaries using assumptions determined by management. If actual experience were to differ from the assumptions used, we would recognize this difference in other comprehensive income.

Pension and other employee future benefits expense, plan assets and defined benefit obligations are also sensitive to changes in discount rates. We determine discount rates at each year end for all of our plans using high-quality AA rated corporate bond yields with terms matching the plans' specific cash flows.

Additional information regarding our accounting for pension and other employee future benefits is included in Note 22.

Impairment of Securities

We have investments in securities issued or guaranteed by Canadian, U.S. and other government agencies, corporate debt and equity securities, mortgage-backed securities and collateralized obligations, which are classified as either available-for-sale securities, held-to-maturity securities or other securities. We review held-to-maturity, available-for-sale and other securities at each quarter-end reporting period to identify and evaluate investments that show indications of possible impairment.

For held-to-maturity, available-for-sale and other securities, impairment losses are recognized if there is objective evidence of impairment as a result of an event that reduces the estimated future cash flows from the security and the impact can be reliably estimated. Objective evidence of impairment includes default or delinquency by a debtor, restructuring of an amount due to us on terms that we would not otherwise consider, indications that a debtor or issuer will enter bankruptcy, or the disappearance of an active market for a security. In addition, for equity securities, a significant or prolonged decline in the fair value of a security below its cost is objective evidence of impairment.

We do not record impairment write-downs on debt securities when impairment is due to changes in market interest rates if future contractual cash flows associated with the debt security are still expected to be recovered.

Additional information regarding our accounting for held-to-maturity, available-for-sale and other securities, and the determination of fair value is included in Notes 3 and 17.

Income Taxes and Deferred Tax Assets

The provision for income taxes is calculated based on the expected tax treatment of transactions recorded in our Consolidated Statements of Income or Changes in Equity. In determining the provision for income taxes, we interpret tax legislation, case law and administrative positions in numerous jurisdictions and, based on our judgment, record our estimate of the amount required to settle tax obligations. We also make assumptions about the expected timing of the reversal of deferred tax assets and liabilities. If our interpretations differ from those of taxing authorities or if the timing of reversals is not as expected, our provision for income taxes could increase or decrease in future periods. The amount of any such increase or decrease cannot be reasonably estimated.

Deferred tax assets are recognized only when it is probable that sufficient taxable profit will be available in future periods against which deductible temporary differences may be utilized. We are required to assess whether it is probable that our deferred income tax assets will be realized prior to expiration and, based on all the available evidence, determine if any portion of our deferred income tax assets should not be recognized. The factors used to assess the probability of realization are our past experience of income and capital gains, our forecast of future net income before taxes, and the remaining expiration period of tax loss carryforwards. Changes in our assessment of these factors could increase or decrease our provision for income taxes in future periods.

Additional information regarding our accounting for income taxes is included in Note 23.

Goodwill and Intangible Assets

For the purpose of impairment testing, goodwill is allocated to our groups of cash-generating units ("CGUs"), which represent the lowest level within the bank at which goodwill is monitored for internal management purposes. Impairment testing is performed at least annually, by comparing the carrying values and the recoverable amounts of the CGUs to which goodwill has been allocated to determine whether the recoverable amount of each group is greater than its carrying value. If the carrying value of the group were to exceed its recoverable amount, an impairment calculation would be performed. The recoverable amount of a CGU is the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and the value in use.

Fair value less costs to sell is used to perform the impairment test. In determining fair value less costs to sell, we employ a discounted cash flow model consistent with those used when we acquire businesses. This model is dependent on assumptions related to revenue growth, discount rates, synergies achieved on acquisition and the availability of comparable acquisition data. Changes in any of these assumptions would affect the determination of fair value for each of the business units in a different manner. Management must exercise judgment and make assumptions in determining fair value less costs to sell, and differences in judgment and assumptions could affect the determination of fair value and any resulting impairment write-down.

Intangible assets with a definite-life are amortized to income on either a straight-line or an accelerated basis over a period not exceeding 15 years, depending on the nature of the asset. We test definite-life intangible assets for impairment when circumstances indicate the carrying value may not be recoverable. Indefinite-life intangible assets are tested annually for impairment. If any intangible assets are determined to be impaired, we write them down to their recoverable amount, the higher of value in use and fair value less costs to sell, when this is less than the carrying value.

Additional information regarding goodwill and intangible assets is included in Note 11.

Purchased Loans

Purchased loans are initially measured at fair value and are identified as either purchased performing loans or purchased credit impaired loans ("PCI loans") at the time of acquisition. The determination of fair value involves estimating the expected cash flows to be received and determining the discount rate to be applied to the cash flows from the purchased loan portfolio. In determining the discount rate, we consider various factors, including our cost to raise funds in the current market, the risk premium associated with the loans and the cost to service the portfolios. PCI loans are those where the timely collection of principal and interest was no longer reasonably assured as at the date of acquisition. We regularly evaluate what we expect to collect on PCI loans. Changes in expected cash flows could result in the recognition of impairment or a recovery through the provision for credit losses. Estimating the timing and amount of cash flows requires significant management judgment regarding key assumptions, including the probability of default, severity of loss, timing of payment receipts and valuation of collateral. All of these factors are inherently subjective and can result in significant changes in cash flow estimates over the term of a loan.

Insurance-Related Liabilities

Insurance claims and policy benefit liabilities represent current claims and estimates of future insurance policy benefit liabilities. Liabilities for life insurance contracts are determined using the Canadian Asset Liability Method, which incorporates best-estimate assumptions for mortality, morbidity, policy lapses, surrenders, future investment yields, policy dividends, administration costs and margins for adverse deviation. These assumptions are reviewed at least annually and updated to reflect actual experience and market conditions. The most significant impact on the valuation of a liability would result from a change in the assumption for future investment yields.

Additional information regarding insurance-related liabilities is included in Note 14.

Provisions

The bank and its subsidiaries are involved in various legal actions in the ordinary course of business.

Provisions are recorded at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle any obligations related to these legal actions as at the balance sheet date, taking into account the risks and uncertainties associated with the obligation. Factors considered in making the assessment include: a case-by-case assessment of specific facts and circumstances, our past experience and the opinions of legal experts. Management and external experts are involved in estimating any provisions. The actual costs of resolving these claims may be substantially higher or lower than the amounts of the provisions. Additional information regarding provisions is included in Note 25.

Transfer of Financial Assets and Consolidation of Structured Entities

We sell Canadian mortgage loans to third-party Canadian securitization programs, including the Canada Mortgage Bond program, and directly to third-party investors under the National Housing Act Mortgage-Backed Securities program. We assess whether substantially all of the risks and rewards of the loans have been transferred to determine if they qualify for derecognition. Since we continue to be exposed to substantially all of the repayment, interest rate and/or credit risk associated with the securitized loans, they do not qualify for derecognition. We continue to recognize the loans and the related cash proceeds as secured financings in our Consolidated Balance Sheet. We use securitization vehicles to securitize our Canadian credit card loans, Canadian real estate lines of credit and Canadian auto loans in order to obtain alternate sources of funding. The structure of these vehicles limits the activities they can undertake and the types of assets they can hold, and the vehicles have limited decision-making authority. The vehicles issue term asset-backed securities to fund their activities. We control and consolidate these vehicles, as we have the key decision-making powers necessary to obtain the majority of the benefits of their activities.

For most of our subsidiaries, control is determined based on holding the majority of the voting rights. For certain investments in limited partnerships, we exercise judgment in determining whether we control an entity. Based on an assessment of our interests and rights, we have determined that we do not control certain entities, even though we may have an ownership interest greater than 50%. This may be the case when we are not the general partner in an arrangement and the general partner's rights most significantly affect the returns of the entity. Additionally, we have determined that we control certain entities despite having an ownership interest less than 50%. This may be the case when we are the general partner in an arrangement and the general partner's rights most significantly affect the returns of the entity.

Transferred assets are discussed in greater detail in Note 6 and structured entities are discussed in greater detail in Note 7.

Future Changes in IFRS

Financial Instruments

In July 2014, the IASB issued IFRS 9 *Financial Instruments* ("IFRS 9"), which addresses impairment, classification and measurement, and hedge accounting. At the direction of our regulator, OSFI, IFRS 9 is effective for our fiscal year beginning November 1, 2017. Additional guidance relating to the adoption of IFRS 9 has been provided by OSFI in its *Guideline – IFRS 9 Financial Instruments and Disclosures* ("OSFI Guideline").

Based on October 31, 2017 data and current implementation status, we estimate the adoption of IFRS 9 will lead to an increase in shareholders' equity of approximately \$100 million before tax (\$65 million after tax) driven by the impairment requirements of IFRS 9. We continue to refine and monitor certain aspects of our impairment process which may change the actual impact on adoption.

Impairment

IFRS 9 introduces a new expected credit loss ("ECL") impairment model for all financial assets and certain off-balance sheet loan commitments and guarantees. The new ECL model will result in an allowance for credit losses being recorded on financial assets regardless of whether there has been an actual loss event. This differs from the current approach where the allowance recorded on performing loans is designed to capture only losses that have been incurred whether or not they have been specifically identified. The most significant impact will be on the loan portfolio.

The expected credit loss model requires the recognition of credit losses based on 12 months of expected losses for performing loans and the recognition of lifetime expected losses on loans that have experienced a significant increase in credit risk since origination. The determination of a significant increase in credit risk takes into account many different factors and will vary by product and risk segment. The main factors considered in making this determination are relative changes in probability-weighted probability of default since origination and certain criteria such as 30-day past due and watch-list status. The assessment of a significant increase in credit risk will require experienced credit judgment.

Impaired loans require recognition of lifetime losses and are expected to be similar to our current specific allowance.

IFRS 9 requires consideration of past events, current market conditions and reasonable and supportable information about future economic conditions, in determining whether there has been a significant increase in credit risk, and in calculating the amount of expected losses.

Classification and Measurement

The new standard requires that we classify debt instruments based on our business model for managing the asset and the contractual cash flow characteristics of the asset. The business model test determines the classification based on the business purpose for holding the asset. Generally, debt instruments will be measured at fair value through profit or loss unless certain conditions are met that permit fair value through other comprehensive income ("FVOCI") or amortized cost. Debt instruments that have contractual cash flows representing only payments of principal and interest will be eligible for classification as FVOCI or amortized cost. Gains and losses recorded in other comprehensive income for debt instruments will be recognized in profit or loss on disposal.

In fiscal 2015, the bank early adopted the provisions relating to the recognition of changes in own credit risk for financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss, as permitted by IFRS 9. Additional information regarding changes in own credit risk is included in Notes 13 and 14.

Hedge Accounting

IFRS 9 introduces a new hedge accounting model that expands the scope of hedged items and risks eligible for hedge accounting and aligns hedge accounting more closely with risk management. The new model no longer specifies quantitative measures for effectiveness testing and does not permit hedge de-designation. IFRS 9 includes a policy choice that allows us to continue to apply the existing hedge accounting rules. The bank will not adopt the hedge accounting provisions of IFRS 9; however, as required by the standard, we will adopt the new hedge accounting disclosures.

Leases

In January 2016, the IASB issued IFRS 16 *Leases* ("IFRS 16"), which provides guidance for leases whereby lessees will recognize a liability for the present value of future lease liabilities and record a corresponding asset on the balance sheet for most leases. There are minimal changes to lessor accounting. IFRS 16 is effective for our fiscal year beginning November 1, 2019. Early adoption is permitted, provided IFRS 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* has been adopted. In order to meet the requirements of IFRS 16, we have established an enterprise-wide project and are currently assessing the impact of the standard on our future financial results.

Statement of Cash Flows

In January 2016, the IASB issued amendments to IAS 7 *Statement of Cash Flows* ("IAS 7"), which will require specific disclosures for movements in liabilities arising from financing activities on the statement of cash flows. We do not expect the amendments to have a significant impact on our consolidated financial statements. These amendments will be effective for our fiscal year beginning November 1, 2017.

Revenue

In May 2014, the IASB issued IFRS 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* ("IFRS 15"), which replaces the existing standards for revenue recognition. The new standard establishes a framework for the recognition and measurement of revenues generated from contracts with customers, providing a principles-based approach for revenue recognition, and introducing the concept of recognizing revenue for performance obligations as they are satisfied. Revenues outside of the scope of IFRS 15 include interest and dividend income, trading revenues, securities gains/losses, insurance revenues and lease income. The standard also requires additional disclosures about the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of revenues and cash flows arising from transactions with our customers.

In April 2016, the IASB issued clarifications to IFRS 15, which provide additional clarity on revenue recognition related to identifying performance obligations, application guidance on principal versus agent and licences of intellectual property.

In order to meet the requirements of IFRS 15, we have established an enterprise-wide project and are currently evaluating the impact of adoption. As the majority of our revenue streams are outside the scope of the new standard, we do not expect a significant impact on our future financial results from the adoption of the new standard.

IFRS 15 is effective for our fiscal year beginning November 1, 2018. On transition, we can either restate prior periods as if we had always applied IFRS 15 or alternatively, we can recognize the cumulative effect of any changes resulting from our adoption of IFRS 15 in opening retained earnings with no comparison for prior years. We are assessing our transition approach as part of our project.

Share-based Payment

In June 2016, the IASB issued amendments to IFRS 2 *Share-based Payment* ("IFRS 2") in relation to the classification and measurement of share-based payment transactions. We do not expect the amendments to have a significant impact on our consolidated financial statements. The amendments are effective for our fiscal year beginning November 1, 2018.

Insurance Contracts

In May 2017, the IASB issued IFRS 17 *Insurance Contracts* ("IFRS 17"), which provides a comprehensive approach for all types of insurance contracts and will replace the existing IFRS 4 *Insurance Contracts*. We will be adopting IFRS 17 effective for our fiscal year beginning November 1, 2021. We are currently assessing the impact of the standard on our future financial results.
