

BMO Nesbitt Burns Celebrates 100 Years Built On Trusted Relationships

- *From its founding in 1912, the firm's success has been based on a commitment to the client-advisor relationship and helping Canadians reach their financial goals*
- *Nesbitt Thomson was acquired by BMO Financial Group in 1987; joined forces with Burns Fry Ltd. in 1994 to create BMO Nesbitt Burns*
- *Today, BMO Nesbitt Burns has almost 1,400 investment advisors serving the needs of more than 200,000 individuals and businesses across Canada*

TORONTO, May 9, 2012 – BMO Nesbitt Burns today celebrates its 100th anniversary, a major milestone for one of the largest wealth advisory firms in Canada.

"This is a truly momentous occasion for our organization," said Jacques Ménard, Chairman, BMO Nesbitt Burns and President, BMO Financial Group, Quebec. "We take pride in our heritage and have remained committed to the highest standards in helping our clients reach their financial objectives."

"Through its expertise and dedication, BMO Nesbitt Burns has continually evolved throughout the years to meet the needs of our clients and adapt to industry and market changes," continued Mr. Ménard. "Our firm, along with its predecessors, has demonstrated its strength and endurance as a market leader throughout key world events, including the Great Depression, two World Wars and various market conditions."

Investment firm Nesbitt Thomson was established in May 9, 1912 with the objective of assisting the development of electric utilities and, during the First World War, focused on raising money for the war effort through the issuance of Victory Bonds. The company grew to become a household name and, in 1987, was acquired by BMO Financial Group, the first bank/broker merger in the Canadian financial services sector.

In 1994, the firm joined forces with Burns Fry Ltd. to create BMO Nesbitt Burns. Today BMO Nesbitt Burns has almost 1,400 investment advisors serving the needs of more than 200,000 individuals and businesses across Canada.

"From its inception, our firm has always held an unwavering belief in the power of the client-advisor relationship," said Charyl Galpin, Co-Head, Private Client Division, BMO Nesbitt Burns. "Our business thrives on helping our clients reach their life goals, which is why building trusted and meaningful relationships is such a critical priority for us."

"A large part of our success is based on the hard working individuals that make up our team," said Richard Mills, Co-Head, Private Client Division, BMO Nesbitt Burns. "Our organization remains unified in our drive, passion, focus and commitment to delivering an extraordinary client experience."

100 Years Built on Trusted Relationships: BMO Nesbitt Burns' Key Milestones

1912- A.J. Nesbitt of Montreal and P.A. Thomson of Hamilton founded investment firm Nesbitt Thomson

1930s- The firm helps its clients weather the Great Depression and shows its commitment to its employees by providing steady employment and avoiding any lay-offs during this turbulent period

1940s- Nesbitt Thomson adapts its capabilities to meet national needs during World War Two

1977- Nesbitt Thomson merges with Bongard, Leslie & Co. of Montreal

1987- BMO Financial Group acquires Nesbitt Thomson, the first of what would become many broker/bank mergers in the Canadian financial services sector

1994- Nesbitt Thomson merges with Burns Fry Limited to create BMO Nesbitt Burns

2000- The corporate banking arm of Harris Bank (a U.S. subsidiary of BMO) merges with the U.S. investment banking capabilities of Nesbitt Burns

2003- BMO acquires Gerard Klauer Mattison & Co. of New York City, providing Harris Nesbitt with a U.S. based equity research and institutional sales and trading platform

2012- BMO Nesbitt Burns celebrates 100 years built on trusted relationships

For more information on BMO Nesbitt Burns, visit: www.bmo.com/nesbittburns

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About BMO Nesbitt Burns

Backed by the experience, stability and resources of BMO Financial Group, BMO Nesbitt Burns is a full-service investment firm with an extensive network of approximately 1,400 Investment Advisors at 76 branches across Canada. The origins of BMO Nesbitt Burns' predecessor firms date back to 1912. In 1987, BMO Bank of Montreal acquired Nesbitt Thomson, then one of Canada's oldest and most respected investment houses. In 1994, BMO Bank of Montreal also acquired Burns Fry, one of the largest dealers of Canadian equities and debt securities. Nesbitt Thomson and Burns Fry then merged to become BMO Nesbitt Burns.

-30-

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