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Market-Linked Step Up Notes Linked to One or More Equity Indices or Exchange Traded Funds

Market-Linked Step Up Notes (the "notes") are senior unsecured debt securities issued by The Bank of Nova Scotia (the "Bank"). Any payments due on the notes, including any repayment of principal, will be subject to the credit risk of the Bank.

The notes do not guarantee the return of principal at maturity, and we will not pay interest on the notes. Instead, the return on the notes will be based on the performance of an underlying "Market Measure," which will be an equity index (an "Index"), an exchange traded fund (an "Underlying Fund"), or a basket of the foregoing.

The notes provide an opportunity to receive the greater of a fixed return or a return based on the positive performance of the Market Measure. However, you will be exposed to any negative performance of the Market Measure below the Threshold Value (as defined below) on a 1-to-1 basis. If specified in the applicable term sheet, your notes may be subject to an automatic call, which will limit your return to a fixed amount if the notes are called.

If the value of the Market Measure does not change or increases from its Starting Value to its Ending Value up to and including the Step Up Value (each as defined below), you will receive at maturity a cash payment per unit (the "Redemption Amount") that equals the principal amount plus the Step Up Payment (as defined below). If the Ending Value is greater than the Step Up Value, you will receive a return on the notes equal to the percentage increase in the value of the Market Measure from the Starting Value to the Ending Value or, if applicable, a multiple of that percentage.

If the value of the Market Measure decreases from its Starting Value to its Ending Value but not below the Threshold Value, then the Redemption Amount will equal the principal amount. However, if the Ending Value is less than the Threshold Value, you will be subject to 1-to-1 downside exposure to the decrease of the Market Measure below the Threshold Value. In such case, you may lose all or a significant portion of the principal amount of your notes.

If specified in the applicable term sheet, your notes may be subject to an automatic call. In that case, the notes will be automatically called if the Observation Level on any Observation Date is greater than or equal to the Call Level (each as defined below). If called, you will receive a cash payment per unit (the "Call Amount") that equals the principal amount plus the applicable Call Premium (as defined below).

This product prospectus supplement describes the general terms of the notes, the risk factors to consider before investing, the general manner in which they may be offered and sold, and other relevant information.

For each offering of the notes, we will provide you with a pricing supplement (which we refer to as a "term sheet") that will describe the specific terms of that offering, including the specific Market Measure, the Step Up Value, the Step Up Payment, the Threshold Value,

and certain related risk factors, and if the notes are subject to an automatic call, the Call Level, the Call Amount and the Call Premium for each Observation Date. The term sheet will identify, if applicable, any additions or changes to the terms specified in this product prospectus supplement.

The notes will be issued in denominations of whole units. Unless otherwise set forth in the applicable term sheet, each unit will have a principal amount of \$10. The term sheet may also set forth a minimum number of units that you must purchase.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable term sheet, the notes will not be listed on a securities exchange or quotation system.

Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated ("MLPF&S") and one or more of its affiliates may act as our agents to offer the notes and MLPF&S will act in a principal capacity in such role.

The notes are unsecured and are not savings accounts or insured deposits of a bank. The notes are not insured by the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation, the U.S. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (the "FDIC") or any other governmental agency of the United States, Canada, or any other jurisdiction. Potential purchasers of the notes should consider the information in "Risk Factors" beginning on page PS-7 of this product prospectus supplement, page S-2 of the accompanying prospectus supplement, and page 5 of the accompanying prospectus. You may lose all or a significant portion of your investment in the notes.

None of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), any state securities commission, or any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this product prospectus supplement, the prospectus supplement, or the prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

Merrill Lynch & Co.

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SUMMARY

General:

The information in this "Summary" section is qualified in its entirety by the more detailed explanation set forth elsewhere in this product prospectus supplement, the prospectus supplement, and the prospectus, as well as the applicable term sheet. Neither we nor MLPF&S have authorized any other person to provide you with any information different from the information set forth in these documents. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information about the notes, you should not rely on it. **Key Terms:**

> The notes are senior unsecured debt securities issued by the Bank, are not guaranteed or insured by the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation or the FDIC, and are not, either directly or indirectly, an obligation of any third party. They rank equally with all of our other senior unsecured debt from time to time outstanding. Any payments due on the notes, including any repayment of principal, are subject to our credit risk.

> The return on the notes will be based on the performance of a Market Measure and there is no guaranteed return of principal at maturity. Therefore, you may lose all or a significant portion of your investment if the notes are not automatically called prior to maturity, if applicable, and the value of the Market Measure decreases from the Starting Value to an Ending Value that is less than the Threshold Value.

Each issue of the notes will mature on the date set forth in the applicable term sheet, unless, if applicable, the notes are automatically called on an earlier date. You should be aware that if the automatic call feature applies to your notes, it may shorten the term of an investment in the notes, and you must be willing to accept that your notes may be called prior to maturity.

You will not receive any interest payments.

The Market Measure may consist of one or more of the following:

- · Underlying Funds;
- · U.S. broad-based equity indices;
- · U.S. sector or style based equity indices;
- non-U.S. or global equity indices; or

Market Measure: any combination of the above.

The Market Measure may consist of a group, or "Basket," of the foregoing. We refer to each Index or Underlying Fund included in any Basket as a "Basket Component." If the Market Measure to which your notes are linked is a Basket, the Basket Components will be set forth in the applicable term sheet.

The performance of the Market Measure will be measured according to the percentage change of the Market Measure from its Starting Value to its Ending Value or, if applicable, its Observation Level.

Market Measure Performance:

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable term sheet:

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In the case of an Index, the "Starting Value" will be the closing level of the Index on the date when the notes are priced for initial sale to the public (the "pricing date").

In the case of an Underlying Fund, the "Starting Value" will be the Closing Market Price, as defined under "Description of the Notes— Closing Market Price for Underlying Funds", of the Underlying Fund on the pricing date.

If the Market Measure consists of a Basket, the Starting Value will be equal to 100. See "Description of the Notes—Basket Market Measures."

The "Threshold Value" will be a value of the Market Measure that equals a specified percentage (100% or less) of the Starting Value. The Threshold Value will be determined on the pricing date and set forth in the term sheet. If the Threshold Value is equal to 100% of the Starting Value, you will be exposed to any decrease in the value of the Market Measure from the Starting Value to the Ending Value on a 1-to-1 basis, and you may lose all of your investment in the notes.

In the case of an Index, the "Ending Value" will equal the closing level of the Index on the calculation day (as defined below).

In the case of an Underlying Fund, the "Ending Value" will equal the Closing Market Price of the Underlying Fund on the calculation day.

If the applicable term sheet specifies that the notes will be subject to an automatic call:

The "Call Level" will be a value of the Market Measure that equals a specified percentage of the Starting Value.

In the case of an Index, the "Observation Level" will equal the closing level of the Index on the applicable Observation Date. In the case of an Underlying Fund, the Observation Level will equal the Closing Market Price of the Underlying Fund on the applicable Observation Date multiplied by the Price Multiplier (as defined below) on that day. The "Observation Dates" will be set forth in the applicable term sheet, subject to postponement in the event of Market Disruption Events (as defined below). The final Observation Date will be prior to the calculation day. See "Description of the Notes—Automatic Call."

If the Market Measure consists of a Basket, the Ending Value will be the value of the Basket on the calculation day, and if applicable, each Observation Level will be the value of the Basket on the applicable Observation Date, determined as described in "Description of the Notes—Basket Market Measures—Observation Level or Ending Value of the Basket."

If a Market Disruption Event (as defined under "Description of the Notes—Market Disruption Events") occurs and is continuing on the calculation day or an Observation Date, if applicable, or if certain other events occur, the calculation agent will determine the Ending Value or Observation Level as set forth in the section "Description of the Notes—Automatic Call," "—The Starting Value, the Observation Level and the Ending Value—Ending Value," and "—Basket Market Measures—Observation Level or Ending Value of the Basket."

Step Up A value of the Market Measure that is a specified percentage (over 100%) of the Starting Value, as set forth Value:

Step Up Payment: A dollar amount that will be equal to a percentage of the principal amount. This percentage will equal the percentage by which the Step Up Value is greater than the Starting Value. The Step Up Payment will be determined on the pricing date and set forth in the applicable term sheet.

Price Multiplier: Unless otherwise set forth in the term sheet, the "Price Multiplier" for each Underlying Fund will be 1, and will be subject to adjustment for certain events relating to an Underlying Fund described below under "Description of the Notes—Anti-Dilution and Discontinuance Adjustments Relating to Underlying Funds."

Unless the notes are subject to an automatic call and are automatically called prior to the maturity date, at maturity, you will receive a Redemption Amount that is greater than the principal amount if the value of the Market Measure does not change or increases from the Starting Value to the Ending Value. If the value of the Market Measure decreases from the Starting Value to the Ending Value but not below the Threshold Value, you will receive a Redemption Amount equal to the principal amount. If the Ending Value is less than the Threshold Value, you will be subject to 1-to-1 downside exposure to the decrease in the value of the Market Measure below the Threshold Value, and will receive a Redemption Amount that is less than the principal amount and, if the Threshold Value is equal to 100% of the Starting Value, could be zero.

Redemption Amount at Maturity:

Any payments due on the notes, including any repayment of principal, are subject to our credit risk as issuer of the notes.

The Redemption Amount, denominated in U.S. dollars, will be calculated as follows:

If specified in the term sheet, your notes may provide at maturity a leveraged return if the Ending Value is greater than the Step Up Value. In this case, a Participation Rate (as defined below) will be specified in the term sheet.

Participation Rate:

The Participation Rate, if applicable, will be set forth in the applicable term sheet and is the rate at which investors participate in any increase in the value of the Market Measure if the Ending Value is greater than the Step Up Value.

Automatic Call Prior to Maturity: If specified in the applicable term sheet, your notes may be subject to an automatic call. In that case, the notes will be automatically called on an Observation Date if the Observation Level of the Market Measure on that Observation Date is greater than or equal to the Call Level. If not called, see "Redemption Amount at Maturity" above.

Call Amount:

the Call Amount applicable to that Observation Date. The Call Amount will be equal to the principal amount per unit plus the applicable "Call Premium." Each Call Premium will be a percentage of the principal amount and will be set forth in the applicable term sheet. The Call Amount, if payable, will be payable on the applicable "Call Settlement Date" set forth in the applicable term sheet. You may lose all or a significant portion of the principal amount of the notes. Further, if you sell your

If your notes are subject to an automatic call and are called on an Observation Date, you will receive

Principal at Risk:

notes prior to maturity, you may find that the market value per note is less than the price that you paid for the notes.

Calculation Agent:

The calculation agent will make all determinations associated with the notes. Unless otherwise set forth in the applicable term sheet, we will appoint MLPF&S or one of its affiliates to act as calculation agent for the notes. See the section entitled "Description of the Notes—Role of the Calculation Agent."

Agents:

MLPF&S and one or more of its affiliates will act as our agents in connection with each offering of the notes and will receive an underwriting discount based on the number of units of the notes sold. None of the agents is your fiduciary or advisor solely as a result of the making of any offering of the notes, and you should not rely upon this product prospectus supplement, the term sheet, or the accompanying prospectus or prospectus supplement as investment advice or a recommendation to purchase the notes.

Listing:

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable term sheet, the notes will not be listed on a securities exchange or quotation system.

This product prospectus supplement relates only to the notes and does not relate to any Index or Underlying Fund that composes the Market Measure described in any term sheet. You should read carefully the entire prospectus, prospectus supplement, and this product prospectus supplement, together with the applicable term sheet, to understand fully the terms of your notes, as well as the tax and other considerations important to you in making a decision about whether to invest in any notes. In particular, you should review carefully the sections in this product prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus supplement and prospectus entitled "Risk Factors," which highlight a number of risks of an investment in the notes, to determine whether an investment in the notes is appropriate for you. If information in this product prospectus supplement is inconsistent with the prospectus or prospectus supplement, this product prospectus supplement will supersede those documents. However, if information in any term sheet is inconsistent with this product prospectus supplement, that term sheet will supersede this product prospectus supplement. For example, we may offer notes in which the Step Up Payment will be paid if the Ending Value equals or exceeds the Threshold Value. You should carefully review the applicable term sheet to understand the specific terms of your notes.

Neither we nor any agent is making an offer to sell the notes in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Certain capitalized terms used and not defined in this product prospectus supplement have the meanings ascribed to them in the prospectus supplement and prospectus. Unless otherwise indicated or unless the context requires otherwise, all references in this product prospectus supplement to "we," "us," "our," or similar references are to the Bank. You are urged to consult with your own attorneys and business and tax advisors before making a decision to purchase any notes.

RISK FACTORS

Your investment in the notes is subject to investment risks, many of which differ from those of a conventional debt security. Your decision to purchase the notes should be made only after carefully considering the risks, including those discussed below, in light of your particular circumstances. The notes are not an appropriate investment for you if you are not knowledgeable about the material terms of the notes or investments in equity or equity-based securities in general.

General Risks Relating to the Notes

Your investment may result in a loss; there is no guaranteed return of principal. There is no fixed principal repayment amount on the notes at maturity. The return on the notes will be based on the performance of the Market Measure and therefore, you may lose all or a significant portion of your investment if the notes are not automatically called, if applicable, and if the value of the Market Measure decreases from the Starting Value to an Ending Value that is less than the Threshold Value. If the Threshold Value is equal to 100% of the Starting Value, the Redemption Amount could be zero and you may lose all of your investment in the notes.

Your return on the notes may be less than the yield on a conventional fixed or floating rate debt security of comparable maturity. There will be no periodic interest payments on the notes as there would be on a conventional fixed-rate or floating-rate debt security having the same maturity. Any return that you receive on the notes may be less than the return you would earn if you purchased a conventional debt security with the same maturity date. As a result, your investment in the notes may not reflect the full opportunity cost to you when you consider factors, such as inflation, that affect the time value of money.

Your investment return may be less than a comparable investment directly in an Underlying Fund or the securities included in the Market Measure, as applicable. Unless otherwise set forth in the applicable term sheet, the value of the Market Measure will not reflect the value of dividends paid, or distributions made, on an Underlying Fund or the securities included in the Market Measure or any other rights associated with those securities. Thus, any return on the notes will not reflect the return you would realize if you actually owned the securities underlying the Market Measure.

Additionally, the Market Measure may consist of one or more Indices or Underlying Funds that include securities traded in a non-U.S. currency. If any such Indices are calculated in such non-U.S. currency and the value of that currency strengthens against the U.S. dollar during the term of your notes, you may not obtain the benefit of that increase, which you would have received if you had owned the securities included in those Indices.

If the notes are subject to an automatic call and are called prior to maturity, your investment return will be limited to the return represented by the Call Premium. If the notes are subject to an automatic call, and if the Observation Level of the Market Measure on an Observation Date is greater than or equal to the specified Call Level, we will automatically call the notes. If the notes are automatically called, your return will be limited to the applicable Call Premium, regardless of the extent of the increase in the value of the Market Measure.

Reinvestment Risk. If the notes are subject to an automatic call and are automatically called prior to maturity, the term of the notes will be short. There is no guarantee that you would be able to reinvest the proceeds from an investment in the notes at a comparable return for a similar level of risk in the event the notes are called prior to maturity.

Payments on the notes are subject to our credit risk, and actual or perceived changes in our creditworthiness are expected to affect the value of the notes. The notes are our senior unsecured debt securities, and are not, either directly or indirectly, an obligation of any third party. As a result, your receipt of any payment on the notes is dependent upon our ability to repay our obligations on the applicable payment date, regardless of whether the Market Measure increases from the Starting Value to the Ending Value, or the Observation Level, if applicable. No assurance can be given as to what our financial condition will be on the applicable payment date. If we become unable to meet our financial obligations as they become due, you may not receive the amount payable under the terms of the notes.

In addition, our credit ratings are an assessment by ratings agencies of our ability to pay our obligations. Consequently, our perceived creditworthiness and actual or anticipated decreases in our credit ratings or increases in the spread between the yield on our securities and the yield on U.S. Treasury securities (the "**credit spread**") prior to the maturity date may adversely affect the market value of the notes. However, because your return on the notes depends upon factors in addition to our ability to pay our obligations, such as the value of the Market Measure, an improvement in our credit ratings will not reduce the other investment risks related to the notes.

Our initial estimated value of the notes will be lower than the public offering price of the notes. Our initial estimated value of the notes is only an estimate. The public offering price of the notes will exceed our initial estimated value because it includes costs associated with selling and structuring the notes, as well as hedging our obligations under the notes with a third party, which may include MLPF&S or one of its affiliates. These costs include the underwriting discount and an expected hedging related charge.

Our initial estimated value of the notes does not represent future values of the notes and may differ from others' estimates. Our initial estimated value of the notes is determined by reference to our internal pricing models when the terms of the notes are set. These pricing models consider certain factors, such as our internal funding rate (which is the rate we would pay to borrow funds through the issuance of market-linked notes, such as the notes) on the pricing date, the expected term of the notes, market conditions and other relevant factors existing at that time, and our assumptions about market parameters, which can include volatility, dividend rates, interest rates and other factors. Different pricing models and assumptions could provide valuations for the notes that are different from our initial estimated value. In addition, market conditions and other relevant factors in the future may change, and any of our assumptions may prove to be incorrect. On future dates, the market value of the notes could change significantly based on, among other things, the performance of the Market Measure, changes in market conditions, our creditworthiness, interest rate movements and other relevant factors. These factors, together with various credit, market and economic factors over the term of the notes, are expected to reduce the price at which you may be able to sell the notes in any secondary market and will affect the value of the notes in complex and unpredictable ways. Our initial estimated value does not represent a minimum price at which we or any agents would be willing to buy your notes in any secondary market (if any exists) at any time.

Our initial estimated value is not determined by reference to credit spreads or the borrowing rate we would pay for our conventional fixed-rate debt securities. The internal funding rate used in the determination of our initial estimated value of the notes generally represents a discount from the credit spreads for our conventional fixed-rate debt securities and the borrowing rate we would pay for our conventional fixed-rate debt securities. If we were to use the interest rate implied by the credit spreads for our conventional fixed-rate debt securities, or the borrowing rate we would pay for our conventional fixed-rate debt securities, we would expect the economic

terms of the notes to be more favorable to you. Consequently, our use of an internal funding rate for the notes would have an adverse effect on the economic terms of the notes, the initial estimated value of the notes on the pricing date, and the price at which you may be able to sell the notes in any secondary market.

We cannot assure you that there will be a trading market for your notes. If a secondary market exists, we cannot predict how the notes will trade, or whether that market will be liquid or illiquid. The development of a trading market for the notes will depend on various factors, including our financial performance and changes in the value of the Market Measure. The number of potential buyers of your notes in any secondary market may be limited. There is no assurance that any party will be willing to purchase your notes at any price in any secondary market.

We anticipate that one or more of the agents or their affiliates will act as a market-maker for the notes, but none of them is required to do so and may cease to do so at any time. Any price at which an agent or its affiliate may bid for, offer, purchase, or sell any of the notes may be higher or lower than the applicable public offering price, and that price may differ from the values determined by pricing models that it may use, whether as a result of dealer discounts, mark-ups, or other transaction costs. These bids, offers, or transactions may adversely affect the prices, if any, at which those notes might otherwise trade in the market. In addition, if at any time any entity were to cease acting as a market-maker for any issue of the notes, it is likely that there would be significantly less liquidity in that secondary market. In such case, the price at which those notes could be sold likely would be lower than if an active market existed.

Unless otherwise stated in the term sheet, we will not list the notes on any securities exchange or quotation system. Even if an application were made to list your notes, we cannot assure you that the application will be approved or that your notes will be listed and, if listed, that they will remain listed for their entire term. The listing of the notes on any securities exchange or quotation system will not necessarily ensure that a trading market will develop, and if a trading market does develop, that there will be liquidity in the trading market.

Payment on the notes will not reflect changes in the value of the Market Measure other than on the calculation day or the Observation Dates, if applicable. Changes in the value of the Market Measure during the term of the notes other than on the calculation day, or the Observation Dates, if applicable, will not be reflected in the calculation of the Redemption Amount or the determination of whether the notes will be automatically called, if applicable. To make that calculation or determination, the calculation agent will refer only to the value of the Market Measure on the calculation day, or the Observation Dates, if applicable. No other values of the Market Measure will be taken into account. As a result, even if the value of the Market Measure has increased at certain times during the term of the notes, your notes will not be called if the Observation Level on each Observation Date is less than the Call Level, if applicable, and you will receive a Redemption Amount that is less than the principal amount if the Ending Value is less than the Threshold Value.

If your notes are linked to a Basket, changes in the levels of one or more of the Basket Components may be offset by changes in the levels of one or more of the other Basket Components. The Market Measure of your notes may be a Basket. In such case, changes in the levels of one or more of the Basket Components may not correlate with changes in the levels of one or more of the other Basket Components. The values of one or more Basket Components may increase, while the levels of one or more of the other Basket Components may decrease or not increase as much. Therefore, in calculating the value of the Market Measure at any time, increases in the level of one Basket Component may be moderated or wholly offset by decreases or lesser increases in the levels of one or more of the other Basket Components. If the weightings of the applicable Basket Components are not equal, adverse changes in the levels of the Basket Components which are more heavily weighted could have a greater impact upon the return on your notes.

The respective publishers of the applicable Indices may adjust those Indices in a way that affects their levels, and these publishers have no obligation to consider your interests. Unless otherwise specified in the term sheet, we, the agents and our respective affiliates have no affiliation with any publisher of an Index to which your notes are linked (each, an "Index Publisher"). Consequently, we have no control of the actions of any Index Publisher. The Index Publisher can add, delete, or substitute the securities included in that Index or make other methodological changes that could change its level. A new security included in an Index may perform significantly better or worse than the replaced security, and the performance will impact the level of the applicable Index. Additionally, an Index Publisher may alter, discontinue, or suspend calculation or dissemination of an Index. Any of these actions could adversely affect the value of your notes. The Index Publishers will have no obligation to consider your interests in calculating or revising any Index.

Exchange rate movements may adversely impact the value of the notes. If any security included in a Market Measure is traded in a currency other than U.S. dollars and, for purposes of an applicable Index, is converted into U.S. dollars, then the value of the Market Measure may depend in part on the relevant exchange rates. If the value of the U.S. dollar strengthens against the currencies of the applicable Market Measure, the value of the applicable Market Measure may be adversely affected and the payment on the notes may be reduced. Exchange rate movements may be particularly impacted by existing and expected rates of inflation and interest rate levels; political, civil, or military unrest; the balance of payments between countries; and the extent of governmental surpluses or deficits in the relevant countries and the United States. All of these factors are in turn sensitive to the monetary, fiscal, and trade policies pursued by the governments of those countries and the United States and other countries important to international trade and finance.

If you attempt to sell the notes prior to maturity, their market value, if any, will be affected by various factors that interrelate in complex ways, and their market value may be less than the principal amount. The notes are not designed to be short-term trading instruments. The limited protection, if any, against the risk of losses provided by the Threshold Value will only apply if you hold the notes to maturity. You have no right to have your notes redeemed at your option prior to maturity. If you wish to liquidate your investment in the notes prior to maturity, your only option would be to sell them. At that time, there may be an illiquid market for your notes or no market at all. Even if you were able to sell your notes, there are many factors outside of our control that may affect their market value, some of which, but not all, are stated below. The impact of any one factor may be offset or magnified by the effect of another factor. The following paragraphs describe a specific factor's expected impact on the market value of the notes, assuming all other conditions remain constant.

Value of the Market Measure. We anticipate that the market value of the notes prior to maturity generally will depend to a significant extent on the value of the Market Measure. In general, it is expected that the market value of the notes will decrease as the value of the Market Measure decreases, and increase as the value of the Market Measure increases. However, as the value of the Market Measure increases or decreases, the market value of the notes is not expected to increase or decrease at the same rate. If you sell your notes when the value of the Market Measure is less than, or not sufficiently above, the Starting Value, then you may receive less than the principal amount of your notes. In addition, if the notes are subject to an automatic call, because the amount payable on the notes upon an automatic call will not exceed the applicable Call Amount, we do not expect that the notes will trade in any secondary market prior to any Observation Date at a price that is greater than the applicable Call Amount.

Volatility of the Market Measure. Volatility is the term used to describe the size and frequency of market fluctuations. Increases or decreases in the volatility of the Market Measure may have an adverse impact on the market value of the notes. Even if the value of the Market Measure increases after the applicable pricing date, if you are able to sell your notes before their maturity date, you may receive substantially less than the amount that would be payable upon an automatic call, if applicable, or at maturity based on that value because of the anticipation that the value of the Market Measure will continue to fluctuate until the notes are automatically called, if applicable, or the calculation day.

Economic and Other Conditions Generally. The general economic conditions of the capital markets in the United States, as well as geopolitical conditions and other financial, political, regulatory, and judicial events and related uncertainties that affect stock markets generally, may adversely affect the value of the Market Measure and the market value of the notes. If the Market Measure includes one or more indices that have returns that are calculated based upon securities prices in one or more non-U.S. markets (a "non-U.S. Market Measure"), the value of your notes may also be adversely affected by similar events in the markets of the relevant foreign countries.

Interest Rates. We expect that changes in interest rates will affect the market value of the notes. In general, if U.S. interest rates increase, we expect that the market value of the notes will decrease, and conversely, if U.S. interest rates decrease, we expect that the market value of the notes will increase. In general, we expect that the longer the amount of time that remains until maturity, the more significant the impact of these changes will be on the value of the notes. In the case of non-U.S. Market Measures, the level of interest rates in the relevant foreign countries may also affect their economies and in turn the value of the non-U.S. Market Measure, and, thus, the market value of the notes may be adversely affected.

Dividend Yields. In general, if the cumulative dividend yields on the securities included in the Market Measure increase, we anticipate that the market value of the notes will decrease; conversely, if those dividend yields decrease, we anticipate that the market value of your notes will increase.

Exchange Rate Movements and Volatility. If the Market Measure of your notes includes any non-U.S. Market Measures, changes in, and the volatility of, the exchange rates between the U.S. dollar and the relevant non-U.S. currency or currencies could have a negative impact on the value of your notes, and the payment on the notes may depend in part on the relevant exchange rates. In addition, the correlation between the relevant exchange rate and any applicable non-U.S. Market Measure reflects the extent to which a percentage change in that exchange rate corresponds to a percentage change in the applicable non-U.S. Market Measure, and changes in these correlations may have a negative impact on the value of your notes.

Our Financial Condition and Creditworthiness. Our perceived creditworthiness, including any increases in our credit spreads and any actual or anticipated decreases in our credit ratings, may adversely affect the market value of the notes. In general, we expect the longer the amount of time that remains until maturity, the more significant the impact will be on the value of the notes. However, a decrease in our credit spreads or an improvement in our credit ratings will not necessarily increase the market value of the notes.

Time to Maturity or, if Applicable, the Next Observation Date. There may be a disparity between the market value of the notes prior to maturity, or if applicable, prior to an Observation Date, and their value at maturity or as of the next Observation Date, if applicable. This disparity is often called a time "value," "premium," or "discount," and reflects expectations concerning the value of the Market Measure during the term of the

notes. As the time to maturity, or if applicable, the next Observation Date, decreases, this disparity may decrease, such that the value of the notes will approach the expected Redemption Amount to be paid at maturity, or if applicable, the Call Amount to be paid at the next Call Settlement Date.

Trading and hedging activities by us, the agents, and our respective affiliates may affect your return on the notes and their market value. We, the agents, and our respective affiliates may buy or sell the securities included in the Market Measure, or futures, options contracts, or exchange-traded instruments on the Market Measure or its component securities or other instruments whose value is derived from the Market Measure or its component securities. We, the agents, or our respective affiliates may execute such purchases or sales for our own or their own accounts, for business reasons, or in connection with hedging our obligations under the notes. These transactions could affect the value of these securities and, in turn, the value of a Market Measure in a manner that could be adverse to your investment in the notes. On or before the applicable pricing date, any purchases or sales by us (including those for the purpose of hedging some or all of our anticipated exposure in connection with the notes), the agents, and our respective affiliates, or others on our or their behalf may increase the value of a Market Measure or its component securities. Consequently, the values of that Market Measure or the securities included in that Market Measure may decrease subsequent to the pricing date of an issue of the notes, adversely affecting the market value of the notes.

We, the agents, or one or more of our respective affiliates may also engage in hedging activities that could increase the value of the Market Measure on the applicable pricing date. In addition, these activities may decrease the market value of your notes prior to maturity, including on the calculation day, or if applicable, on each Observation Date, and may reduce the payment on the notes. We, the agents, or one or more of our respective affiliates may purchase or otherwise acquire a long or short position in the notes, and may hold or resell the notes. For example, the agents may enter into these transactions in connection with any market making activities in which they engage. We cannot assure you that these activities will not adversely affect the value of the Market Measure, the market value of your notes prior to maturity, or the payment on the notes.

Our trading, hedging and other business activities, and those of the agents or one or more of our respective affiliates, may create conflicts of interest with you. We, the agents, or one or more of our respective affiliates may engage in trading activities related to the Market Measure and to securities included in the Market Measure that are not for your account or on your behalf. We, the agents, or one or more of our respective affiliates also may issue or underwrite other financial instruments with returns based upon the applicable Market Measure. In addition, in the ordinary course of their business activities, the agents and their affiliates may hold and trade our or our affiliates' debt and equity securities (or related derivative securities) and financial instruments (including bank loans) for their own account and for the accounts of their customers. Certain of the agents or their affiliates may also have lending or other capital markets relationships with us. In order to hedge such exposure, the agents may enter into transactions such as the purchase of credit default swaps or the creation of short positions in our or our affiliates' securities, including potentially the notes. Any such positions could adversely affect future trading prices of the notes. These trading and other business activities may present a conflict of interest between your interest in the notes and the interests we, the agents and our respective affiliates may have in our proprietary accounts, in facilitating transactions, including block trades, for our or their other customers, and in accounts under our or their management. These trading and other business activities, if they influence the value of the Market Measure or secondary trading in your notes, could be adverse to your interests as a beneficial owner of the notes.

We, the agents, and our respective affiliates expect to enter into arrangements or adjust or close out existing transactions to hedge our obligations under the notes. We, the

agents, or our respective affiliates also may enter into hedging transactions relating to other notes or instruments that we or they issue, some of which may have returns calculated in a manner related to that of a particular issue of the notes. We may enter into such hedging arrangements with one or more of our subsidiaries or affiliates, or with one or more of the agents or their affiliates. Such a party may enter into additional hedging transactions with other parties relating to the notes and the applicable Market Measure. This hedging activity is expected to result in a profit to those engaging in the hedging activity, which could be more or less than initially expected, but could also result in a loss. We, the agents, and our respective affiliates will price these hedging transactions with the intent to realize a profit, regardless of whether the value of the notes increases or decreases, whether the notes will be automatically called, if applicable, or whether the Redemption Amount on the notes is more or less than the principal amount of the notes. Any profit in connection with such hedging activities will be in addition to any other compensation that we, the agents, and our respective affiliates receive for the sale of the notes, which creates an additional incentive to sell the notes to you.

There may be potential conflicts of interest involving the calculation agent. We have the right to appoint and remove the calculation agent. We expect to appoint MLPF&S or one of its affiliates as the calculation agent for the notes and, as such, it will determine the Starting Value, the Step Up Value, the Threshold Value, the Ending Value, the Redemption Amount, and if applicable, each Observation Level and whether the notes will be automatically called. As the calculation agent, MLPF&S or one of its affiliates will have discretion in making various determinations that affect your notes, such as when a Market Disruption Event occurs or an Index is discontinued. The exercise of this discretion by the calculation agent could adversely affect the value of your notes and may present the calculation agent with a conflict of interest of the kind described under "—Trading and hedging activities by us, the agents, and our respective affiliates may affect your return on the notes and their market value" and "—Our trading, hedging and other business activities, and those of the agents or one or more of our respective affiliates, may create conflicts of interest with you" above.

The U.S. federal income tax consequences of an investment in the notes are uncertain, and may be adverse to a noteholder. Significant aspects of the tax treatment of the notes are uncertain. There is no direct legal authority as to the proper U.S. federal income tax treatment of the notes, and we do not plan to request a ruling from the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS") regarding the tax treatment of the notes, and the IRS or a court may not agree with the tax treatment described in this product prospectus supplement or the term sheet. If the IRS were successful in asserting an alternative treatment for the notes, the timing and/or character of income on the notes could be materially and adversely affected.

Further, there exists a risk (and in certain circumstances, a substantial risk) that an investment in notes that are linked to shares of an Underlying Fund, PFIC, REIT or other "pass-thru entity" or a basket that contains Underlying Funds, PFICs, REITs or other "pass-thru entities" could be treated as a "constructive ownership transaction", which could result in part or all of any long-term capital gain realized by you being recharacterized as ordinary income and subject to an interest charge (or, in the case of a gold or silver Underlying Fund, subject to a maximum tax rate of 28% applicable to "collectibles").

In addition, in 2007, the IRS released Notice 2008-2, which may affect the U.S. federal income tax treatment of "prepaid forward contracts" and similar instruments, and the IRS and the U.S. Treasury Department (the "Treasury") are actively considering various issues relating to such instruments. Any Treasury regulations or other guidance promulgated after consideration of these issues could materially and adversely affect the tax consequences of an investment in certain notes, possibly with retroactive effect.

Prospective investors should review the discussion under "Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences" herein and the discussion in the term sheet relating to an offering of the notes for a discussion of the tax treatment and possible alternative treatments of the notes.

Both U.S. and non-U.S. holders should consult their tax advisors regarding the U.S. federal income tax consequences of an investment in the notes (including possible application of Section 1260, alternative treatments and the issues presented by Notice 2008-2), as well as any tax consequences arising under the laws of any state, local or non-U.S. taxing jurisdiction (including that of any issuer of a Market Measure and/or any component security of a Market Measure, as applicable).

For a more complete discussion of the Canadian federal income tax consequences of investing in the notes, please see "Canadian Taxation" in the accompanying prospectus, "Certain Income Tax Consequences — Certain Canadian Income Tax Considerations" in the accompanying prospectus supplement and any further Canadian tax discussions in the term sheet. You should consult your tax advisors about your own tax situation and the consequences of acquiring, holding and disposing of the notes and receiving the payments that might be due under the notes.

Any conclusion that no portion of the interest paid or credited or deemed to be paid or credited on a note will be "Participating Debt Interest" (as defined below) subject to Canadian withholding tax is based in part on the current published administrative position of the Canada Revenue Agency (the "CRA"). There cannot be any assurance that CRA's current published administrative practice will not be subject to change, including potential expansion in the current administrative interpretation of Participating Debt Interest subject to Canadian withholding tax. If, at any time, the interest paid or credited or deemed to be paid or credited on a note is subject to Canadian withholding tax, you will receive an amount that is less than the Redemption Amount. You should consult your own adviser as to the potential for such withholding and the potential for reduction or refund of part or all of such withholding, including under any bilateral Canadian tax treaty the benefits of which you may be entitled.

Risks Relating to the Market Measures

You must rely on your own evaluation of the merits of an investment linked to the applicable Market Measure. In the ordinary course of business, we, the agents, and our respective affiliates may have expressed views on expected movements in a Market Measure or the securities included in the Market Measure, and may do so in the future. These views or reports may be communicated to our clients and clients of these entities. However, these views are subject to change from time to time. Moreover, other professionals who deal in markets relating to a Market Measure may at any time have significantly different views from our views and the views of these entities. For these reasons, you are encouraged to derive information concerning a Market Measure and its component securities from multiple sources, and you should not rely on our views or the views expressed by these entities.

You will have no rights that a holder of an Underlying Fund or the securities represented by the Market Measure may have, you will have no rights to receive any of the securities represented by the Market Measure, and you will not be entitled to dividends or other distributions by the issuers of these securities. The notes are our debt securities. They are not equity instruments, shares of stock or securities of any other issuer. Investing in the notes will not make you a holder of any Underlying Fund or of the securities represented by the Market Measure. You will not have any voting rights, any rights to receive dividends or other distributions, or any other rights with respect to those securities. As a result, the return on your notes may not reflect the return you would realize if you actually owned those securities and received the dividends paid or other distributions made in

connection with them. Additionally, the levels of certain indices reflect only the prices of the securities included in that Index and do not take into consideration the value of dividends paid on those securities. Your notes will be paid in cash and you have no right to receive any of these securities.

If the Market Measure to which your notes are linked includes equity securities traded on foreign exchanges, your return may be affected by factors affecting international securities markets. The value of securities traded outside of the U.S. may be adversely affected by a variety of factors relating to the relevant securities markets. Factors which could affect those markets, and therefore the return on your notes, include:

Market Liquidity and Volatility. The relevant foreign securities markets may be less liquid and/or more volatile than U.S. or other securities markets and may be affected by market developments in different ways than U.S. or other securities markets.

Political, Economic, and Other Factors. The prices and performance of securities of companies in foreign countries may be affected by political, economic, financial, and social factors in those regions. Direct or indirect government intervention to stabilize a particular securities market and cross-shareholdings in companies in the relevant foreign markets may affect prices and the volume of trading in those markets. In addition, recent or future changes in government, economic, and fiscal policies in the relevant jurisdictions, the possible imposition of, or changes in, currency exchange laws, or other laws or restrictions, and possible fluctuations in the rate of exchange between currencies, are factors that could negatively affect the relevant securities markets. The relevant foreign economies may differ from the U.S. economy in economic factors such as growth of gross national product, rate of inflation, capital reinvestment, resources, and self-sufficiency.

In particular, many emerging nations are undergoing rapid change, involving the restructuring of economic, political, financial and legal systems. Regulatory and tax environments may be subject to change without review or appeal, and many emerging markets suffer from underdevelopment of capital markets and tax systems. In addition, in some of these nations, issuers of the relevant securities face the threat of expropriation of their assets, and/or nationalization of their businesses. The economic and financial data about some of these countries may be unreliable. Additionally, the accounting, auditing and financial reporting standards and requirements applicable to foreign companies may differ from those applicable to U.S. companies.

Publicly Available Information. There is generally less publicly available information about foreign companies than about U.S. companies that are subject to the reporting requirements of the SEC. In addition, accounting, auditing, and financial reporting standards and requirements in foreign countries differ from those applicable to U.S. reporting companies.

Unless otherwise set forth in the applicable term sheet, we and the agents do not control any company included in any Market Measure and have not verified any disclosure made by any other company. We, the agents, or our respective affiliates currently, or in the future may, engage in business with companies included in a Market Measure, and we, the agents, or our respective affiliates may from time to time own securities of companies included in a Market Measure. However, none of us, the agents, or any of our respective affiliates has the ability to control the actions of any of these companies or has undertaken any independent review of, or made any due diligence inquiry with respect to, any of these companies, unless (and only to the extent that) the securities of us, the agents, or our respective affiliates are represented by that Market Measure. In addition, unless otherwise set forth in the applicable term sheet, none of us, the agents, or any of our respective affiliates is

responsible for the calculation of any Index represented by a Market Measure, or any Index underlying an Underlying Fund (an "**Underlying Index**"). Unless otherwise specified therein, any information in the term sheet regarding the Market Measure is derived from publicly available information. You should make your own investigation into the Market Measure.

Unless otherwise set forth in the applicable term sheet, none of the Index Publishers, Underlying Fund investment advisers, publishers of an Underlying Index, their affiliates, or any companies included in the Market Measure will be involved in any offering of the notes or will have any obligation of any sort with respect to the notes. As a result, none of those companies will have any obligation to take your interests as holders of the notes into consideration for any reason, including taking any corporate actions that might adversely affect the value of the securities represented by the Market Measure or the value of the notes.

Our business activities and those of the agents relating to the companies represented by a Market Measure or the notes may create conflicts of interest with you. We, the agents, and our respective affiliates, at the time of any offering of the notes or in the future, may engage in business with the companies represented by the Market Measure, including making loans to, equity investments in, or providing investment banking, asset management, or other services to those companies, their affiliates, and their competitors.

In connection with these activities, any of these entities may receive information about those companies that we will not divulge to you or other third parties. We, the agents, and our respective affiliates have published, and in the future may publish, research reports on one or more of these companies. The agents may also publish research reports relating to our or our affiliates' securities, including the notes. This research is modified from time to time without notice and may express opinions or provide recommendations that are inconsistent with purchasing or holding your notes. Any of these activities may adversely affect the value of the Market Measure and, consequently, the market value of your notes. None of us, the agents, or our respective affiliates makes any representation to any purchasers of the notes regarding any matters whatsoever relating to the issuers of the securities included in a Market Measure. Any prospective purchaser of the notes should undertake an independent investigation of the companies included in the Market Measure to a level that, in its judgment, is appropriate to make an informed decision regarding an investment in the notes. The composition of the Market Measure does not reflect any investment recommendations from us, the agents, or our respective affiliates.

Other Risk Factors Relating to the Applicable Market Measure

The applicable term sheet may set forth additional risk factors as to the Market Measure that you should review prior to purchasing the notes.

Additional Risks Relating to Underlying Funds

There are liquidity and management risks associated with an Underlying Fund. Although shares of any Underlying Fund to which your notes are linked will be listed for trading on a securities exchange and a number of similar products have been traded on various exchanges for varying periods of time, there is no assurance that an active trading market will continue for the shares of that Underlying Fund or that there will be liquidity in the trading market.

Underlying Funds are subject to management risk, which is the risk that the investment adviser's investment strategy, the implementation of which is subject to a number of constraints, may not produce the intended results.

The respective sponsor, publisher, or investment adviser of an Underlying Fund or an Underlying Index (each, a "Market Measure Publisher") may adjust the Underlying

Fund or the Underlying Index in a way that affects its value, and they have no obligation to consider your interests. A Market Measure Publisher can change the investment policies of the applicable Underlying Fund or the policies concerning the calculation of the applicable Underlying Fund's net asset value, or add, delete, or substitute the underlying assets held by the Underlying Fund or the components included in an Underlying Index, as the case may be, or make other methodological changes that could change the value of that Underlying Fund or Underlying Index. Additionally, a Market Measure Publisher may alter, discontinue, or suspend calculation or dissemination of the price of its Underlying Fund, the net asset value of its Underlying Fund, or the level of its Underlying Index, as the case may be. Any of these actions could adversely affect the value of your notes. This could also result in the early redemption of your notes. See "Description of the Notes—Anti-Dilution and Discontinuance Adjustments Relating to Underlying Funds—Discontinuance of or Material Change to an Underlying Fund." The Market Measure Publishers will have no obligation to consider your interests in calculating or revising any Underlying Fund or Underlying Index.

The performance of an Underlying Fund and the performance of its Underlying Index may vary. If an exchange traded fund is designed to track the performance of an Underlying Index, the performance of the Underlying Fund and that of its Underlying Index generally will vary due to, for example, transaction costs, management fees, certain corporate actions, and timing variances. Moreover, it is also possible that the performance of an Underlying Fund may not fully replicate or may, in certain circumstances, diverge significantly from the performance of its Underlying Index. This could be due to, for example, the Underlying Fund not holding all or substantially all of the underlying assets included in the Underlying Index and/or holding assets that are not included in the Underlying Index, the temporary unavailability of certain securities in the secondary market, the performance of any derivative instruments held by the Underlying Fund, differences in trading hours between the Underlying Fund (or the underlying assets held by the Underlying Fund) and the Underlying Index, or due to other circumstances. This variation in performance is called the "tracking error," and, at times, the tracking error may be significant.

In addition, because the shares of an Underlying Fund are traded on a securities exchange and are subject to market supply and investor demand, the market price of one share of the Underlying Fund may differ from its net asset value per share; shares of the Underlying Fund may trade at, above, or below its net asset value per share.

For the foregoing reasons, the performance of an Underlying Fund may not match the performance of its Underlying Index over the same period. Because of this variance, the return on the notes to the extent dependent on the performance of the Underlying Fund may not be the same as an investment directly in the underlying assets included in the Underlying Index or the same as a debt security with a return linked to the performance of the Underlying Index.

Risks associated with the applicable Underlying Index, or underlying assets of an Underlying Fund, will affect the value of that Underlying Fund and hence, the value of the notes. Exchange traded funds are funds which may hold a variety of underlying assets, and which performance may be designed to track the performance of an Underlying Index. While the notes are linked to an Underlying Fund and not to its underlying assets or Underlying Index, risks associated with its underlying assets or Underlying Index will affect the share price of that Underlying Fund and hence the value of the notes. Some of the risks that relate to an Underlying Index include those discussed below in this product supplement in relation to equity based- and commodity-based Underlying Funds, which you should review before investing in the notes.

You will have no rights of a security holder, you will have no rights to receive any shares of any Underlying Fund or any underlying assets held by any Underlying Fund, and you will not be entitled to dividends or other distributions by any Underlying Fund.

The notes are our debt securities. They are not equity instruments, shares of stock, or securities of any other issuer. Investing in the notes will not make you a holder of shares of any Underlying Fund or any of its underlying assets. You will not have any voting rights, any rights to receive dividends or other distributions, any rights against the investment advisor or manager of any Underlying Fund, or any other rights with respect to any Underlying Fund or those underlying assets. As a result, the return on your notes may not reflect the return you would realize if you actually owned shares of the Underlying Fund or its underlying assets and received the dividends paid or other distributions made in connection with them. Your notes will be paid in cash and you have no right to receive delivery of shares of any Underlying Fund or any of its underlying assets.

If an Underlying Fund holds underlying assets traded on foreign exchanges, time zone differences may create discrepancies between the values of those underlying assets and the value of the notes. As a result of the time zone difference, if applicable, between the cities where the underlying assets held by an Underlying Fund trade and the cities in which shares of that Underlying Fund are traded, there may be discrepancies between the values of the relevant underlying assets and the trading prices of that Underlying Fund. In addition, there may be periods when the foreign exchange markets are closed for trading (for example during holidays in a country other than the United States) that may result in the values of the relevant non-U.S. underlying assets remaining unchanged for multiple Market Measure Business Days in the locations where the notes (or any related Underlying Fund) trade. Conversely, there may be periods in which the foreign exchange markets are open, but the securities markets in which the notes (or any related Underlying Fund) trade are closed.

The payment on the notes will not be adjusted for all events that could affect an Underlying Fund. The Price Multiplier(s), the Observation Levels, the Ending Value, the Redemption Amount, and other terms of the notes may be adjusted for the specified events affecting any Underlying Fund, as described in the section entitled "Description of the Notes—Anti-Dilution and Discontinuance Adjustments Relating to Underlying Funds." However, these adjustments do not cover all events that could affect the market price of an Underlying Fund. The occurrence of any event that does not require the calculation agent to adjust the applicable Price Multiplier or the amount paid to you at maturity or upon a call may adversely affect the Closing Market Price of any Underlying Fund, the Observation Levels, the Ending Value, whether the notes will be called, and the Redemption Amount, and, as a result, the market value of the notes.