

CANADIAN IMPERIAL BANK OF COMMERCE /CAN/
Form 424B3
March 28, 2017
Table of Contents

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3)
Registration No. 333-216286

Prospectus Supplement to Prospectus Dated March 28, 2017

CANADIAN IMPERIAL BANK OF COMMERCE

US\$6,000,000,000

Senior Global Medium-Term Notes (Structured Notes)

Terms of Sale

Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (the Bank or CIBC) may from time to time offer and sell notes with various terms, including the following:

- stated maturity of nine months or longer, except that indexed notes may have maturities of less than nine months
- fixed or floating interest rate, zero-coupon or issued with original issue discount
- amount of principal and/or interest may be determined by reference to a market measure consisting of one or more securities, one or more currencies, one or more commodities, any other financial, economic or other measures or instruments including the occurrence or non-occurrence of any event or circumstance, and/or
- ranked as senior indebtedness of the Bank
- redemption at the option of the Bank or the option of the holder
- interest on notes paid monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually
- unless otherwise set forth in the applicable pricing supplement, minimum denominations of \$1,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof (except that non-U.S. investors may be subject to higher minimums)

indices or baskets of any of these items

- book-entry form only through The Depository Trust Company

- denominated in a currency other than U.S. dollars or in a composite currency

- settlement in immediately available funds or by physical delivery

The final terms of each note will be included in a pricing supplement together with, in some cases, an applicable product prospectus supplement and/or an applicable general terms supplement. We refer to pricing supplements, applicable product prospectus supplements, if any, and applicable general terms supplements, if any, as pricing supplements. See Supplemental Plan of Distribution (Conflicts of Interest) for additional information about the agents' commissions. The aggregate initial offering price of the notes is subject to reduction as a result of the sale by the Bank of other debt securities pursuant to another prospectus supplement to the accompanying prospectus.

See Risk Factors beginning on page S-1 to read about factors you should consider before investing in any notes.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of the securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The notes will not constitute deposits insured under the *Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation Act* (Canada) or by the United States Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other Canadian or United States governmental agency or instrumentality.

The Bank may sell the notes directly or through one or more agents or dealers, as described in Supplemental Plan of Distribution (Conflicts of Interest). The agents are not required to sell any particular amount of the notes.

The Bank may use this prospectus supplement in the initial sale of any notes. In addition, CIBC World Markets Corp. or any other affiliate of the Bank may use this prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus in a market-making or other transaction in any note after its initial sale. Unless we or our agent informs the purchaser otherwise in the confirmation of sale or pricing supplement, this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are being used in a market-making transaction.

The date of this prospectus supplement is March 28, 2017.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Prospectus Supplement	
<u>About This Prospectus Supplement</u>	S-1
<u>Risk Factors</u>	S-1
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	S-7
<u>Description of the Notes We May Offer</u>	S-7
<u>Supplemental Plan of Distribution (Conflicts of Interest)</u>	S-24
Prospectus	
<u>About this Prospectus</u>	i
<u>Forward-Looking Statements</u>	i
<u>Available Information</u>	iii
<u>Documents Incorporated by Reference</u>	iii
<u>Presentation of Financial Information</u>	iv
<u>Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce</u>	1
<u>Risk Factors</u>	1
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	1
<u>Ratios of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u>	1
<u>Description of Senior Debt Securities</u>	2
<u>Material Income Tax Consequences</u>	17
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	27
<u>Certain U.S. Benefit Plan Investor Considerations</u>	29
<u>Limitations on Enforcement of U.S. Laws Against CIBC, its Management and Others</u>	30
<u>Legal Matters</u>	31
<u>Experts</u>	31

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and, if applicable, a product prospectus supplement and/or a general terms supplement, provide you with a general description of the notes we may offer. Each time we sell notes we will provide a pricing supplement containing specific information about the terms of the notes being offered. Each pricing supplement may include a discussion of any risk factors or other special considerations that apply to those notes. The pricing supplement may also add, update or change the information in this prospectus supplement and any applicable product prospectus supplement and/or general terms supplement. If there is any inconsistency between the information in this prospectus supplement, any applicable product prospectus supplement or any applicable general terms supplement and any pricing supplement, you should rely on the information in that pricing supplement. In this prospectus supplement, when we refer to this prospectus supplement we are also referring to any applicable product prospectus supplement and any applicable general terms supplement unless the context otherwise requires.

RISK FACTORS

General Risks Relating to the Notes

An Investment in the Notes Is Subject to Our Credit Risk

An investment in any of the notes issued under our medium-term note program is subject to our credit risk. The value of the notes may be impacted by market perception of our creditworthiness. If market perception of our creditworthiness were to decline for any reason, the value of your notes may be adversely affected. If we default on our obligations under the notes, you may not receive any amounts owed to you under the notes.

Non-Conventional Debt Securities

The notes may not be conventional debt securities. If specified in the relevant pricing supplement, the notes may provide no assurance that any of the principal amount of the notes will be paid at or before maturity. In addition, the notes may not provide holders with a return or income stream prior to maturity calculated by reference to a fixed or floating rate of interest determinable prior to maturity. The notes, unlike traditional debt obligations, may be speculative or uncertain in that they could produce no return on a holder's original investment or not repay any principal amount at or before maturity. Prospective purchasers are directed to the relevant pricing supplement for the specific terms of the relevant securities, including any risk factors set out therein.

Market for Notes

Unless otherwise specified in the relevant pricing supplement, there may be no market through which the notes may be sold and holders may not be able to sell notes. This may affect the pricing of the notes in the secondary market, the transparency and availability of trading prices, the liquidity of the notes and the extent of issuer regulation.

No Deposit Insurance

The notes will not constitute savings accounts, deposits or other obligations that are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Bank Insurance Fund or any other governmental agency or under the *Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation Act* (Canada) or any other deposit insurance regime designed to ensure the payment of all or a portion of a deposit upon the insolvency of the deposit taking financial institution. Therefore, you will not be entitled to insurance from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation (the CDIC) or other such protection, and as a result, you could lose all or a portion of your investment.

The Notes May Be Subject to a Bail-in Conversion

The CDIC has the power to convert, or cause CIBC to convert, in whole or in part, by means of a transaction or series of transactions and in one or more steps, the prescribed liabilities of CIBC into the common shares of CIBC or any of its affiliates (Bail-in Conversion), if the Governor in Council (Canada) makes an order under paragraph 39.13(1)(d) of the *Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation Act* (Canada) in respect of CIBC. Regulations prescribing the liabilities of CIBC that may be subject to a Bail-in Conversion (the CDIC Regulations) have not been introduced as of the date of this document. However, on August 1, 2014, the Department of Finance (Canada) issued a Taxpayer Protection and Bank Recapitalization Regime: Consultation Paper (the Consultation Paper), which, among other things, proposed that only senior unsecured tradable and

Table of Contents

transferable debt with an original term to maturity of at least 400 days that is issued or renegotiated by a Canadian domestic systemically important bank, such as CIBC, after the implementation date will be subject to a Bail-in Conversion. Debt issued before the implementation date of the CDIC Regulations will not be subject to a Bail-in Conversion if the CDIC Regulations adopt the proposals set out in the Consultation Paper, but we cannot assure you that the CDIC Regulations will adopt those proposals in their entirety. If the notes are subject to a Bail-in Conversion, the market value of the notes may be adversely affected.

Risks Relating to Indexed Notes

We use the term *indexed notes* to mean notes whose value is linked to an underlying property or index. Indexed notes may present a high level of risk, and those who invest in indexed notes may lose all or a portion of their investment and may receive no interest on their investment. In addition, the treatment of indexed notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes is often unclear due to the absence of any authority specifically addressing the issues presented by any particular indexed note. While the material U.S. and Canadian federal income tax consequences of the purchase, ownership or disposition of an indexed note will be described in the applicable pricing supplement, you should independently evaluate the U.S. and Canadian federal income tax consequences that apply in your particular circumstances.

Investors in Indexed Notes Could Lose Their Investment

The amount of principal and/or interest payable on an indexed note and the cash and/or physical settlement value will be determined by reference to the price, value or level of one or more securities, currencies, commodities, indices, exchange traded funds or other properties, any other financial, economic or other measure or instrument, including the occurrence or non-occurrence of any event or circumstance, and/or one or more baskets of any of these items. We refer to each of these as an *index*. The direction and magnitude of the change in the price, value or level of the relevant index will determine the amount of principal and/or interest payable on an indexed note, and the cash and/or physical settlement value of an indexed note. The terms of a particular indexed note may or may not include a guaranteed return of a percentage of the face amount at maturity or a minimum interest rate. Thus, if you purchase a particular indexed note that does not include a guaranteed return of the face amount or other amount, you may lose all or a portion of the principal or other amount you invest and may receive no interest on your investment.

The Return on Indexed Notes May Be Below the Return on Similar Notes

Depending on the terms of an indexed note, as specified in the applicable pricing supplement, you may not receive any periodic interest payments or you may receive only very low payments on such indexed note. As a result, the overall return on such indexed note may be less than the amount you would have earned by investing the principal or other amount you invest in such indexed note in a non-indexed debt security that bears interest at a prevailing market fixed or floating rate.

The Issuer of a Security or Currency That Comprises an Index Could Take Actions That May Adversely Affect an Indexed Note

Edgar Filing: CANADIAN IMPERIAL BANK OF COMMERCE /CAN/ - Form 424B3

The issuer of a security that comprises an index or part of an index for an indexed note will have no involvement in the offer and sale of the indexed note and no obligations to the holder of the indexed note. Such an issuer may take actions, such as a merger or sale of assets, without regard to the interests of the holder of the indexed note. Any of these actions could adversely affect the value of a note indexed to that security or to an index of which that security is a component.

If the index for an indexed note includes a non-U.S. dollar currency or other asset denominated in a non-U.S. dollar currency, the government that issues that currency will also have no involvement in the offer and sale of the indexed note and no obligations to the holder of the indexed note. That government may take actions that could adversely affect the value of the note. See **Risks Relating to Notes Denominated or Payable in or Linked to a Non-U.S. Dollar Currency** below for more information about these kinds of government actions.

Investors in Indexed Notes Will Have No Ownership of the Underlying Securities

Investing in an indexed note will not entitle a holder to any direct or indirect ownership or entitlement to the underlying securities, except as specified in the relevant pricing supplement. A holder will not be entitled to the rights and benefits of a holder of the underlying securities, including any right to receive any distributions or dividends or to vote at or attend any meetings of holders of the underlying securities.

Table of Contents

An Indexed Note May Be Linked to a Volatile Index, Which Could Hurt Your Investment

Some indices are highly volatile, which means that their value may change significantly, up or down, over a short period of time. The amount of principal and/or interest that can be expected to become payable on an indexed note may vary substantially from time to time. Because the amounts payable with respect to an indexed note are generally calculated based on the value or level of the relevant index on a specified date or over a limited period of time, volatility in the index increases the risk that the return on the indexed note may be adversely affected by a fluctuation in the level of the relevant index. The volatility of an index may be affected by political or economic events, including governmental actions, or by the activities of participants in the relevant markets. Any of these events or activities could adversely affect the value of an indexed note.

An Index to Which a Note Is Linked Could Be Changed or Become Unavailable

Some indices sponsored by us or our affiliates or third parties may consist of or refer to several or many different securities, commodities or currencies or other instruments or measures. The sponsor of such an index typically reserves the right to alter the composition of the index and the manner in which the value or level of the index is calculated. An alteration in an index to which a note is linked may result in a decrease in the value of or return on the indexed note. The indices for our indexed notes may include published indices of this kind or customized indices developed by us or our affiliates in connection with particular issues of indexed notes.

A published index may become unavailable, or a customized index may become impossible to calculate in the normal manner, due to events such as war, natural disasters, cessation of publication of the index, a suspension or disruption of trading in one or more securities, commodities or currencies or other instruments or measures on which the index is based or any other market disruption event described in the relevant pricing supplement. If an index becomes unavailable or impossible to calculate in the normal manner, the terms of a particular indexed note may allow us to delay determining the amount payable as principal or premium or interest on an indexed note, or we may use an alternative method to determine the value of the unavailable index. Alternative methods of valuation are generally intended to produce a value similar to the value resulting from reference to the relevant index. However, it is unlikely that any alternative method of valuation we use will produce a value identical to the value that the actual index would have produced. If we use an alternative method of valuation for a note linked to an index of this kind, the value of the note, or the rate of return on it, may be lower than it otherwise would be.

Some indexed notes are linked to indices that are not commonly used or that have been developed only recently. The lack of a trading history may make it difficult to anticipate the volatility or other risks associated with an indexed note of this kind. In addition, trading in these indices or their underlying stocks, commodities or currencies or other instruments or measures, or options or futures contracts on these stocks, commodities or currencies or other instruments or measures, may be limited, which could increase their volatility and decrease the value of the related indexed notes or the rates of return on them.

Pricing Information About the Property Underlying a Relevant Index May Not Be Available

Special risks may also be presented because of differences in time zones between the United States and the market for the property underlying the relevant index, such that the underlying property is traded on a foreign exchange that is not open when the trading market for the notes in the United States, if any, is open or where trading occurs in the underlying property during times when the trading market for the notes in the United

States, if any, is closed. In such cases, holders of the notes may have to make investment decisions at a time when current pricing information regarding the property underlying the relevant index is not available.

We May Engage in Hedging Activities that Could Adversely Affect an Indexed Note

In order to hedge an exposure on a particular indexed note, we may, directly or through our affiliates or other agents, enter into transactions involving the securities, commodities or currencies or other instruments or measures that underlie the index for the note, or involving derivative instruments, such as swaps, options or futures, on the index or any of its component items. To the extent that we enter into hedging arrangements with a non-affiliate, including a non-affiliate agent, such non-affiliate may enter into similar transactions. Engaging in transactions of this kind could adversely affect the value of an indexed note. It is possible that we or the hedging counterparty could achieve substantial returns and/or fees from our hedging transactions while the value of the indexed note may decline. However, neither we nor any of our affiliates or other agents will be obliged to hedge our exposure under an indexed note nor is there any assurance that any hedging transaction will be maintained or successful.

Table of Contents

Information About Indices May Not Be Indicative of Future Performance

If we issue an indexed note, we may include historical information about the relevant index in the relevant pricing supplement. Any information about indices that we may provide will be furnished as a matter of information only, and you should not regard the information as indicative of the range of, or trends in, fluctuations in the relevant index that may occur in the future or indicative of any payment of principal or interest to be paid on the indexed notes.

We May Have Conflicts of Interest Regarding an Indexed Note

CIBC World Markets Corp. and our other affiliates may have conflicts of interest with respect to some indexed notes. CIBC World Markets Corp. and our other affiliates may engage in trading, including trading for hedging purposes, for their proprietary accounts or for other accounts under their management, in indexed notes and in the securities, commodities or currencies or other instruments or measures on which the index for such notes is based or in other derivative instruments related to the index or its component items. These trading activities could adversely affect the value of indexed notes. We and our affiliates may also issue or underwrite securities or derivative instruments that are linked to the same index as one or more indexed notes. By introducing competing products into the marketplace in this manner, we could adversely affect the value of a particular indexed note.

CIBC World Markets Corp. or another of our affiliates may serve as calculation agent for the indexed notes and may have considerable discretion in calculating the amounts payable in respect of the notes. To the extent that CIBC World Markets Corp. or another of our affiliates calculates or compiles a particular index, it may also have considerable discretion in performing the calculation or compilation of the index. Exercising discretion in this manner could adversely affect the value of an indexed note based on the index or the rate of return on the note.

Risks Relating to Floating Rate Notes

Floating Rates of Interest are Uncertain and Could be 0.0%

If your notes are floating rate notes or otherwise directly linked to a floating rate for some portion of the notes' term, no interest will accrue on the notes with respect to any interest period for which the applicable floating rate specified in the applicable pricing supplement is zero on the related interest rate reset date. Floating interest rates, by their very nature, fluctuate, and may be as low as 0.0%. Also, in certain economic environments, floating rates of interest may be less than fixed rates of interest for instruments with a similar credit quality and term. As a result, the return you receive on your notes may be less than a fixed rate security issued for a similar term by a comparable issuer.

Changes to LIBOR May Adversely Affect Holders of Floating Rate Notes

Regulators and law enforcement agencies from a number of governments have been conducting investigations relating to the calculation of LIBOR across a range of maturities and currencies, and certain financial institutions that are member banks surveyed by the British Bankers Association in setting daily LIBOR have entered into agreements with the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission and/or the Financial Services Authority in order to resolve the investigations. On March 25, 2013, final rules for the regulation and supervision of LIBOR by the Financial Conduct Authority (the FCA) were published and came into effect on April 2, 2013 (the FCA Rules). In particular, the FCA Rules include requirements that (1) an independent LIBOR administrator monitor and survey LIBOR submissions to identify breaches of practice standards and/or potentially manipulative behavior, and (2) firms submitting data to LIBOR establish and maintain a clear conflicts of interest policy and appropriate systems and controls. In response to the FCA Rules, ICE Benchmark Administration Limited (the ICE Administrator), a subsidiary of Intercontinental Exchange Group, Inc., was appointed as the independent LIBOR administrator effective February 1, 2014.

The European Union (the E.U.) has also adopted a Benchmarks Regulation that will apply across the European Economic Area from January 1, 2018. This legislation is wider in scope than the FCA Rules governing LIBOR as it essentially applies to any index, or statistical measure, calculated from a representative set of underlying data that is used as a reference price for a broad range of financial instruments and financial contracts, including LIBOR and EURIBOR.

Table of Contents

It is not possible to predict the effect of changes in the methods pursuant to which the LIBOR rates are determined, any other reforms to LIBOR that will be enacted in the U.K., the E.U. or elsewhere, and any actions taken by the ICE Administrator or any new administrator of LIBOR that may be appointed, each of which may adversely affect the trading market for LIBOR-based securities, including floating rate notes. Any such changes or reforms in the method pursuant to which the LIBOR rates are determined or actions taken by the ICE Administrator or any new administrator of LIBOR may result in a sudden or prolonged increase or decrease in the reported LIBOR rates. If that were to occur and to the extent that the value of the notes is affected by reported LIBOR rates, the amount of interest payable under and the value of such notes may be affected.

Further, uncertainty as to the extent and manner in which the FCA Rules will continue to be adopted and the timing of such changes may adversely affect the current trading market for LIBOR-based securities and the value of your notes.

Risks Relating to Notes Denominated or Payable in or Linked to a Non-U.S. Dollar Currency

If you intend to invest in a non-U.S. dollar note e.g., a note whose principal and/or interest is payable in a currency other than U.S. dollars or that may be settled by delivery of or reference to a non-U.S. dollar currency or property denominated in or otherwise linked to a non-U.S. dollar currency you should consult your own financial and legal advisors as to the currency risks entailed by your investment. Notes of this kind may not be an appropriate investment for investors who are unsophisticated with respect to non-U.S. dollar currency transactions.

An Investment in a Non-U.S. Dollar Note Involves Currency-Related Risks

An investment in a non-U.S. dollar note entails significant risks that are not associated with a similar investment in a note that is payable solely in U.S. dollars and where settlement value is not otherwise based on a non-U.S. dollar currency. These risks include the possibility of significant changes in rates of exchange between the U.S. dollar and the various non-U.S. dollar currencies or composite currencies and the possibility of the imposition or modification of foreign exchange controls or other conditions by either the United States or non-U.S. governments. These risks generally depend on factors over which we have no control, such as economic and political events and the supply of and demand for the relevant currencies in the global markets.

Changes in Currency Exchange Rates Can Be Volatile and Unpredictable

Rates of exchange between the U.S. dollar and many other currencies have been highly volatile, and this volatility may continue and perhaps spread to other currencies in the future. Fluctuations in currency exchange rates could adversely affect an investment in a note denominated in, or where value is otherwise linked to, a specified currency other than U.S. dollars. Depreciation of the specified currency against the U.S. dollar could result in a decrease in the U.S. dollar-equivalent value of payments on the note, including the principal payable at maturity. That in turn could cause the market value of the note to fall. Depreciation of the specified currency against the U.S. dollar could result in a loss to the investor on a U.S. dollar basis.

Government Policy Can Adversely Affect Foreign Currency Exchange Rates and an Investment in a Non-U.S. Dollar Note

Foreign currency exchange rates can either float or be fixed by sovereign governments. From time to time, governments use a variety of techniques, such as intervention by a country's central bank or imposition of regulatory controls or taxes, to affect the exchange rate of their currencies. Governments may also issue a new currency to replace an existing currency or alter the exchange rate or exchange characteristics by devaluation or revaluation of a currency. Thus, a special risk in purchasing non-U.S. dollar notes is that their yields or payouts could be significantly and unpredictably affected by governmental actions. Even in the absence of governmental action directly affecting currency exchange rates, political or economic developments in the country issuing the specified currency for a non-U.S. dollar note or elsewhere could lead to significant and sudden changes in the exchange rate between the U.S. dollar and the specified currency. These changes could affect the value of the note as participants in the global currency markets move to buy or sell the specified currency or U.S. dollars in reaction to these developments.

Governments have imposed from time to time and may in the future impose exchange controls or other conditions, including taxes, with respect to the exchange or transfer of a specified currency that could affect exchange rates as well as the availability of a specified currency for a note at its maturity or on any other payment

Table of Contents

date. In addition, the ability of a holder to move currency freely out of the country in which payment in the currency is received or to convert the currency at a freely determined market rate could be limited by governmental actions.

Non-U.S. Dollar Notes May Permit Us to Make Payments in U.S. Dollars or Delay Payment If We Are Unable to Obtain the Specified Currency

Non-U.S. dollar notes may provide that, if the specified currency is subject to convertibility, transferability, market disruption or other conditions affecting its availability at or about the time when a payment on the notes comes due because of circumstances beyond our control, we will be entitled to make the payment in U.S. dollars or delay making the payment. These circumstances could include the imposition of exchange controls or our inability to obtain the specified currency because of a disruption in the currency markets. If we make payment in U.S. dollars, the exchange rate we would use would be determined in the manner described in the applicable pricing supplement. A determination of this kind may be based on limited information and would involve discretion on the part of our exchange rate agent, which may be an affiliate of ours. As a result, the value of the payment in U.S. dollars an investor would receive on the payment date may be less than the value of the payment the investor would have received in the specified currency if it had been available, or may be zero. In addition, a government may impose extraordinary taxes on transfers of a currency. If that happens we will be entitled to deduct these taxes from any payment on securities payable in that currency.

In a Lawsuit for Payment on a Non-U.S. Dollar Note, an Investor May Bear Currency Exchange Risk

The notes will be governed by New York law. Under Section 27 of the New York Judiciary Law, a state court in the State of New York rendering a judgment on a non-U.S. dollar note would be required to render the judgment in the specified currency. However, the judgment would be converted into U.S. dollars at the exchange rate prevailing on the date of entry of the judgment. Consequently, in a lawsuit for payment on a non-U.S. dollar Note, investors would bear currency exchange risk until judgment is entered, which may take a significant period of time. In courts outside of New York, investors may not be able to obtain judgment in a specified currency other than U.S. dollars. For example, a judgment for money in an action based on a non-U.S. dollar note in many other U.S. federal or state courts ordinarily would be enforced in the United States only in U.S. dollars. The date used to determine the rate of conversion of the currency in which any particular security is denominated into U.S. dollars will depend upon various factors, including which court renders the judgment.

Determinations Made by the Exchange Rate Agent

All determinations made by the exchange rate agent will be made in its sole discretion (except to the extent expressly provided in this prospectus supplement or the applicable pricing supplement that any determination is subject to approval by the Bank). In the absence of manifest error, its determinations will be conclusive for all purposes and will bind all holders and us. The exchange rate agent will not have any liability for its determinations.

Information About Exchange Rates May Not Be Indicative of Future Performance

Edgar Filing: CANADIAN IMPERIAL BANK OF COMMERCE /CAN/ - Form 424B3

If we issue a non-U.S. dollar note, we may include in the relevant pricing supplement a currency supplement that provides information about historical exchange rates for the relevant non-U.S. dollar currency or currencies. Any information about exchange rates that we may provide will be furnished as a matter of information only, and you should not regard the information as indicative of the range of, or trends in, fluctuations in currency exchange rates that may occur in the future. That rate will likely differ from the exchange rate used under the terms that apply to a particular note.

Non-U.S. Investors May Be Subject to Certain Additional Risks

If we issue a U.S. dollar note and you are a non-U.S. investor who purchased such notes with a currency other than U.S. dollars, changes in rates of exchange may have an adverse effect on the value, price or income of your investment.

The accompanying prospectus contains a general description of certain U.S. and Canadian tax consequences relating to the notes. If you are a non-U.S. investor, you should consult your tax advisors as to the consequences, under the tax laws of the country where you are resident for tax purposes, of acquiring, holding and disposing of notes and receiving payments of principal or other amounts under the notes.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

Except as otherwise set forth in a pricing supplement, the net proceeds from the sale of any notes will be added to our general funds and will be used for general banking purposes.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NOTES WE MAY OFFER

You should carefully read the description of the terms and provisions of our debt securities and our indenture under *Description of Senior Debt Securities* in the accompanying prospectus. That section, together with this prospectus supplement and the applicable pricing supplement, summarizes the material terms of our indenture and your note. They do not, however, describe every aspect of our indenture and your note. For example, in this section entitled *Description of the Notes We May Offer*, the accompanying prospectus and the applicable pricing supplement, we use terms that have been given special meanings in our indenture, but we describe the meanings of only the more important of those terms. The specific terms of any series of notes will be described in the relevant pricing supplement. As you read this section, please remember that the specific terms of your note as described in your pricing supplement will supplement and, if applicable, may modify or replace the general terms described in this section. If your pricing supplement is inconsistent with this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus, your pricing supplement will control with regard to your note. Thus, the statements we make in this section may not apply to your note.

General

The notes will be issued under the indenture, dated as of September 15, 2012, between the Bank and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as trustee, and as further amended from time to time, which we may refer to as the *indenture*. The notes constitute a single series of debt securities of the Bank issued under the indenture. The term *debt securities*, as used in this prospectus supplement, refers to all debt securities, including the notes, issued and issuable from time to time under the indenture. The indenture is subject to, and governed by, the U.S. Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended. The indenture is more fully described below in this section. Whenever we refer to specific provisions or defined terms in the indenture, those provisions or defined terms are incorporated in this prospectus supplement by reference. Section references used in this discussion are references to the indenture. Capitalized terms which are not otherwise defined shall have the meanings given to them in the indenture.

The notes will be limited to an aggregate initial offering price of US\$6,000,000,000 or, at our option if so specified in the relevant pricing supplement, the equivalent of this amount in any other currency or currency unit, and will be our direct, unsecured obligations. This aggregate initial offering price is subject to reduction as a result of the sale by us of other debt securities pursuant to another prospectus supplement to the accompanying prospectus. The notes will not constitute deposits insured under the *Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation Act* (Canada) or by the United States Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other Canadian or United States governmental agency or instrumentality.

We will offer the notes on a continuous basis through one or more agents listed in the section entitled *Supplemental Plan of Distribution (Conflicts of Interest)* in this prospectus supplement. The indenture does not limit the aggregate principal amount of senior notes that we may issue. We may, from time to time, without the consent of the holders of the notes, provide for the issuance of notes or other debt securities under the indenture in addition to the US\$6,000,000,000 aggregate initial offering price of notes noted on the cover of this prospectus supplement. Each note issued under this prospectus supplement will have a stated maturity that will be specified in the applicable pricing supplement and

Edgar Filing: CANADIAN IMPERIAL BANK OF COMMERCE /CAN/ - Form 424B3

may be subject to redemption or repayment before its stated maturity. As a general matter, each note will mature nine months or more from its date of issue, except that indexed notes may have a maturity of less than nine months. Notes may be issued at significant discounts from their principal amount due on the stated maturity (or on any prior date on which the principal or an installment of principal of a note becomes due and payable, whether by the declaration of acceleration, call for redemption at our option, repayment at the option of the holder or otherwise), and some notes may not bear interest. We may from time to time, without the consent of the existing holders of the relevant notes, create and issue further notes having the same terms and conditions as such notes in all respects, except for the issue date, issue price and, if applicable, the first payment of interest thereon.

Unless we specify otherwise in the relevant pricing supplement, currency amounts in this prospectus supplement are expressed in U.S. dollars. Unless we specify otherwise in any note and pricing supplement, the notes will be denominated in U.S. dollars and payments of principal, premium, if any, and any interest on the notes will be

S-7

Table of Contents

made in U.S. dollars. If any note is to be denominated other than exclusively in U.S. dollars, or if the principal of, premium, if any, or any interest on the note is to be paid in one or more currencies (or currency units or in amounts determined by reference to an index or indices) other than that in which that note is denominated, additional information (including authorized denominations and related exchange rate and exchange agent information) will be provided in the relevant pricing supplement. Unless we specify otherwise in any pricing supplement, notes denominated in U.S. dollars will be issued in minimum denominations of \$1,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof (except that non-U.S. investors may be subject to higher minimums).

Interest rates that we offer on the notes may differ depending upon, among other factors, the aggregate principal amount of notes purchased in any single transaction. Notes with different variable terms other than interest rates may also be offered concurrently to different investors. We may change interest rates or formulas and other terms of notes from time to time, but no change of terms will affect any note we have previously issued or as to which we have accepted an offer to purchase.

Each note will be issued as a book-entry note in fully registered form without coupons. Each note issued in book-entry form may be represented by a global note that we deposit with and register in the name of a financial institution or its nominee, that we select. The financial institution that we select for this purpose is called the *depository*. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable pricing supplement, The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York, will be the depository for all notes in global form. Except as discussed in the accompanying prospectus under *Description of Senior Debt Securities Legal Ownership and Book-Entry Issuance*, owners of beneficial interests in book-entry notes will not be entitled to physical delivery of notes in certificated form. We will make payments of principal of, and premium, if any and interest, if any, on the notes through the trustee or applicable paying agent to the depository for the notes.

Legal Ownership

Street Name and Other Indirect Holders

Investors who hold their notes in accounts at banks or brokers will generally not be recognized by us as legal holders of notes. This is called holding in street name. Instead, we would recognize only the bank or broker, or the financial institution the bank or broker uses to hold its notes. These intermediary banks, brokers and other financial institutions pass along principal, interest and other payments on the notes, either because they agree to do so in their customer agreements or because they are legally required to do so. If you hold your notes in street name, you should check with your own institution to find out:

- how it handles note payments and notices;
- whether it imposes fees or charges;
- how it would handle voting if it were ever required;

- whether and how you can instruct it to send you notes registered in your own name so you can be a direct holder as described below; and
- how it would pursue rights under the notes if there were a default or other event triggering the need for holders to act to protect their interests.

Direct Holders

Our obligations, as well as the obligations of the trustee and those of any third parties employed by us or the trustee, under the notes are only to persons who are registered as holders of notes. As noted above, we do not have obligations to you if you hold your notes in street name or other indirect means, either because you choose to hold your notes in that manner or because the notes are issued in the form of global securities as described below. For example, once we make a payment to the registered holder we have no further responsibility for the payment even if that holder is legally required to pass the payment along to you as a street name customer but does not do so.

Global Notes

A global note is a special type of indirectly held security, as described above under **Legal Ownership Street Name and Other Indirect Holders**. If we choose to issue notes in the form of global notes, the ultimate

Table of Contents

beneficial owners of global notes can only be indirect holders. We require that the global note be registered in the name of a financial institution we select.

We also require that the notes included in the global note not be transferred to the name of any other direct holder except in the special circumstances described in the accompanying prospectus in the section *Description of Senior Debt Securities Legal Ownership and Book-Entry Issuance*. Any person wishing to own a global note must do so indirectly by virtue of an account with a broker, bank or other financial institution, known as a *participant*, that in turn has an account with the depository. The pricing supplement indicates whether your series of notes will be issued only in the form of global notes.

Further details of legal ownership are discussed in the accompanying prospectus in the section *Description of Senior Debt Securities Legal Ownership and Book-Entry Issuance*.

In the remainder of this description, *you* or *holder* means direct holders and not street name or other indirect holders of notes. Indirect holders should read the previous subsection titled *Legal Ownership Street Name and Other Indirect Holders*.

Types of Notes

We may issue the following four types of notes:

- *Fixed Rate Notes*. A note of this type will bear interest at a fixed rate described in the applicable pricing supplement. This type includes zero-coupon notes, which bear no interest and are instead issued at a price lower than the principal amount.
- *Floating Rate Notes*. A note of this type will bear interest at rates that are determined by reference to an interest rate formula. In some cases, the rates may also be adjusted by adding or subtracting a spread or multiplying by a spread multiplier and may be subject to a minimum rate or a maximum rate. The various interest rate formulas and these other features are described below in *Interest Rates Floating Rate Notes*. If your note is a floating rate note, the formula and any adjustments that apply to the interest rate will be specified in your pricing supplement.
- *Indexed Notes*. A note of this type provides that the amount payable at its maturity, and/or the amount of interest payable on an interest payment date, will be determined by reference to a market measure consisting of:

- one or more securities;

- one or more currencies;

- one or more commodities;

- one or more indices;

- one or more exchange traded funds;

- any other financial, economic or other measures or instruments, including the occurrence or non-occurrence of any event or circumstance; and/or

- one or more baskets of any of these items.

If you are a holder of an indexed note, you may receive an amount at maturity that is greater than or less than the face amount of your note depending upon the value of the applicable index at maturity, and if the note is not principal protected, you may receive nothing at all. That value may fluctuate over time. If you purchase an indexed note the relevant pricing supplement will include information about the relevant index and how amounts that are to become payable will be determined by reference to that index. In addition, the relevant pricing supplement will specify whether your note will be payable in cash or exchangeable for securities of an issuer other than the Bank or other property. The relevant pricing supplement will describe the material U.S. and Canadian federal income tax consequences of the purchase, ownership or disposition of an indexed note. Before you purchase any indexed note, you should read carefully the section entitled Risk Factors Risks Relating to Indexed Notes above.

Table of Contents

- *Convertible or Exchangeable Notes.* A note of this type will be convertible or exchangeable, at our option or the option of the holder, into securities of an issuer other than the Bank or into other property. The convertible or exchangeable notes may or may not bear interest or be issued with original issue discount or at a premium. The general terms of the convertible or exchangeable notes are described below. The relevant pricing supplement will describe the material U.S. and Canadian federal income tax considerations relevant to the acquisition of convertible or exchangeable notes.
- *Optionally Convertible or Exchangeable Notes.* The holder of an optionally convertible or exchangeable note may, during a specified period or at specific times, exchange the note for the underlying property at a specified rate of exchange. If specified in the relevant pricing supplement, we will have the option to redeem the optionally convertible or exchangeable note prior to maturity. If the holder of an optionally convertible or exchangeable note does not elect to convert or exchange the note prior to maturity or on any redemption date, the holder will receive the principal amount of the note (and any premium) plus any accrued interest at maturity or upon redemption.
- *Mandatorily Convertible or Exchangeable Notes.* At maturity, the holder of a mandatorily convertible or exchangeable note must, under certain circumstances, convert or exchange the note for the underlying property at a specified rate of conversion or exchange, and, therefore, depending upon the value of the underlying property at maturity, the holder of a mandatorily convertible or exchangeable note may receive less than the principal amount of the note at maturity. If so indicated in the relevant pricing supplement, the specified rate at which a mandatorily convertible or exchangeable note may be converted or exchanged may vary depending on the value of the underlying property so that, upon conversion or exchange, the holder participates in a percentage, which may be less than, equal to, or greater than 100% of the change in value of the underlying property. Mandatorily convertible or exchangeable notes may include notes where we have the right, but not the obligation, to require holders of notes to convert or exchange their notes for the underlying property.
- *Payments upon Conversion or Exchange.* The relevant pricing supplement will specify if upon conversion or exchange, at maturity or otherwise, the holder of a convertible or exchangeable note may receive, at the specified exchange rate, either the underlying property or the cash value of the underlying property. The underlying property may be the securities of either U.S. or foreign entities or both. The convertible or exchangeable notes may or may not provide for protection against fluctuations in the exchange rate between the currency in which that security is denominated and the currency or currencies in which the market prices of the underlying security or securities are quoted. Convertible or exchangeable notes may have other terms, which will be specified in the relevant pricing supplement.
- *Special Requirements for Conversion or Exchange of Global Notes.* If an optionally convertible or exchangeable note is represented by a global note, the depositary's nominee will be the holder of that note and therefore will be the only entity that can exercise a right to convert or exchange. In order to ensure that the depositary's nominee will timely exercise a right to convert or exchange a particular optionally convertible or exchangeable note or

any portion of that particular note, the beneficial owner of the note must instruct the broker or other direct or indirect participant through which it holds an interest in that note to notify the depository of its desire to exercise a right to convert or exchange. Different firms have different deadlines for accepting instructions from their customers. Each beneficial owner should consult the broker or other participant through which it holds an interest in an optionally convertible or exchangeable note in order to ascertain the deadline for ensuring that timely notice will be delivered to the depository.

- *Payments upon Acceleration of Maturity or upon Tax Redemption.* If the principal amount payable at maturity of any convertible or exchangeable note is declared due and payable prior to maturity, the amount payable on:

Table of Contents

- an optionally convertible or exchangeable note will equal the face amount of the note (and any premium) plus accrued interest, if any, to but excluding the date of payment, except that if a holder has converted or exchanged an optionally convertible or exchangeable note prior to the date of declaration or tax redemption without having received the amount due upon exchange, the amount payable will be an amount of cash equal to the amount due upon conversion or exchange and will not include any accrued but unpaid interest; and
- a mandatorily convertible or exchangeable note will equal an amount (and any premium) determined as if the date of declaration or tax redemption were the maturity date plus accrued interest, if any, to but excluding the date of payment.

Original Issue Discount Notes

A fixed rate note, a floating rate note or an indexed note may be an original issue discount note. A note of this type is issued at a price lower than its principal amount and provides that, upon redemption or acceleration of its maturity, an amount less than its principal amount will be payable. An original issue discount note may be a zero-coupon note. A note issued at a discount to its principal may, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, be considered an original issue discount note, regardless of the amount payable upon redemption or acceleration of maturity. The applicable pricing supplement relating to any original issue discount notes will describe any special considerations and any material U.S. and Canadian tax considerations relevant to the acquisition of such notes.

Information in the Pricing Supplement

Your pricing supplement will describe one or more of the following terms of your note:

- the CUSIP number;
- the stated maturity;
- the specified currency or currencies for principal and interest, if not U.S. dollars;
- if other than \$1,000 and integral multiples thereof, the denominations in which the notes may be issued;

- the price at which we originally issue your note and the original issue date;
- whether your note is a fixed rate note, a floating rate note, an indexed note or a convertible or exchangeable note;
- if your note is a fixed rate note, the yearly rate at which your note will bear interest, if any, and the interest payment dates;
- if your note is a floating rate note, the interest rate basis, which may be one of the eight interest rate bases described in [Interest Rates Floating Rate Notes](#) below; any applicable index currency or maturity, spread or spread multiplier or initial, maximum or minimum rate; and the interest reset, determination, calculation and payment dates, all of which we describe under [Interest Rates Floating Rate Notes](#) below;
- if your note is an indexed note, the principal amount, if any, we will pay you at maturity, the amount of interest, if any, we will pay you on an interest payment date or the formula we will use to calculate these amounts, if any, and whether your note will be exchangeable for cash, securities of an issuer other than the Bank or other property;
- if your note is a convertible or exchangeable note, the securities or property into which the note may be converted or for which it may be exchanged; whether the note is convertible or exchangeable at your option or at the Bank's option; and the other items described in [Types of Notes Convertible or Exchangeable Notes](#) above;
- if your note is an original issue discount note, the yield to maturity;

Table of Contents

- if applicable, the circumstances under which your note may be redeemed at our option before the stated maturity, including any redemption commencement date, redemption price(s) and redemption period(s);
- if applicable, the circumstances under which you may demand repayment of your note before the stated maturity, including any repayment commencement date, repayment price(s) and repayment period(s);
- any material Canadian or United States federal income tax consequences of the purchase, ownership or disposition of a particular issuance of notes;
- the use of proceeds, if materially different than those discussed in this prospectus supplement; and
- any other terms of your note, which could be different from those described in this prospectus supplement.

Market-Making Transactions

If you purchase your note in a market-making transaction, you will receive information about the price you pay and your trade and settlement dates in a separate confirmation of sale. A market-making transaction is one in which an agent or other dealer resells a note that it has previously acquired from another holder. A market-making transaction in a particular note occurs after the original sale of the note. See Plan of Distribution in the accompanying prospectus and Supplemental Plan of Distribution (Conflicts of Interest) below.

Redemption at the Option of the Bank; No Sinking Fund

If an initial redemption date is specified in the applicable pricing supplement, we may redeem the particular notes prior to their stated maturity date at our option on any date on or after that initial redemption date in whole or from time to time in part in increments of \$1,000 or any other integral multiple of an authorized denomination specified in the applicable pricing supplement (provided that any remaining principal amount thereof shall be at least \$1,000 or other minimum authorized denomination applicable thereto), at the redemption price or prices specified in that pricing supplement, together with unpaid interest accrued thereon to the date of redemption. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable pricing supplement, we must give written notice to registered holders of the particular notes to be redeemed at our option not more than 60 nor less than 30 calendar days prior to the date of redemption.

The notes will not be subject to, or entitled to the benefit of, any sinking fund.

Repayment at the Option of the Holder

If one or more optional repayment dates are specified in the applicable pricing supplement, registered holders of the particular notes may require us to repay those notes prior to their stated maturity date on any optional repayment date in whole or from time to time in part in increments of \$1,000 or any other integral multiple of an authorized denomination specified in the applicable pricing supplement (provided that any remaining principal amount thereof shall be at least \$1,000 or other minimum authorized denomination applicable thereto), at the repayment price or prices specified in that pricing supplement, together with unpaid interest accrued thereon to the date of repayment. A registered holder's exercise of the repayment option will be irrevocable.

For any note to be repaid, the applicable trustee must receive, at its corporate trust office in the Borough of Manhattan, The City of New York, not more than 60 nor less than 30 calendar days prior to the date of repayment, the particular notes to be repaid and, in the case of a book-entry note, repayment instructions from the applicable beneficial owner to the depositary and forwarded by the depositary. Only the depositary may exercise the repayment option in respect of global notes representing book-entry notes. Accordingly, beneficial owners of global notes that desire to have all or any portion of the book-entry notes represented thereby repaid must instruct the participant through which they own their interest to direct the depositary to exercise the repayment option on their behalf by forwarding the repayment instructions to the applicable trustee as aforesaid. In order to ensure that these instructions are received by the applicable trustee on a particular day, the applicable beneficial owner must so instruct the participant through which it owns its interest before that participant's deadline for accepting instructions for that day. Different firms may have different deadlines for accepting instructions from their customers. Accordingly, beneficial owners should consult their participants for the respective deadlines. In addition, at the time repayment instructions are given, each beneficial owner shall cause the participant through which it owns its interest to transfer

Table of Contents

the beneficial owner's interest in the global note representing the related book-entry notes, on the depository's records, to the applicable trustee.

If applicable, we will comply with the requirements of Section 14(e) of the U.S. Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), and the rules promulgated thereunder, and any other securities laws or regulations in connection with any repayment of notes at the option of the registered holders thereof.

We may at any time purchase notes at any price or prices in the open market or otherwise. Notes so purchased by us may, at our discretion, be held, resold or surrendered to the applicable trustee for cancellation.

Interest

Each interest-bearing note will bear interest from its date of issue at the rate per annum, in the case of a fixed rate note, or pursuant to the interest rate formula, in the case of a floating rate note, in each case as specified in the applicable pricing supplement. We will make interest payments in respect of fixed rate notes and floating rate notes in an amount equal to the interest accrued from and including the immediately preceding interest payment date in respect of which interest has been paid or from and including the date of issue, if no interest has been paid, to but excluding the applicable interest payment date or the maturity date, as the case may be (each, an interest period).

Interest on fixed rate notes and floating rate notes will be payable in arrears on each interest payment date and on the maturity date. The first payment of interest on any note originally issued between a regular record date and the related interest payment date will be made on the interest payment date immediately following the next succeeding record date to the registered holder on the next succeeding record date. The regular record date shall be the fifteenth calendar day, whether or not a business day, immediately preceding the related interest payment date. Business day is defined below under Special Rate Calculation Terms. For the purpose of determining the holder at the close of business on a regular record date when business is not being conducted, the close of business will mean 5:00 P.M., New York City time, on that day.

Interest Rates

This subsection describes the different kinds of interest rates that may apply to your note, if it bears interest.

Fixed Rate Notes

The relevant pricing supplement will specify the interest payment dates for a fixed rate note as well as the maturity date. Interest on fixed rate notes will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months or such other day count fraction set forth in the pricing supplement.

If any interest payment date, redemption date, repayment date or maturity date of a fixed rate note falls on a day that is not a business day, we will make the required payment of principal, premium, if any, and/or interest on the next succeeding business day unless otherwise specified in the applicable pricing supplement, and no additional interest will accrue in respect of the payment made on that next succeeding business day.

Floating Rate Notes

In this subsection, we use several specialized terms relating to the manner in which floating interest rates are calculated. We define these terms in *Special Rate Calculation Terms* below.

The following will apply to floating rate notes.

Interest Rate Basis. We currently expect to issue floating rate notes that bear interest at rates based on one or more of the following interest rate bases:

- commercial paper rate;
- U.S. prime rate;
- LIBOR;
- EURIBOR;
- treasury rate;
- CMT rate;

Table of Contents

- CMS rate; and/or
- federal funds rate.

We describe each of the interest rate bases in further detail below in this subsection. If you purchase a floating rate note, your pricing supplement will specify the interest rate basis that applies to your note.

Calculation of Interest. Calculations relating to floating rate notes will be made by the calculation agent, an institution that we appoint as our agent for this purpose. That institution may include us or any affiliate of ours, such as CIBC World Markets Corp. The pricing supplement for a particular floating rate note will name the institution that we have appointed to act as the calculation agent for that note as of its original issue date. We may appoint a different institution to serve as calculation agent from time to time after the original issue date of the note without your consent and without notifying you of the change.

For each floating rate note, the calculation agent will determine, on the corresponding interest calculation date or on the interest determination date, as described below, the interest rate that takes effect on each interest reset date. In addition, the calculation agent will calculate the amount of interest that has accrued during each interest period that is, the period from and including the original issue date, or the last date to which interest has been paid or made available for payment, to but excluding the payment date. For each interest period, the calculation agent will calculate the amount of accrued interest by multiplying the face or other specified amount of the floating rate note by an accrued interest factor for the interest period. This factor will equal the sum of the interest factors calculated for each day during the interest period. The interest factor for each day will be expressed as a decimal and will be calculated by dividing the interest rate, also expressed as a decimal, applicable to that day by 360 or by the actual number of days in the year, as specified in the relevant pricing supplement.

Upon the request of the holder of any floating rate note, the calculation agent will provide for that note the interest rate then in effect and, if determined, the interest rate that will become effective on the next interest reset date. The calculation agent's determination of any interest rate, and its calculation of the amount of interest for any interest period, will be final and binding in the absence of manifest error.

All percentages resulting from any calculation relating to a note will be rounded upward or downward, as appropriate, to the next higher or lower one hundred-thousandth of a percentage point, e.g., 9.876541% (or .09876541) being rounded down to 9.87654% (or .0987654) and 9.876545% (or .09876545) being rounded up to 9.87655% (or .0987655). All amounts used in or resulting from any calculation relating to a floating rate note will be rounded upward or downward, as appropriate, to the nearest cent, in the case of U.S. dollars, or to the nearest corresponding hundredth of a unit, in the case of a currency other than U.S. dollars, with one-half cent or one-half of a corresponding hundredth of a unit or more being rounded upward.

In determining the interest rate basis that applies to a floating rate note during a particular interest period, the calculation agent may obtain rate quotes from various banks or dealers active in the relevant market, as discussed below. Those reference banks and dealers may include the calculation agent itself and its affiliates, as well as any agent participating in the distribution of the relevant floating rate notes and its affiliates, and they may include our affiliates.

Initial Interest Rate. For any floating rate note, the interest rate in effect from the original issue date to the first interest reset date will be the initial interest rate. We will specify the initial interest rate or the manner in which it is determined in the relevant pricing supplement.

Spread or Spread Multiplier. In some cases, the interest rate basis for a floating rate note may be adjusted:

- by adding or subtracting a specified number of basis points, called the spread, with one basis point being 0.01%; or
- by multiplying the interest rate basis by a specified percentage, called the spread multiplier.

If you purchase a floating rate note, your pricing supplement will indicate whether a spread or spread multiplier will apply to your note and, if so, the amount of the spread or spread multiplier.

Maximum and Minimum Rates. The actual interest rate, after being adjusted by the spread or spread multiplier, may also be subject to either or both of the following limits:

Table of Contents

- a maximum rate i.e., a specified upper limit that the actual interest rate in effect at any time may not exceed; and/or
- a minimum rate i.e., a specified lower limit that the actual interest rate in effect at any time may not fall below.

If you purchase a floating rate note, your pricing supplement will indicate whether a maximum rate and/or minimum rate will apply to your note and, if so, what those rates are.

Whether or not a maximum rate applies, the interest rate on a floating rate note will in no event be higher than the maximum rate permitted by New York law, as it may be modified by U.S. law of general application and the *Criminal Code* (Canada). Under current New York law, the maximum rate of interest, with some exceptions, for any loan in an amount less than \$250,000 is 16% and for any loan in the amount of \$250,000 or more but less than \$2,500,000 is 25% per year on a simple interest basis. These limits do not apply to loans of \$2,500,000 or more, except for the *Criminal Code* (Canada), which limits the rate to 60% per annum.

The rest of this subsection describes how the interest rate and the interest payment dates will be determined, and how interest will be calculated, on a floating rate note.

Interest Reset Dates. The rate of interest on a floating rate note will be reset, by the calculation agent described below, daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually. The date on which the interest rate resets and the reset rate becomes effective is called the interest reset date. Except as otherwise specified in the applicable pricing supplement, the interest reset date will be as follows:

- for floating rate notes that reset daily, each business day;
- for floating rate notes that reset weekly and are not treasury rate notes, the Wednesday of each week;
- for treasury rate notes that reset weekly, the Tuesday of each week;
- for floating rate notes that reset monthly, the third Wednesday of each month;

- for floating rate notes that reset quarterly, the third Wednesday of each of four months of each year as indicated in the relevant pricing supplement;
- for floating rate notes that reset semi-annually, the third Wednesday of each of two months of each year as indicated in the relevant pricing supplement; and
- for floating rate notes that reset annually, the third Wednesday of one month of each year as indicated in the relevant pricing supplement.

For a floating rate note, the interest rate in effect on any particular day will be the interest rate determined with respect to the latest interest reset date that occurs on or before that day. There are several exceptions, however, to the reset provisions described above.

If any interest reset date for a floating rate note would otherwise be a day that is not a business day, the interest reset date will be postponed to the next day that is a business day. For a LIBOR or EURIBOR note, however, if that business day is in the next succeeding calendar month, the interest reset date will be the immediately preceding business day.

Interest Determination Dates. The interest rate that takes effect on an interest reset date will be determined by the calculation agent by reference to a particular date called an interest determination date. Except as otherwise indicated in the relevant pricing supplement:

- for commercial paper rate, federal funds rate and U.S. prime rate notes, the interest determination date relating to a particular interest reset date will be the business day preceding the interest reset date;
- for LIBOR notes, the interest determination date relating to a particular interest reset date will be the second *London business day* preceding the interest reset date, unless the *index currency* is pounds sterling, in which case the interest determination date will be the interest reset date. We refer to an interest determination date for a LIBOR note as a LIBOR interest determination date;

Table of Contents

- for EURIBOR notes, the interest determination date relating to a particular interest reset date will be the second *euro business day* preceding the interest reset date. We refer to an interest determination date for a EURIBOR note as a EURIBOR interest determination date;
- for treasury rate notes, the interest determination date relating to a particular interest reset date, which we refer to as a treasury interest determination date, will be the day of the week in which the interest reset date falls on which treasury bills i.e., direct obligations of the U.S. government would normally be auctioned. Treasury bills are usually sold at auction on the Monday of each week, unless that day is a legal holiday, in which case the auction is usually held on the following Tuesday, except that the auction may be held on the preceding Friday. If as the result of a legal holiday an auction is held on the preceding Friday, that Friday will be the treasury interest determination date relating to the interest reset date occurring in the next succeeding week; and
- for CMT rate and CMS rate notes, the interest determination date relating to a particular interest reset date will be the second business day preceding the interest reset date.

The interest determination date pertaining to a floating rate note the interest rate of which is determined with reference to two or more interest rate bases will be the latest business day which is at least two business days before the related interest reset date for the applicable floating rate note on which each interest rate basis is determinable.

Interest Calculation Dates. As described above, the interest rate that takes effect on a particular interest reset date will be determined by reference to the corresponding interest determination date. Except for LIBOR notes and EURIBOR notes, however, the determination of the rate will actually be made on a day no later than the corresponding interest calculation date. The interest calculation date will be the earlier of the following:

- the tenth calendar day after the interest determination date or, if that tenth calendar day is not a business day, the next succeeding business day; and
- the business day immediately preceding the interest payment date or the maturity, whichever is the day on which the next payment of interest will be due.

The calculation agent need not wait until the relevant interest calculation date to determine the interest rate if the rate information it needs to make the determination is available from the relevant sources sooner.

Interest Payment Dates. The interest payment dates for a floating rate note will depend on when the interest rate is reset and, unless we specify otherwise in the relevant pricing supplement, will be as follows:

- for floating rate notes that reset daily, weekly or monthly, the third Wednesday of each month;
- for floating rate notes that reset quarterly, the third Wednesday of the four months of each year specified in the relevant pricing supplement;
- for floating rate notes that reset semi-annually, the third Wednesday of the two months of each year specified in the relevant pricing supplement; or
- for floating rate notes that reset annually, the third Wednesday of the month specified in the relevant pricing supplement.

Regardless of these rules, if a note is originally issued after the regular record date and before the date that would otherwise be the first interest payment date, the first interest payment date will be the date that would otherwise be the second interest payment date.

In addition, the following special provision will apply to a floating rate note with regard to any interest payment date other than one that falls on the maturity. If the interest payment date would otherwise fall on a day that is not a business day, then the interest payment date will be the next day that is a business day. However, if the floating rate note is a LIBOR note or a EURIBOR note and the next business day falls in the next calendar month, then the interest payment date will be advanced to the next preceding day that is a business day. If the maturity date of a floating rate note falls on a day that is not a business day, we will make the required payment of principal, premium, if any, and interest on the next succeeding business day, and no additional interest will accrue in respect of the payment made on that next succeeding business day.

Table of Contents

Commercial Paper Rate Notes

If you purchase a commercial paper rate note, your note will bear interest at an interest rate equal to the commercial paper rate and adjusted by the spread or spread multiplier, if any, indicated in your pricing supplement.

The commercial paper rate will be the *money market yield* of the rate, for the relevant interest determination date, for commercial paper having the *index maturity* indicated in your pricing supplement, as published in **H.15(519)** under the heading Commercial Paper Nonfinancial. If the commercial paper rate cannot be determined as described above, the following procedures will apply.

- If the rate described above does not appear in H.15(519) by 3:00 P.M., New York City time, on the relevant interest calculation date, unless the calculation is made earlier and the rate is available from that source at that time, then the commercial paper rate will be the rate, for the relevant interest determination date, for commercial paper having the index maturity specified in your pricing supplement, as published in **H.15 daily update** or any other recognized electronic source used for displaying that rate, under the heading Commercial Paper Nonfinancial.
- If the rate described above does not appear in H.15(519), H.15 daily update or another recognized electronic source by 3:00 P.M., New York City time, on the relevant interest calculation date, unless the calculation is made earlier and the rate is available from one of those sources at that time, the commercial paper rate will be the money market yield of the arithmetic mean of the following offered rates for U.S. dollar commercial paper that has the relevant index maturity and is placed for an industrial issuer whose bond rating is Aa , or the equivalent, from a nationally recognized rating agency: the rates offered as of 11:00 A.M., New York City time, on the relevant interest determination date, by three leading U.S. dollar commercial paper dealers in New York City selected by the calculation agent.
- If fewer than three dealers selected by the calculation agent are quoting as described above, the commercial paper rate for the new interest period will be the commercial paper rate in effect for the prior interest period. If the initial interest rate has been in effect for the prior interest period, however, it will remain in effect for the new interest period.

U.S. Prime Rate Notes

If you purchase a U.S. prime rate note, your note will bear interest at an interest rate equal to the U.S. prime rate and adjusted by the spread or spread multiplier, if any, indicated in your pricing supplement.

Edgar Filing: CANADIAN IMPERIAL BANK OF COMMERCE /CAN/ - Form 424B3

The U.S. prime rate will be the rate, for the relevant interest determination date, published in H.15(519) opposite the heading Bank Prime Loan. If the U.S. prime rate cannot be determined as described above, the following procedures will apply.

- If the rate described above does not appear in H.15(519) by 3:00 P.M., New York City time, on the relevant interest calculation date, unless the calculation is made earlier and the rate is available from that source at that time, then the U.S. prime rate will be the rate, for the relevant interest determination date, as published in H.15 daily update or another recognized electronic source used for the purpose of displaying that rate, under the heading Bank Prime Loan.
- If the rate described above does not appear in H.15(519), H.15 daily update or another recognized electronic source by 3:00 P.M., New York City time, on the relevant interest calculation date, unless the calculation is made earlier and the rate is available from one of those sources at that time, then the U.S. prime rate will be the arithmetic mean of the following rates as they appear on the *Reuters screen US PRIME 1 page*: the rate of interest publicly announced by each bank appearing on that page as that bank's prime rate or base lending rate, as of 11:00 A.M., New York City time, on the relevant interest determination date.
- If fewer than four of these rates appear on the Reuters screen US PRIME 1 page, the U.S. prime rate will be the arithmetic mean of the prime rates or base lending rates, as of the close of business on the relevant interest determination date, of three major banks in New York City selected by the calculation agent. For this purpose, the calculation agent will use rates quoted on the basis of the actual number of days in the year divided by a 360-day year.

Table of Contents

- If fewer than three banks selected by the calculation agent are quoting as described above, the U.S. prime rate for the new interest period will be the U.S. prime rate in effect for the prior interest period. If the initial interest rate has been in effect for the prior interest period, however, it will remain in effect for the new interest period.

LIBOR Notes

If you purchase a LIBOR note, your note will bear interest at an interest rate equal to LIBOR, which will be the London interbank offered rate for deposits in U.S. dollars or any other index currency, as noted in your pricing supplement. In addition, when LIBOR is the interest rate basis the applicable LIBOR rate will be adjusted by the spread or spread multiplier, if any, indicated in your pricing supplement. LIBOR will be determined in the following manner:

- LIBOR will be the offered rate appearing on the *Reuters Page LIBOR01* as of 11:00 A.M., London time, on the relevant LIBOR interest determination date, for deposits of the relevant index currency having the relevant index maturity beginning on the relevant interest reset date. Your pricing supplement will indicate the index currency, the index maturity and the reference page that apply to your LIBOR note. If no reference page is mentioned in your pricing supplement, Reuters Page LIBOR01 will apply to your LIBOR note.
- If Reuters Page LIBOR01 applies and the rate described above does not appear on that page, then LIBOR will be determined on the basis of the rates, at approximately 11:00 A.M., London time, on the relevant LIBOR interest determination date, at which deposits of the following kind are offered to prime banks in the London interbank market by four major banks in that market selected by the calculation agent: deposits of the index currency having the relevant index maturity, beginning on the relevant interest reset date, and in a *representative amount*. The calculation agent will request the principal London office of each of these banks to provide a quotation of its rate. If at least two quotations are provided, LIBOR for the relevant LIBOR interest determination date will be the arithmetic mean of the quotations.
- If fewer than two quotations are provided as described above, LIBOR for the relevant LIBOR interest determination date will be the arithmetic mean of the rates for loans of the following kind to leading European banks quoted, at approximately 11:00 A.M., in the applicable *principal financial center*, on that LIBOR interest determination date, by three major banks in that financial center selected by the calculation agent: loans of the index currency having the relevant index maturity, beginning on the relevant interest reset date and in a representative amount.
- If fewer than three banks selected by the calculation agent are quoting as described above, LIBOR for the new interest period will be LIBOR in effect for the prior interest period. If the initial interest rate has been in

effect for the prior interest period, however, it will remain in effect for the new interest period.

EURIBOR Notes

If you purchase a EURIBOR note, your note will bear interest at an interest rate equal to the interest rate for deposits in euro, designated as EURIBOR and sponsored jointly by the European Banking Federation and ACI the Financial Market Association, or any company established by the joint sponsors for purposes of compiling and publishing that rate. In addition, when EURIBOR is the interest rate basis the EURIBOR base rate will be adjusted by the spread or spread multiplier, if any, specified in your pricing supplement. EURIBOR will be determined in the following manner:

- EURIBOR will be the offered rate for deposits in euros having the index maturity specified in your pricing supplement, beginning on the second euro business day after the relevant EURIBOR interest determination date, as that rate appears on Reuters page EURIBOR01 as of 11:00 A.M., Brussels time, on the relevant EURIBOR interest determination date.
- If the rate described above does not appear on Reuters page EURIBOR01, EURIBOR will be determined on the basis of the rates, at approximately 11:00 A.M., Brussels time, on the relevant EURIBOR interest determination date, at which deposits of the following kind are offered to prime banks in the *euro-zone* interbank market by the principal euro-zone office of each of four

Table of Contents

major banks in that market selected by the calculation agent: euro deposits having the relevant index maturity, beginning on the relevant interest reset date, and in a representative amount. The calculation agent will request the principal euro-zone office of each of these banks to provide a quotation of its rate. If at least two quotations are provided, EURIBOR for the relevant EURIBOR interest determination date will be the arithmetic mean of the quotations.

- If fewer than two quotations are provided as described above, EURIBOR for the relevant EURIBOR interest determination date will be the arithmetic mean of the rates for loans of the following kind to leading euro-zone banks quoted, at approximately 11:00 A.M., Brussels time on that EURIBOR interest determination date, by three major banks in the euro-zone selected by the calculation agent: loans of euros having the relevant index maturity, beginning on the relevant interest reset date, and in a representative amount.
- If fewer than three banks selected by the calculation agent are quoting as described above, EURIBOR for the new interest period will be EURIBOR in effect for the prior interest period. If the initial interest rate has been in effect for the prior interest period, however, it will remain in effect for the new interest period.

Treasury Rate Notes

If you purchase a treasury rate note, your note will bear interest at an interest rate equal to the treasury rate and adjusted by the spread or spread multiplier, if any, indicated in your pricing supplement.

The treasury rate will be the rate for the auction, on the relevant treasury interest determination date, of treasury bills having the index maturity specified in your pricing supplement, as that rate appears on Reuters page USAUCTION 10/11. If the treasury rate cannot be determined in this manner, the following procedures will apply.

- If the rate described above does not appear on either page by 3:00 P.M., New York City time, on the relevant interest calculation date, unless the calculation is made earlier and the rate is available from that source at that time, the treasury rate will be the **bond equivalent yield** of the rate, for the relevant interest determination date, for the type of treasury bill described above, as published in H.15 daily update, or another recognized electronic source used for displaying that rate, under the heading U.S. Government Securities/Treasury Bills/Auction High.
- If the rate described in the prior paragraph does not appear in H.15 daily update or another recognized electronic source by 3:00 P.M., New York City time, on the relevant interest calculation date, unless the calculation is made earlier and the rate is available from one of those sources at that time, the treasury rate will be the bond equivalent yield of the auction rate, for the relevant treasury interest determination date and for treasury bills of the kind described above, as announced by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

- If the auction rate described in the prior paragraph is not so announced by 3:00 P.M., New York City time, on the relevant interest calculation date, or if no such auction is held for the relevant week, then the treasury rate will be the bond equivalent yield of the rate, for the relevant treasury interest determination date and for treasury bills having a remaining maturity closest to the specified index maturity, as published in H.15(519) under the heading U.S. Government Securities/Treasury Bills/Secondary Market.
- If the rate described in the prior paragraph does not appear in H.15(519) by 3:00 P.M., New York City time, on the relevant interest calculation date, unless the calculation is made earlier and the rate is available from one of those sources at that time, then the treasury rate will be the rate, for the relevant treasury interest determination date and for treasury bills having a remaining maturity closest to the specified index maturity, as published in H.15 daily update, or another recognized electronic source used for displaying that rate, under the heading U.S. Government Securities/Treasury Bills/Secondary Market.
- If the rate described in the prior paragraph does not appear in H.15 daily update or another recognized electronic source by 3:00 P.M., New York City time, on the relevant interest calculation date, unless the calculation is made earlier and the rate is available from one of those sources at that time, the treasury rate will be the bond equivalent yield of the arithmetic mean of

Table of Contents

the following secondary market bid rates for the issue of treasury bills with a remaining maturity closest to the specified index maturity: the rates bid as of approximately 3:30 P.M., New York City time, on the relevant treasury interest determination date, by three primary U.S. government securities dealers in New York City selected by the calculation agent.

- If fewer than three dealers selected by the calculation agent are quoting as described in the prior paragraph, the treasury rate in effect for the new interest period will be the treasury rate in effect for the prior interest period. If the initial interest rate has been in effect for the prior interest period, however, it will remain in effect for the new interest period.

CMT Rate Notes

If you purchase a CMT rate note, your note will bear interest at an interest rate equal to the CMT rate and adjusted by the spread or spread multiplier, if any, indicated in your pricing supplement.

The CMT rate will be the following rate displayed on the *designated CMT Reuters page* under the heading Treasury Constant Maturities Federal Reserve Board Release H.15 Mondays Approximately 3:45 P.M. , under the column for the *designated CMT index maturity*:

- if the designated CMT Reuters page is Reuters page FRBCMT, the rate for the relevant interest determination date; or
- if the designated CMT Reuters page is Reuters page FEDCMT, the weekly or monthly average, as specified in your pricing supplement, for the week that ends immediately before the week in which the relevant interest determination date falls, or for the month that ends immediately before the month in which the relevant interest determination date falls, as applicable.

If the CMT rate cannot be determined in this manner, the following procedures will apply.

- If the applicable rate described above is not displayed on the relevant designated CMT Reuters page at 3:00 P.M., New York City time, on the relevant interest calculation date, unless the calculation is made earlier and the rate is available from that source at that time, then the CMT rate will be the applicable treasury constant maturity rate described above i.e., for the designated CMT index maturity and for either the relevant interest determination date or the weekly or monthly average, as applicable as published in H.15(519).

- If the applicable rate described above does not appear in H.15(519) by 3:00 P.M., New York City time, on the relevant interest calculation date, unless the calculation is made earlier and the rate is available from one of those sources at that time, then the CMT rate will be the treasury constant maturity rate, or other U.S. treasury rate, for the designated CMT index maturity and with reference to the relevant interest determination date, that:
- is published by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, or the U.S. Department of the Treasury; or
- as is otherwise announced by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York for the week or month, as applicable, ended immediately preceding the week or month, as applicable, in which such CMT rate interest determination date falls; and
- in either case, is determined by the calculation agent to be comparable to the applicable rate formerly displayed on the designated CMT Reuters page and published in H.15(519).
- If the rate described in the prior paragraph does not appear by 3:00 P.M., New York City time, on the relevant interest calculation date, unless the calculation is made earlier and the rate is available from one of those sources at that time, then the CMT rate will be the yield to maturity of the arithmetic mean of the following secondary market bid rates for the most recently issued treasury notes having an original maturity equal to the designated CMT index maturity and a remaining term to maturity of not less than the designated CMT index maturity minus one year, and in a representative amount: the bid rates, as of approximately 3:30 P.M., New York City time, on the relevant interest determination date, of three primary U.S. government securities dealers in New York City selected by the calculation agent. In selecting these bid rates, the calculation agent will

Table of Contents

request quotations from five of these primary dealers and will disregard the highest quotation or, if there is equality, one of the highest and the lowest quotation or, if there is equality, one of the lowest. Treasury notes are direct, non-callable, fixed rate obligations of the U.S. government.

- If the calculation agent is unable to obtain three quotations of the kind described in the prior paragraph, the CMT rate will be the yield to maturity of the arithmetic mean of the following secondary market bid rates for treasury notes with an original maturity longer than the designated CMT index maturity, with a remaining term to maturity closest to the designated CMT index maturity and in a representative amount: the bid rates, as of approximately 3:30 P.M., New York City time, on the relevant interest determination date, of three primary U.S. government securities dealers in New York City selected by the calculation agent. In selecting these bid rates, the calculation agent will request quotations from five of these primary dealers and will disregard the highest quotation (or, if there is equality, one of the highest) and the lowest quotation (or, if there is equality, one of the lowest). If two treasury notes with an original maturity longer than the designated CMT index maturity have remaining terms to maturity that are equally close to the designated CMT index maturity, the calculation agent will obtain quotations for the treasury note with the shorter remaining term to maturity.
- If fewer than five but more than two of these primary dealers are quoting as described in the prior paragraph, then the CMT rate for the relevant interest determination date will be based on the arithmetic mean of the bid rates so obtained, and neither the highest nor the lowest of those quotations will be disregarded.
- If two or fewer primary dealers selected by the calculation agent are quoting as described above, the CMT rate in effect for the new interest period will be the CMT rate in effect for the prior interest period. If the initial interest rate has been in effect for the prior interest period, however, it will remain in effect for the new interest period.

CMS Rate Notes

If you purchase a CMS rate note, your note will bear interest at an interest rate equal to the CMS rate and adjusted by the spread or spread multiplier, if any, indicated in your pricing supplement.

The CMS rate will be the rate for U.S. dollar swaps with a maturity for a specified number of years, expressed as a percentage in the relevant pricing supplement, which appears on the *Reuters page ISDAFIX1* as of 11:00 a.m., New York City time, on the interest rate determination date.

If the CMS rate cannot be determined as described above, the following procedures will be used:

- If the applicable rate described above is not displayed on the relevant designated CMS Reuters page by 11:00 a.m., New York City time, on the interest rate determination date, then the CMS rate will be a percentage determined on the basis of the mid-market, semi-annual swap rate quotations provided by five leading swap dealers in the New York City interbank market at approximately 11:00 a.m., New York City time, on the interest rate determination date. For this purpose, the semi-annual swap rate means the mean of the bid and offered rates for the semi-annual fixed leg, calculated on a 30/360 day count basis, of a fixed-for-floating U.S. dollar interest rate swap transaction with a term equal to the maturity designated in the relevant pricing supplement commencing on that interest rate determination date with an acknowledged dealer of good credit in the swap market, where the floating leg, calculated on an Actual/360 day count basis, is equivalent to LIBOR Reuters with a maturity of three months. The calculation agent will select the five swap dealers after consultation with us and will request the principal New York City office of each of those dealers to provide a quotation of its rate. If at least three quotations are provided, the CMS rate for that interest rate determination date will be the arithmetic mean of the quotations, eliminating the highest and lowest quotations or, in the event of equality, one of the highest and one of the lowest quotations.
- If fewer than three leading swap dealers selected by the calculation agent are quoting as described above, the CMS rate will remain the CMS rate in effect on that interest rate determination date or, if that interest rate determination date is the first reference rate determination date, the initial interest rate.

Table of Contents

Federal Funds Rate Notes

If you purchase a federal funds rate note, your note will bear interest at an interest rate equal to the federal funds rate and adjusted by the spread or spread multiplier, if any, indicated in your pricing supplement.

The federal funds rate will be the rate for U.S. dollar federal funds as of the relevant interest determination date, as published in H.15(519) under the heading Federal Funds (Effective) , as that rate is displayed on *Reuters page FEDFUNDS1*. If the federal funds rate cannot be determined in this manner, the following procedures will apply.

- If the rate described above is not displayed on Reuters page FEDFUNDS1 by 3:00 P.M., New York City time, on the relevant interest calculation date, unless the calculation is made earlier and the rate is available from that source at that time, then the federal funds rate, as of the relevant interest determination date, will be the rate described above as published in H.15 daily update, or another recognized electronic source used for displaying that rate, under the heading Federal Funds (Effective).
- If the rate described above is not displayed on Reuters page FEDFUNDS1 and does not appear in H.15(519), H.15 daily update or another recognized electronic source by 3:00 P.M., New York City time, on the relevant interest calculation date, unless the calculation is made earlier and the rate is available from one of those sources at that time, the federal funds rate will be the arithmetic mean of the rates for the last transaction in overnight, U.S. dollar federal funds arranged, before 9:00 A.M., New York City time, on the business day following the relevant interest determination date, by three leading brokers of U.S. dollar federal funds transactions in New York City selected by the calculation agent.
- If fewer than three brokers selected by the calculation agent are quoting as described above, the federal funds rate in effect for the new interest period will be the federal funds rate in effect for the prior interest period. If the initial interest rate has been in effect for the prior interest period, however, it will remain in effect for the new interest period.

Special Rate Calculation Terms

In this section entitled Description of the Notes We May Offer , we use several terms that have special meanings relevant to calculating floating interest rates. We define these terms as follows:

Edgar Filing: CANADIAN IMPERIAL BANK OF COMMERCE /CAN/ - Form 424B3

The term bond equivalent yield means a yield expressed as a percentage and calculated in accordance with the following formula:

$$\text{bond equivalent yield} = \frac{D \times N}{360 (D \times M)} \times 100$$

where

D means the annual rate for treasury bills quoted on a bank discount basis and expressed as a decimal;

N means 365 or 366, as the case may be; and

M means the actual number of days in the applicable interest reset period.

The term business day means, for any note, a day that meets all of the following applicable requirements:

- for all notes, a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday that is neither a legal holiday nor a day on which banking institutions are authorized or required by law to close in New York City or Toronto, and, in the case of a floating rate note, London;
- if the note has a specified currency other than U.S. dollars or euros, a day on which banking institutions are not authorized or obligated by law, regulation or executive order to close in the applicable principal financial center; and
- if the note is a EURIBOR note or has a specified currency of euros, or is a LIBOR note for which the index currency is euros, a euro business day.

Table of Contents

The term **designated CMT index maturity** means the index maturity for a CMT rate note and will be the original period to maturity of a U.S. treasury security either 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 10, 20 or 30 years specified in the applicable pricing supplement.

The term **designated CMT Reuters page** means the Reuters page mentioned in the relevant pricing supplement that displays treasury constant maturities as reported in H.15(519). If no Reuters page is so specified, then the applicable page will be Reuters page FEDCMT. If Reuters page FEDCMT applies but the relevant pricing supplement does not specify whether the weekly or monthly average applies, the weekly average will apply.

The term **euro business day** means any day on which the Trans-European Automated Real-Time Gross Settlement Express Transfer (TARGET) System, or any successor system, is open for business.

The term **euro-zone** means, at any time, the region comprised of the member states of the European Economic and Monetary Union that, as of that time, have adopted a single currency in accordance with the Treaty on European Union of February 1992.

The term **H.15(519)** means the weekly statistical release entitled **Statistical Release H.15(519)**, or any successor publication, published by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

The term **H.15 daily update** means the daily update of H.15(519) available through the worldwide website of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, at <http://www.federalreserve.gov/releases/h15/update>, or any successor site or publication.

The term **index currency** means, with respect to a LIBOR note, the currency specified as such in the relevant pricing supplement. The index currency may be U.S. dollars or any other currency, and will be U.S. dollars unless another currency is specified in the relevant pricing supplement.

The term **index maturity** means, with respect to a floating rate note, the period to maturity of the instrument or obligation on which the interest rate formula is based, as specified in the applicable pricing supplement.

The term **London business day** means any day on which dealings in the relevant index currency are transacted in the London interbank market.

The term **money market yield** means a yield expressed as a percentage and calculated in accordance with the following formula:

$$\text{bond equivalent yield} = \frac{D \times 360}{\text{Price}} \times 100$$

where

D means the annual rate for commercial paper quoted on a bank discount basis and expressed as a decimal;
and

M means the actual number of days in the relevant interest reset period.

The term principal financial center means the capital city of the country to which an index currency relates (or the capital city of the country issuing the specified currency, as applicable), except that with respect to U.S. dollars, Australian dollars, Canadian dollars, South African rands and Swiss francs, the principal financial center means The City of New York, Sydney, Toronto, Johannesburg and Zurich, respectively, and with respect to euros the principal financial center means London.

The term representative amount means an amount that, in the calculation agent's judgment, is representative of a single transaction in the relevant market at the relevant time.

The term Reuters page FEDFUNDS1 means the page designated as FEDFUNDS1 on the Reuters service (or any successor service) (or such other page as may replace Page FEDFUNDS1 on the Reuters service or any successor service).

The term Reuters page ISDAFIX1 means the page designated as ISDAFIX1 on the Reuters service (or any successor service) (or such other page as may replace Page ISDAFIX1 on the Reuters service or any successor service).

Table of Contents

The term Reuters Page LIBOR01 means the display designated as LIBOR01 on Reuters (or any successor service) (or such other page as may replace Page LIBOR01 on Reuters or any successor service).

The term Reuters page USAUCTION 10/11 means the page designated as USAUCTION 10/11 on the Reuters service (or any successor service) (or such other page as may replace Page USAUCTION 10/11 on the Reuters service or any successor service).

The term Reuters screen US PRIME 1 page means the display on the US PRIME 1 page on the Reuters Monitor Money Rates Service, or any successor service, or any replacement page or pages on that service, for the purpose of displaying prime rates or base lending rates of major U.S. banks.

If, when we use the terms designated CMT Reuters page, H.15(519), H.15 daily update, Reuters screen US PRIME 1 page, Reuters page FEDFUNDS1, Reuters page ISDAFIX1, Reuters Page LIBOR01 or Reuters page USAUCTION 10/11, we refer to a particular heading or headings on any of those pages, those references include any successor or replacement heading or headings as determined by the calculation agent.

Defeasance

The defeasance described under Description of Senior Debt Securities Defeasance in the accompanying prospectus will not be applicable to the notes offered hereby.

Other Provisions; Addenda

Any provisions relating to the notes, including the determination of the interest rate basis, calculation of the interest rate applicable to a floating rate note, its interest payment dates, any redemption or repayment provisions, or any other term relating thereto, may be modified and/or supplemented by the terms on the face of the applicable notes or in an Addendum relating to the applicable notes, if so specified on the face of the applicable notes, and, in each case, in the relevant pricing supplement.

SUPPLEMENTAL PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION (CONFLICTS OF INTEREST)

We and CIBC World Markets Corp., as agent, have entered into a distribution agreement with respect to the notes. We may appoint agents, other than or in addition to CIBC World Markets Corp., with respect to the notes. Any other agent will enter into a distribution agreement with us. The other agents may be affiliates or customers of the Bank and may engage in transactions with and perform services for the Bank in the ordinary course of business. CIBC World Markets Corp. may resell notes to or through another selling agent, which may include another of our affiliates. The agent or agents through whom the notes will be offered will be identified in the applicable pricing supplement.

Subject to certain conditions, an agent will use its reasonable efforts to solicit purchases of the notes. We have the right to accept offers to purchase notes and may reject any proposed purchase of the notes. An agent may also reject any offer to purchase notes. We will pay an agent a commission, which will be set forth in the applicable pricing supplement, on any notes sold through such agent.

We may also sell notes to an agent, who will purchase the notes as principal for its own account. In that case, the agent will purchase the notes at a price equal to the issue price specified in the applicable pricing supplement, less a discount to be agreed with us at the time of the offering.

An agent may resell any notes it purchases as principal to other brokers or dealers at a discount, which may include all or part of the discount the agent received from us. If all the notes are not sold at the initial offering price, the agent may change the offering price and the other selling terms.

We may also sell notes directly to investors. We will not pay commissions on notes we sell directly.

We have reserved the right to withdraw, cancel or modify the offer made by this prospectus supplement without notice and may reject orders in whole or in part. No termination date has been established for the offering of the notes.

An agent, whether acting as agent or principal, may be deemed to be an underwriter within the meaning of the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act). We have agreed to indemnify the agents against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribute to payments made in respect of those liabilities.

Table of Contents

If an agent sells notes to dealers who resell to investors and the agent pays the dealers all or part of the discount or commission it receives from us, those dealers may also be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act.

Unless otherwise indicated in any pricing supplement, payment of the purchase price of notes, other than notes denominated in a non-U.S. dollar currency, will be required to be made in funds immediately available in The City of New York. The notes will be in the Same Day Funds Settlement System at DTC and, to the extent the secondary market trading in the notes is effected through the facilities of such depository, such trades will be settled in immediately available funds.

The notes are a new issue of securities, and there will be no established trading market for any note before its original issue date. We do not plan to list the notes on a securities exchange or quotation system. An agent may make a market in the notes offered through it. However, neither CIBC World Markets Corp. nor any of our other affiliates nor any other agent named in the applicable pricing supplement that makes a market is obligated to do so, and any of them may stop doing so at any time without notice. No assurance can be given as to the liquidity or trading market for the notes.

This prospectus supplement may be used by CIBC World Markets Corp. in connection with offers and sales of the notes in market-making transactions. In a market-making transaction, CIBC World Markets Corp. may resell a note it acquires from other holders after the original offering and sale of the note. Resales of this kind may occur in the open market or may be privately negotiated, at prevailing market prices at the time of resale or at related or negotiated prices. In these transactions, CIBC World Markets Corp. may act as principal or agent, including as agent for the counterparty in a transaction in which CIBC World Markets Corp. acts as principal, or as agent for both counterparties in a transaction in which CIBC World Markets Corp. does not act as principal. CIBC World Markets Corp. may receive compensation in the form of discounts and commissions, including from both counterparties in some cases. Other affiliates of the Bank (in addition to CIBC World Markets Corp.) may also engage in transactions of this kind and may use this prospectus supplement for this purpose.

Unless the Bank or an agent informs you in your confirmation of sale that your note is being purchased in its original offering and sale, you may assume that you are purchasing your note in a market-making transaction.

The aggregate initial offering price specified on the cover of this prospectus supplement relates to the initial offering of new notes we may issue on and after the date of this prospectus supplement. This amount does not include notes that may be resold in market-making transactions. The latter includes notes that we may issue going forward as well as notes we have previously issued.

The Bank does not expect to receive any proceeds from market-making transactions. The Bank does not expect that any dealer that engages in these transactions will pay any proceeds from its market-making resales to the Bank.

Information about the trade and settlement dates, as well as the purchase price, for a market-making transaction will be provided to the purchaser in a separate confirmation of sale.

Edgar Filing: CANADIAN IMPERIAL BANK OF COMMERCE /CAN/ - Form 424B3

In this prospectus supplement, the term *this offering* means the initial offering of the notes made in connection with their original issuance. This term does not refer to any subsequent resales of notes in market-making transactions.

An agent may engage in over-allotment, stabilizing transactions, syndicate covering transactions and penalty bids in accordance with Regulation M under the Exchange Act. Over-allotment involves syndicate sales in excess of the offering size, which creates a syndicate short position. Stabilizing transactions permit bids to purchase the underlying security so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum. Syndicate covering transactions involve purchases of the notes in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover syndicate short positions. Penalty bids permit reclaiming a selling concession from a syndicate member when the notes originally sold by such syndicate member are purchased in a syndicate covering transaction to cover syndicate short positions. Such stabilizing transactions, syndicate covering transactions and penalty bids may stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the market price of the notes, which may be higher than it would otherwise be in the absence of such transactions. Agents are not required to engage in these activities, and may end any of these activities at any time.

In addition to offering notes through agents as discussed above, other medium-term notes that have terms substantially similar to the terms of the notes offered by this prospectus supplement may in the future be offered,

Table of Contents

concurrently with the offering of the notes, on a continuing basis by the Bank. Any of these notes sold pursuant to the distribution agreement or sold by the Bank directly to investors will reduce the aggregate amount of notes which may be offered by this prospectus supplement.

Delivery of the notes will be made against payment therefor on or about the issue date specified in the applicable pricing supplement. Under Rule 15c6-1 of the Exchange Act, trades in the secondary market are generally required to settle three business days after the securities are priced, unless the parties to such trade expressly agree otherwise. Accordingly, if the settlement date is more than three business days after the pricing date of any issuance of notes, purchasers who wish to trade such notes more than three business days before the settlement date for the issuance of such notes will be required to specify an alternative settlement cycle at the time of any such trade in order to prevent failed settlement in the secondary market transaction; such purchasers should consult their own advisors in this regard.

Conflicts of Interest

CIBC World Markets Corp. is an affiliate of the Bank and, as such, has a conflict of interest in this offering within the meaning of FINRA Rule 5121, as administered by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc., or FINRA. Consequently, this offering is being conducted in compliance with the applicable provisions of FINRA Rule 5121. In general, under that rule, no qualified independent underwriter is expected to be required. CIBC World Markets Corp. is not permitted to sell notes in this offering to accounts over which it exercises discretionary authority without the prior specific written approval of the account holder. Furthermore, under no circumstances will underwriting compensation exceed 8% of the offering proceeds.

Selling Restrictions Outside the United States

The Bank has taken no action that would permit a public offering of the notes or the possession or distribution of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus or any other offering material in any jurisdiction outside of the United States where action for that purpose is required other than as described below. Accordingly, the agent has agreed, and each other agent will be required to agree, that:

- it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations in force in any jurisdiction in which it purchases, offers or sells notes or possesses or distributes this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus or any other offering material and will obtain any consent, approval or permission required by it for the purchase, offer or sale by it of notes under the laws and regulations in force in any jurisdiction to which it is subject or in which it makes such purchases, offers or sales and the Bank shall have no responsibility in relation to this; and
- it will not offer or sell any notes purchased by it, directly or indirectly, in Canada or to any resident of Canada without the consent of the Bank, and further agrees that it will include a comparable provision in any sub-underwriting, banking group or selling group agreement or similar arrangement with respect to any notes that may be entered into by such agent.

With regard to each note, the relevant purchaser will be required to comply with those restrictions that the Bank and the relevant purchaser shall agree and as shall be set out in the relevant pricing supplement.

s-26

Table of Contents

CANADIAN IMPERIAL BANK OF COMMERCE

Senior Debt Securities

up to an aggregate initial offering price of U.S. \$6,000,000,000 or the equivalent thereof in other currencies.

This prospectus describes some of the general terms that may apply to these securities and the general manner in which they may be offered. We will give you the specific prices and other terms of the securities we are offering in supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and the applicable supplement carefully before you invest. We may sell the securities to or through one or more underwriters, dealers or agents. The names of the underwriters, dealers or agents will be set forth in supplements to this prospectus.

NEITHER THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION NOR ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION HAS APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED OF THESE SECURITIES OR DETERMINED THAT THIS PROSPECTUS IS TRUTHFUL OR COMPLETE. ANY REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

Prospective investors should be aware that the acquisition of the securities described herein may have tax consequences both in the United States and in Canada. See **Material Income Tax Consequences** for a discussion of the material U.S. and Canadian federal income tax consequences of acquiring, holding and disposing of the securities.

The enforcement by investors of civil liabilities under United States federal securities laws may be affected adversely by the fact that Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) is a Canadian bank, that many of its officers and directors are residents of Canada, that some or all of the underwriters or experts named in the registration statement on Form F-3, of which this prospectus forms a part, may be residents of Canada, and that all or a substantial portion of the assets of CIBC and such persons may be located outside of the United States. See **Limitations on Enforcement of U.S. Laws Against CIBC, Its Management and Others** on page 30.

The securities described herein will not constitute deposits that are insured under the *Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation Act* (Canada) or by the United States Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Investing in the securities described herein involves a number of risks. See **Risk Factors on page 1.**

We may use this prospectus in the initial sale of the securities described herein. In addition, we or our affiliates may use this prospectus in a market-making transaction in any of these securities after their initial sale. Unless we or our agent informs you otherwise in the confirmation of sale, this prospectus is being used in a market-making transaction.

The date of this prospectus is March 28, 2017.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	i
<u>FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	i
<u>AVAILABLE INFORMATION</u>	iii
<u>DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE</u>	iii
<u>PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION</u>	iv
<u>CANADIAN IMPERIAL BANK OF COMMERCE</u>	1
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	1
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	1
<u>RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES</u>	1
<u>DESCRIPTION OF SENIOR DEBT SECURITIES</u>	2
<u>MATERIAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES</u>	17
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	26
<u>CERTAIN U.S. BENEFIT PLAN INVESTOR CONSIDERATIONS</u>	28
<u>LIMITATIONS ON ENFORCEMENT OF U.S. LAWS AGAINST CIBC, ITS MANAGEMENT AND OTHERS</u>	30
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	30
<u>EXPERTS</u>	30

In this prospectus, unless the context otherwise indicates, CIBC , we , us or our means Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and its subsidiaries

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement containing specific information about the terms of the securities being offered thereunder. A prospectus supplement may include a discussion of any risk factors or other special considerations applicable to those securities or to us. A prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information in this prospectus. If there is any inconsistency between the information in this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information in the prospectus supplement. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with the additional information described under the heading Available Information on page iii.

We may sell securities to underwriters who will sell the securities to the public on terms fixed at the time of sale. In addition, the securities may be sold by us directly or through dealers or agents designated from time to time. If we, directly or through agents, solicit offers to purchase the securities, we reserve the sole right to accept and, together with any agents, to reject, in whole or in part, any of those offers.

Any prospectus supplement will contain the names of the underwriters, dealers or agents, if any, together with the terms of the offering, the compensation of the underwriters and the net proceeds to us. Any underwriters, dealers or agents participating in the offering may be deemed underwriters within the meaning of the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act).

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus, including the documents that are incorporated by reference herein, contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of certain securities laws. All such statements are made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of, and are intended to be forward-looking statements under, applicable Canadian and United States securities legislation, including the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements include, but are not limited to, statements made about the operations, business lines, financial condition, risk management, priorities, targets, ongoing objectives, strategies, the regulatory environment in which we operate and outlook of CIBC for calendar year 2017 and subsequent periods. Forward-looking statements are typically identified by the words believe, expect, anticipate, intend, estimate, forecast, target, objective and other similar expressions or future or conditional verbs such as will, should, would and could. By their nature, these statements require CIBC to make assumptions and are subject to inherent risks and uncertainties that may be general or specific. A variety of factors, many of which are beyond CIBC's control, affect the operations, performance and results of CIBC, and could cause actual results to differ materially from the expectations expressed in any of CIBC's forward-looking statements. These factors include:

- credit, market, liquidity, strategic, insurance, operational, reputation and legal, regulatory and environmental risk;
- the effectiveness and adequacy of our risk management and valuation models and processes;

- legislative or regulatory developments in the jurisdictions where we operate, including the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act and the regulations issued and to be issued thereunder, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development Common Reporting Standard, and regulatory reforms in the United Kingdom and Europe, the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision's global standards for capital and liquidity reform, and those relating to bank recapitalization legislation and the payments system in Canada;
- amendments to, and interpretations of, risk-based capital guidelines and reporting instructions, and interest rate and liquidity regulatory guidance;
- the resolution of legal and regulatory proceedings and related matters;
- the effect of changes to accounting standards, rules and interpretations;
- changes in our estimates of reserves and allowances;
- changes in tax laws;
- changes to our credit ratings;

Table of Contents

- political conditions and developments;
- the possible effect on our business of international conflicts and the war on terror;
- natural disasters, public health emergencies, disruptions to public infrastructure and other catastrophic events;
- reliance on third parties to provide components of our business infrastructure;
- potential disruptions to our information technology systems and services;
- increasing cyber security risks which may include theft of assets, unauthorized access to sensitive information, or operational disruption;
- social media risk;
- losses incurred as a result of internal or external fraud;
- anti-money laundering;
- the accuracy and completeness of information provided to us concerning clients and counterparties;
- the failure of third parties to comply with their obligations to us and our affiliates or associates;

- intensifying competition from established competitors and new entrants in the financial services industry including through internet and mobile banking;
- technological change;
- global capital market activity;
- changes in monetary and economic policy;
- currency value and interest rate fluctuations, including as a result of market and oil price volatility;
- general business and economic conditions worldwide, as well as in Canada, the United States and other countries where we have operations, including increasing Canadian household debt levels and global credit risks;
- our success in developing and introducing new products and services, expanding existing distribution channels, developing new distribution channels and realizing increased revenue from these channels;
- changes in client spending and saving habits;
- our ability to attract and retain key employees and executives;
- our ability to successfully execute our strategies and complete and integrate acquisitions and joint ventures;
- the risk that expected synergies and benefits of the acquisition of PrivateBancorp, Inc. will not be realized within the expected time frame or at all or the possibility that the acquisition does not close when expected or at all because required regulatory, shareholder or other approvals are not received or other conditions to the closing are not satisfied on a timely basis or at all; and

- our ability to anticipate and manage the risks associated with these factors.

This list is not exhaustive of the factors that may affect any of CIBC's forward-looking statements. Additional information about these factors can be found in the "Management of risk" section of our 2016 Annual Report (as defined below). These and other factors should be considered carefully and readers should not place undue reliance on CIBC's forward-looking statements. See "Risk Factors" in this prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein. CIBC does not undertake to update any forward-looking statement that is contained in this prospectus or the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus except as required by law.

Table of Contents

AVAILABLE INFORMATION

In addition to the continuous disclosure obligations under the securities laws of the provinces and territories of Canada, CIBC is subject to the informational reporting requirements of the U.S. Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), and in accordance therewith files reports and other information with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC). Under a multi-jurisdictional disclosure system adopted by the United States and Canada, such reports and other information may be prepared in accordance with the disclosure requirements of the provincial and territorial securities regulatory authorities of Canada, which requirements are different from those of the United States. As a foreign private issuer, CIBC is exempt from the rules under the Exchange Act prescribing the furnishing and content of proxy statements. CIBC's reports and other information filed with or furnished to the SEC are available, and reports and other information filed or furnished in the future with or to the SEC will be available, from the SEC's EDGAR System (<http://www.sec.gov>). Any document CIBC files with or furnishes to the SEC may be inspected and, by paying a fee, copied at the public reference facilities maintained by the SEC at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Prospective investors may call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information regarding the public reference facilities. CIBC's common shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange and reports and other information concerning CIBC may be inspected at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005.

CIBC has filed with the SEC, under the Securities Act, a registration statement on Form F-3 with respect to the securities offered by this prospectus. This prospectus forms a part of that registration statement. This prospectus does not contain all of the information that is set forth in the registration statement; certain parts of the registration statement are omitted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC. Statements made in this prospectus as to the contents of any contract, agreement or other document referred to are not necessarily complete, and in each instance, reference is made to an exhibit to the registration statement, if applicable, for a more complete description of the matter, each such statement being qualified in its entirety by such reference. For further information with respect to CIBC and the securities offered by this prospectus, reference is made to the registration statement and the exhibits thereto, which will be publicly available as described in the preceding paragraph.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information we file with it, which means we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents.

The following documents are incorporated by reference into this prospectus:

- (i) CIBC's Annual Report on Form 40-F for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2016 (the 2016 Annual Report); and
- (ii) CIBC's Reports on Form 6-K filed on December 1, 2016 (with respect to the reporting of the declaration of dividends), December 1, 2016 (with respect to CIBC's Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges), February 23, 2017 (with respect to CIBC's Report to Shareholders for the First Quarter, 2017), February 23, 2017 (with respect to the reporting of the declaration of dividends) and February 23, 2017 (with respect to CIBC's

Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges).

In addition, any documents filed on Form 40-F or furnished on Form 6-K (if and to the extent expressly provided therein) by CIBC with the SEC, after the date of the filing of this prospectus and prior to the completion or withdrawal of any offering hereunder or, if later, the date on which any of CIBC's affiliates ceases offering and selling the securities offered hereby, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus and the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part.

Any statement contained in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded, for purposes of this prospectus, to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any other subsequently filed document that also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statement. The modifying or superseding statement need not state that it has modified or superseded a prior statement or include any other information set forth in the document that it modifies or supersedes. The making of a modifying or superseding statement shall not be deemed an admission for any purposes that the modified or superseded statement, when made, constituted a misrepresentation, an untrue statement of a material fact or an omission to state a material fact that is required to be stated or that is necessary to make a statement not misleading in light of the circumstances in which it was made. Any statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus.

Table of Contents

You can request a copy of the documents referred to above, excluding exhibits that are not specifically incorporated by reference herein, at no cost, by writing or telephoning us at Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Commerce Court, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5L 1A2, Attention: Investor Relations, telephone: (416) 980-6657. The documents incorporated by reference are available from the SEC's EDGAR System at www.sec.gov.

PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION

CIBC prepares its consolidated financial statements, including comparative information, in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board. Pursuant to SEC rules, CIBC is permitted to present its financial statements in accordance with IFRS without a reconciliation to U.S. GAAP.

Additionally, CIBC publishes its consolidated financial statements in Canadian dollars. In this prospectus, currency amounts are stated in Canadian dollars, unless specified otherwise. References to \$, Cdn\$ and dollars are to Canadian dollars, and references to US\$ are to U.S. dollars. As indicated in the table below, the Canadian dollar has fluctuated in value compared to the U.S. dollar over the last five years.

The table below sets forth the high and low daily noon buying rates, the average yearly rate and the rate at period end between Canadian dollars and U.S. dollars (in U.S. dollars per Canadian dollar) for the five-year period ended October 31, 2016 and for each of November and December 2016 and January and February 2017. On March 17, 2017, the latest date for which information is available, the Canadian dollar noon buying rate was U.S. \$0.7482. Our reference to the noon buying rate is the rate in The City of New York for cable transfers in foreign currencies as announced by the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank of New York for customs purposes on a specified date.

PERIOD	HIGH	LOW	AVERAGE RATE(1)	AT PERIOD END
Year Ended October 31				
2012	1.0299	0.9536	0.9969	1.0006
2013	1.0164	0.9454	0.9774	0.9589
2014	0.9602	0.8857	0.9150	0.8872
2015	0.8900	0.7455	0.7979	0.7644
2016	0.7972	0.6853	0.7550	0.7461
November 2016	0.7499	0.7363	0.7449	0.7444
December 2016	0.7623	0.7377	0.7497	0.7448
January 2017	0.7675	0.7442	0.7586	0.7675
February 2017	0.7691	0.7549	0.7629	0.7549
March 2017 (through March 17)	0.7510	0.7405	0.7451	0.7482

(1) The average of the noon buying rates for each year are based on the noon buying rates on the last business day of each full month during the relevant year.

Table of Contents**CANADIAN IMPERIAL BANK OF COMMERCE**

CIBC is a diversified financial institution governed by the *Bank Act* (Canada) (the *Bank Act*). CIBC's registered and head office is located in Commerce Court, Toronto, Canada, M5L 1A2. CIBC was formed in 1961 through the amalgamation of The Canadian Bank of Commerce (originally incorporated in 1858) and Imperial Bank of Canada (originally incorporated in 1875).

Additional information with respect to CIBC's businesses is included in the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus. See Documents Incorporated by Reference in this prospectus.

RISK FACTORS

Investment in these securities is subject to various risks including those risks inherent in conducting the business of a diversified financial institution. Before deciding whether to invest in any senior debt securities, you should consider carefully the risks described in the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus (including subsequently filed documents incorporated by reference) and, if applicable, those described in a prospectus supplement relating to a specific offering of securities. You should consider the categories of risks identified and discussed in the management's discussion and analysis of financial condition and results of operations included in our 2016 Annual Report, including those summarized under Forward-Looking Statements on page i.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Except as otherwise set forth in a prospectus supplement, the net proceeds from the sale of securities will be added to our general funds and will be used for general corporate purposes.

RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following table sets forth the ratio of earnings to fixed charges of CIBC for each of the years in the five-year period ended October 31, 2016 and for the three months ended January 31, 2017 calculated in accordance with the accounting principles indicated below:

	Three Months Ended January 31, 2017	2016	2015 (IFRS)(1)	Year Ended October 31, 2014	2013	2012
Excluding Interest on Deposits	8.96x	7.75x	6.20x	5.29x	5.49x	4.43x
Including Interest on Deposits	2.55x	2.27x	2.10x	1.90x	1.86x	1.82x

(1) Under IFRS, interest on deposits comprises interest expense relating to deposits and secured borrowings liabilities.

For purposes of computing these ratios, earnings represent net income before income taxes and fixed charges (excluding capitalized interest). Fixed charges represent (i) estimated interest within rental expense, (ii) amortization of debt issuance costs and (iii) interest (including capitalized interest), including or excluding deposit interest as indicated. For purposes of computing these ratios, the interest component of rental expense is 30% of rent expense because it is the proportion deemed representative of the interest factor.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF SENIOR DEBT SECURITIES

The following describes the material terms of the senior debt securities. The senior debt securities will be issued under the indenture (as amended or supplemented from time to time, the indenture), dated as of September 15, 2012 between CIBC and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as trustee (the Trustee), a copy of which is incorporated by reference as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. The specific terms applicable to a particular issuance of senior debt securities and any variations from the terms set forth below will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. In this section, CIBC , we , us or our means Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, the issuer of the senior debt securities, and not its subsidiaries.

The following is a summary of the material terms and provisions of the indenture and the senior debt securities. You should refer to the indenture and the senior debt securities for complete information regarding the terms and provisions of the indenture and the senior debt securities. The indenture is subject to and governed by the U.S. Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, and applicable Canadian trust indenture legislation.

Ranking

The senior debt securities will not be secured by any of our property or assets or the property or assets of our subsidiaries. Thus, by owning a senior debt security, you are one of our unsecured creditors.

The senior debt securities will be unsubordinated obligations that rank equally with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated debt, including deposit liabilities, other than certain governmental claims in accordance with applicable law.

In the event we become insolvent, our governing legislation provides that priorities among payments of our deposit liabilities (including payments in respect of the senior debt securities) and payments of all of our other liabilities are to be determined in accordance with the laws governing priorities and, where applicable, by the terms of the indebtedness and liabilities. In addition, our right to participate in any distribution of the assets of our banking or non-banking subsidiaries, upon a subsidiary's dissolution, winding-up, liquidation or reorganization or otherwise, and thus your ability to benefit indirectly from such distribution, is subject to the prior claims of creditors of that subsidiary, except to the extent that we may be a creditor of that subsidiary and our claims are recognized. There are legal limitations on the extent to which some of our subsidiaries may extend credit, pay dividends or otherwise supply funds to, or engage in transactions with, us or some of our other subsidiaries. Accordingly, the senior debt securities will be structurally subordinated to all existing and future liabilities of our subsidiaries, and holders of senior debt securities should look only to our assets for payments on the senior debt securities.

The senior debt securities will not constitute deposits insured under the *Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation Act* (Canada) or by the United States Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other Canadian or United States governmental agency or instrumentality.

General

We may issue as many distinct series of senior debt securities under the indenture as we wish. The provisions of the indenture allow us not only to issue senior debt securities with terms different from those previously issued under the applicable indenture, but also to re-open a previous issue of a series of senior debt securities and issue additional senior debt securities of that series. We may issue senior debt securities in amounts that exceed the total amount specified on the cover of your applicable prospectus supplement at any time without your consent and without notifying you. In addition, we may issue additional senior debt securities of any series at any time without your consent and without notifying you. We may also issue other securities at any time without your consent and without notifying you. The indenture does not limit our ability to incur other indebtedness or to issue other securities, and we are not subject to financial or similar restrictions under the indenture.

This section summarizes the material terms of the senior debt securities that are common to all series, subject to any modifications contained in an applicable prospectus supplement. Most of the specific terms of your series will be described in the applicable prospectus supplements accompanying this prospectus. The specific terms of your senior debt security as described in the applicable prospectus supplements will supplement and, if applicable, may modify or replace the general terms described in this section. If there are any differences between the information in the applicable prospectus supplements and this prospectus, the information in the most recent applicable prospectus supplement will control. Accordingly, the statements we make in this section may not apply to your senior debt securities. Because this section is a summary, it does not describe every aspect of the senior debt securities. This summary is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to all the provisions of the indenture

Table of Contents

and the applicable series of senior debt securities, including definitions of certain terms used in the indenture and the applicable series of senior debt securities. In this summary, we describe the meaning of only some of the more important terms. You must look to the indenture or the applicable series of senior debt securities for the most complete description of what we describe in summary form in this prospectus.

We may issue the senior debt securities as original issue discount securities, which will be offered and sold at a substantial discount below their stated principal amount. An applicable prospectus supplement relating to the original issue discount securities will describe U.S. federal, Canadian federal and other relevant income tax considerations and other special considerations applicable to them. The senior debt securities may also be issued as indexed securities or securities denominated in foreign currencies or currency units, as described in more detail in an applicable prospectus supplement relating to any of the particular senior debt securities. An applicable prospectus supplement relating to specific senior debt securities will also describe any special considerations and any material U.S. federal and Canadian federal tax considerations applicable to such senior debt securities, including whether and under what circumstances we will pay additional amounts on or for any tax, assessment or governmental charge withheld or deducted and, if so, whether we will have the option to redeem the senior debt securities rather than pay the additional amounts.

When we refer to a series of senior debt securities, we mean a series issued under the indenture pursuant to which the senior debt securities will be issued. Each series of senior debt securities is a single distinct series under the indenture pursuant to which they will be issued and we may issue senior debt securities of each series in such amounts, at such times and on such terms as we wish. The senior debt securities of each series may differ from one another, and from any other series, in their terms, but all senior debt securities of a series together will constitute a single series for all purposes under the indenture pursuant to which they will be issued.

We may issue senior debt securities up to an aggregate principal amount as we may authorize from time to time. The applicable prospectus supplements will describe the terms of any series of senior debt securities being offered, including:

- the title of the series of senior debt securities;
- any limit on the aggregate principal amount of the series of senior debt securities;
- the person to whom interest on a senior debt security is payable, if other than the holder on the regular record date;
- the date or dates on which the series of senior debt securities will mature;
- the rate or rates (which may be fixed or variable) per annum, at which the series of senior debt securities will bear interest, if any, and the date or dates from which that interest, if any, will accrue;

- the dates on which such interest, if any, will be payable and the regular record dates for such interest payment dates;
- the place or places where the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on the senior debt securities is payable;
- any mandatory or optional sinking funds or similar provisions;
- if applicable, the date after which, the price at which, the periods within which and the terms and conditions upon which the senior debt securities may, pursuant to any optional or mandatory redemption provisions, be redeemed and other detailed terms and provisions of those optional or mandatory redemption provisions or provisions for redemption at our option or the option of the holder, if any;
- if applicable, the terms and conditions upon which the senior debt securities may be repayable prior to final maturity at the option of the holder thereof (which option may be conditional);
- the portion of the principal amount of the senior debt securities, if other than the entire principal amount thereof, payable upon acceleration of maturity thereof;

Table of Contents

- if other than denominations of US\$2,000 and integral multiples of US\$1,000 in excess thereof, the denominations in which the series of senior debt securities will be issuable;
- the currency of payment of principal, premium, if any, and interest on the series of senior debt securities;
- if the currency of payment for principal, premium, if any, and interest on the series of senior debt securities is subject to our election or that of a holder, the currency or currencies in which payment can be made and the period within which, and the terms and conditions upon which, the election can be made;
- the terms, if any, on which any securities may or shall be converted into or exchanged at the option of CIBC or otherwise for shares or other securities of CIBC or another entity or other entities, into the cash value thereof or into any combination of the foregoing, any specific terms relating to the adjustment thereof and the period during which such securities may or shall be so converted or exchanged;
- any index, formula or other method used to determine the amount of payment of principal or premium, if any, and/or interest on the series of senior debt securities;
- the applicability of the provisions described under **Defeasance** below;
- any event of default under the series of senior debt securities if different from those described under **Events of Default** below;
- if the series of senior debt securities will be issuable only in the form of a global senior debt security, the depositary or its nominee with respect to the series of senior debt securities and the circumstances under which the global senior debt security may be registered for transfer or exchange in the name of a person other than the depositary or the nominee; and
- any other special feature of the series of senior debt securities.

Market-Making Transactions

One or more of our subsidiaries may purchase and resell senior debt securities in market-making transactions after their initial issuance. We may also, subject to applicable law and any required regulatory approvals, purchase senior debt securities in the open market or in private transactions to be held by us or cancelled.

Covenants

Except as otherwise provided in an applicable prospectus supplement with respect to any series of senior debt securities, we are not restricted by the indenture from incurring, assuming or becoming liable for any type of debt or other obligations, from paying dividends or making distributions on our capital stock or purchasing or redeeming our capital stock. The indenture does not require the maintenance of any financial ratios or specified levels of net worth or liquidity, nor does it contain any covenants or other provisions that would limit our or our subsidiaries right to incur additional indebtedness, enter into any sale and leaseback transaction or grant liens on our or our subsidiaries' assets. The indenture does not contain any provisions that would require us to repurchase or redeem or otherwise modify the terms of any of the senior debt securities upon a change in control or other events that may adversely affect the creditworthiness of the senior debt securities, for example, a highly leveraged transaction, except as otherwise specified in this prospectus or any applicable prospectus supplement.

Mergers and Similar Events

The indenture provides that we are permitted to merge, amalgamate, consolidate or otherwise combine with another entity, or to sell or lease substantially all of our assets to another entity, as long as the following conditions are met:

- When we merge, amalgamate, consolidate or otherwise are combined with another entity, or sell or lease substantially all of our assets, the surviving, resulting or acquiring entity is a duly organized entity and is legally responsible for and assumes, either by agreement, operation of law or otherwise, our obligations under such indenture and the senior debt securities issued thereunder.

Table of Contents

- The merger, amalgamation, consolidation, other combination, or sale or lease of assets, must not result in an event of default under such indenture. A default for this purpose would include any event that would become an event of default if the requirements for giving us default notice or our default having to exist for a specified period of time were both disregarded.

- We have delivered to the Trustee an officer's certificate and opinion of counsel stating that the transaction (and any accompanying supplemental indenture) complies with the indenture and all conditions precedent have been complied with.

If the conditions described above are satisfied, we will not need to obtain the consent of the holders of the senior debt securities in order to merge, amalgamate, consolidate or otherwise combine with another entity or to sell or lease substantially all of our assets.

We will not need to satisfy the conditions described above if we enter into other types of transactions, including:

- any transaction in which we acquire the stock or assets of another entity but in which we do not merge, amalgamate, consolidate or otherwise combine;
- any transaction that involves a change of control but in which we do not merge, amalgamate, consolidate or otherwise combine; and
- any transaction in which we sell less than substantially all of our assets.

It is possible that this type of transaction may result in a reduction in our credit rating, may reduce our operating results or may impair our financial condition. Holders of senior debt securities, however, will have no approval right with respect to any transaction of this type.

Modification and Waiver of the Senior Debt Securities

There are three types of changes we can make to the indenture and the senior debt securities issued under that indenture.

Changes Requiring Consent of Each Holder. First, there are changes that cannot be made to the indenture or the senior debt securities without the consent of each holder of a series of senior debt securities affected by the change under the indenture. The following is a list of those types of changes:

- change the stated maturity of the principal or reduce the interest on a senior debt security;
- reduce any amounts due on a senior debt security;
- reduce the amount of principal payable upon acceleration of the maturity of a senior debt security (including the amount payable on an original issue discount security) following a default;
- change the currency of payment on a senior debt security;
- change the place of payment for a senior debt security;
- impair a holder's right to sue for payment;
- impair a holder's right to require repurchase on the original terms of those senior debt securities that provide a right of repurchase;
- reduce the percentage of holders of senior debt securities whose consent is needed to modify or amend the indenture;
- reduce the percentage of holders of senior debt securities whose consent is needed to waive compliance with certain provisions of the indenture or to waive certain defaults; or
- modify any other aspect of the provisions dealing with modification and waiver of the indenture.

Changes Requiring a Majority Consent. The second type of change to the indenture and the senior debt securities is the kind that requires the consent of holders of senior debt securities owning not less than a majority of the principal amount of the particular series affected. Most changes fall into this category, except for clarifying changes and certain other

changes that would not adversely affect in any material respect holders of the senior debt

Table of Contents

securities. We may also obtain a waiver of a past default from the holders of senior debt securities owning a majority of the principal amount of the particular series affected. However, we cannot obtain a waiver of a payment default or any other aspect of the indenture or the senior debt securities described above under *Changes Requiring Consent of Each Holder* unless we obtain the individual consent of each holder of senior debt securities of the affected series to the waiver.

Changes Not Requiring Consent. The third type of change to the indenture and the senior debt securities does not require the consent by holders of senior debt securities. This type of change is limited to the issuance of new series of senior debt securities under the indenture, clarifications and certain other changes that would not adversely affect in any material respect the interests of the holders of the senior debt securities of any series.

Further Details Concerning Voting. When seeking consent, we will use the following rules to decide the principal amount to attribute to a senior debt security:

- For original issue discount securities, we will use the principal amount that would be due and payable on the voting date if the maturity of the senior debt securities were accelerated to that date because of a default.
- For senior debt securities whose principal amount is not known, we will use a special rule for that senior debt security described in the applicable prospectus supplement.
- For senior debt securities denominated in one or more non-U.S. currencies or currency units, we will use the U.S. dollar equivalent.

Senior debt securities will not be considered outstanding, and therefore not eligible to vote or take other action under the applicable indenture, if we have given a notice of redemption and deposited or set aside in trust for the holders money for the payment or redemption of those senior debt securities. Senior debt securities will also not be considered outstanding, and therefore not eligible to vote or take other action under the applicable indenture, if they have been fully defeased as described below under *Defeasance* *Full Defeasance* or if we or one of our affiliates is the beneficial owner of the senior debt securities.

We will generally be entitled to set any day as a record date for the purpose of determining the holders of outstanding senior debt securities that are entitled to vote or take other action under the applicable indenture. In certain limited circumstances, the trustee will be entitled to set a record date for action by holders. If the trustee or we set a record date for a vote or other action to be taken by holders of a particular series, that vote or action may be taken only by persons who are holders of outstanding senior debt securities of that series on the record date. We or the trustee as applicable, may shorten or lengthen this period from time to time. This period, however, may not extend beyond the 180th day after the record date for the action.

Book-entry and other indirect holders should consult their banks, brokers or other financial institutions for information on how approval may be granted or denied if we seek to change the indenture or the senior debt securities or request a waiver.

Defeasance

The following discussion of full defeasance and covenant defeasance will be applicable to each series of senior debt securities that is denominated in U.S. dollars and has a fixed rate of interest and will apply to other series of senior debt securities if we so specify in the applicable prospectus supplements.

Full Defeasance. If there is a change in U.S. federal income tax law, as described below, we can legally release ourselves from any payment or other obligations on the senior debt securities of a series, called full defeasance, if we put in place the following other arrangements for holders to be repaid:

- We must deposit in trust for the benefit of all holders of the senior debt securities of that series a combination of money and notes or bonds of (i) the U.S. government or (ii) a U.S. government agency or U.S. government-sponsored entity, the obligations of which, in each case, are backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government, that will generate enough cash to make interest, principal and any other payments on the senior debt securities of that series on their various due dates sufficient, in the opinion of a nationally recognized firm of independent public accountants, to pay and discharge the amounts owed.

Table of Contents

- There must be a change in current U.S. federal income tax law or a ruling by the United States Internal Revenue Service that lets us make the above deposit without causing the holders to be taxed on the senior debt securities of that series any differently than if we did not make the deposit and just repaid the senior debt securities of that series ourselves. (Under current U.S. federal income tax law, the deposit and our legal release from the obligations pursuant to the senior debt securities would be treated as though we took back your senior debt securities and gave you your share of the cash and notes or bonds deposited in trust. In that event, you could recognize gain or loss on the senior debt securities you give back to us.)

- We must deliver to the trustee a legal opinion of our counsel confirming the tax law change described above and that the holders of the senior debt securities of that series will not recognize income, gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a result of such deposit, defeasance and discharge and will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on the same amounts and in the same manner and at the same times as would be the case if such deposit, defeasance and discharge had not occurred.

If we ever did accomplish full defeasance, as described above, you would have to rely solely on the trust deposit for repayment on the senior debt securities. You could not look to us for repayment in the event of any shortfall.

Covenant Defeasance. Even without a change in current U.S. federal income tax law, we can make the same type of deposit as described above, and we will be released from the restrictive covenants under the senior debt securities of a series that may be described in the applicable prospectus supplements. This is called covenant defeasance. In that event, you would lose the protection of these covenants but would gain the protection of having money and U.S. government, U.S. government agency or U.S. government-sponsored entity notes or bonds set aside in trust to repay the senior debt securities. In order to achieve covenant defeasance, we must do the following:

- Deposit in trust for the benefit of all holders of the senior debt securities of that series a combination of money and notes or bonds of (i) the U.S. government or (ii) a U.S. government agency or U.S. government-sponsored entity, the obligations of which, in each case, are backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government, that will generate enough cash to make interest, principal and any other payments on the senior debt securities of that series on their various due dates sufficient, in the opinion of a nationally recognized firm of independent public accountants, to pay and discharge the amounts owed.

- Deliver to the trustee a legal opinion of our counsel confirming that the holders of the senior debt securities of that series will not recognize income, gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a result of such deposit and covenant defeasance and will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on the same amounts and in the same manner and at the same times as would be the case if such deposit and covenant defeasance had not occurred.

If we accomplish covenant defeasance, certain provisions of the indenture and the senior debt securities would no longer apply:

- Covenants applicable to the series of senior debt securities and described in the applicable prospectus supplements.
- Any events of default relating to breach of those covenants.

If we accomplish covenant defeasance, you can still look to us for repayment of the senior debt securities if there were a shortfall in the trust deposit. In fact, if one of the remaining events of default occurs (such as a bankruptcy) and the senior debt securities become immediately due and payable, there may be such a shortfall.

Events of Default

You will have special rights if an event of default occurs and is not cured, as described later in this subsection.

Table of Contents

What is an Event of Default?

Under the indenture, the term "event of default" means in respect of any series of senior debt securities any of the following:

- We do not pay the principal of or any premium on a senior debt security of that series within five days of its due date.

- We do not pay interest on a senior debt security of that series for more than 30 days after its due date.

- We file for bankruptcy or certain other events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization occur.

- Any other event of default described in an applicable prospectus supplement occurs.

Remedies If an Event of Default Occurs. If an event of default occurs, the trustee will have special duties. In that situation, the trustee will be obligated to use those of its rights and powers under the applicable indenture, and to use the same degree of care and skill in doing so, that a prudent person would use in that situation in conducting his or her own affairs. If an event of default has occurred and has not been cured, the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding senior debt securities of the affected series may declare the entire principal amount of (or, in the case of original issue discount securities, the portion of the principal amount that is specified in the terms of the affected senior debt security) and interest on all of the senior debt securities of that series to be due and immediately payable. This is called a "declaration of acceleration". The declaration of acceleration is not, however, an automatic right upon the occurrence of an event of default, and for such acceleration to be effective, the trustee must take the aforementioned action or the holders must direct the trustee to act as described in this section below. Furthermore, a declaration of acceleration may be cancelled in certain circumstances, but only before a judgment or decree based on the acceleration has been obtained, by the holders of at least a majority in principal amount of the senior debt securities of the affected series. If any provisions of applicable Canadian banking law prohibit the payment of any amounts due under the senior debt securities before a specified time, then the obligation to make such payment shall be subject to such prohibition.

You should read carefully the applicable prospectus supplements relating to any series of senior debt securities which are original issue discount securities for the particular provisions relating to acceleration of the maturity of a portion of the principal amount of original issue discount securities upon the occurrence of an event of default and its continuation.

Except in cases of default in which the trustee has the special duties described above, the trustee is not required to take any action under the indenture at the request of any holders unless the holders offer the trustee protection from expenses and liability called an indemnity satisfactory to the trustee. If such an indemnity is provided, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding senior debt securities of the relevant series may direct the time, method and place of conducting any lawsuit or other formal legal action seeking any remedy available to the trustee. These majority holders may also direct the trustee in performing any other action under the applicable indenture with respect to the senior debt securities of that series.

Before you bypass the trustee and bring your own lawsuit or other formal legal action or take other steps to enforce your rights or protect your interests relating to the senior debt securities the following must occur:

- the holder of the senior debt security must give the trustee written notice that an event of default has occurred and remains uncured;

- the holders of not less than 25% in principal amount of all outstanding senior debt securities of the relevant series must make a written request that the trustee take action because of such event of default;

- such holder or holders must offer indemnity satisfactory to the trustee against the cost and other liabilities of taking that action;

- the trustee must have not taken action for 90 days after receipt of the above notice and offer of indemnity; and

Table of Contents

- the trustee has not received any direction from a majority in principal amount of all outstanding senior debt securities of the relevant series that is inconsistent with such written request during such 90-day period.

However, you are entitled at any time to bring a lawsuit for the payment of money due on your senior debt security on or after its due date.

BOOK-ENTRY AND OTHER INDIRECT HOLDERS SHOULD CONSULT THEIR BANKS, BROKERS OR OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO GIVE NOTICE OR DIRECTION TO OR MAKE A REQUEST OF THE TRUSTEE AND TO MAKE OR CANCEL A DECLARATION OF ACCELERATION.

We will give to the trustee every year a written statement of certain of our officers certifying that to their knowledge we are in compliance with the applicable indenture and the senior debt securities issued under it, or else specifying any default.

Form, Exchange and Transfer

Unless we specify otherwise in an applicable prospectus supplement, the senior debt securities will be issued:

- only in fully-registered form;
- without interest coupons; and
- in denominations of US\$2,000 and integral multiples of US\$1,000 in excess thereof.

If a senior debt security is issued as a registered global senior debt security, only the depositary will be entitled to transfer and exchange the senior debt security as described in this subsection because the depositary will be the sole registered holder of the senior debt security and is referred to below as the holder. Those who own beneficial interests in a global senior debt security do so through participants in the depositary's securities clearance system, and the rights of these indirect owners will be governed by the applicable procedures of the depositary and its participants. We describe book-entry procedures below under Legal Ownership and Book-Entry Issuance.

Holders of senior debt securities issued in fully-registered form may have their senior debt securities broken into more senior debt securities of smaller denominations of not less than US\$2,000, or combined into fewer senior debt securities of larger denominations, as long as the total principal amount is not changed. This is called an exchange.

Holders may exchange or register the transfer of senior debt securities at the office of the trustee. Senior debt securities may be transferred by endorsement. Holders may also replace lost, stolen or mutilated senior debt securities at that office. The trustee acts as our agent for registering senior debt securities in the names of holders and registering the transfer of senior debt securities. We may change this appointment to another entity or perform it ourselves. The entity performing the role of maintaining the list of registered holders is called the security registrar. It will also record transfers. The trustee may require an indemnity before replacing any senior debt securities.

Holders will not be required to pay a service charge to register the transfer or exchange of senior debt securities, but holders may be required to pay for any tax or other governmental charge associated with the exchange or transfer. The registration of a transfer or exchange will only be made if the security registrar is satisfied with your proof of ownership.

If we designate additional agents, they will be named in the applicable prospectus supplements. We may cancel the designation of any particular agent. We may also approve a change in the office through which any agent acts.

If the senior debt securities are redeemable and we redeem less than all of the senior debt securities of a particular series, we may block the registration of transfer or exchange of senior debt securities during the period beginning 15 days before the day we mail the notice of redemption and ending on the day of that mailing, in order to freeze the list of holders entitled to receive the mailing. We may also refuse to register transfers or exchanges of senior debt securities selected for redemption, except that we will continue to permit registration of transfers and exchanges of the unredeemed portion of any senior debt security being partially redeemed.

Table of Contents

The Trustee

The trustee makes no representation or warranty, whether express or implied, with respect to CIBC or the senior debt securities and other matters described in this prospectus. The trustee has not prepared or reviewed any of the information included in this prospectus, except the trustee has consented to the use of its name. Such approval does not constitute a representation or approval by the trustee of the accuracy or sufficiency of any information contained in this prospectus.

Payment and Paying Agents

We will pay interest to the person listed in the trustee's records at the close of business on a particular day in advance of each due date for interest, even if that person no longer owns the senior debt security on the interest due date. That particular day, usually about two weeks in advance of the interest due date, is called the regular record date and will be stated in an applicable prospectus supplement. Holders buying and selling senior debt securities must work out between them how to compensate for the fact that we will pay all the interest for an interest period to the one who is the registered holder on the regular record date. The most common manner is to adjust the sale price of the senior debt securities to prorate interest fairly between buyer and seller. This prorated interest amount is called accrued interest.

We will pay interest, principal and any other money due on the senior debt securities at the office of the paying agent or such other office as may be agreed upon. Holders must make arrangements to have their payments picked up at or wired from that office or such other office as may be agreed upon. We may also choose to pay interest by mailing checks.

BOOK-ENTRY AND OTHER INDIRECT HOLDERS SHOULD CONSULT THEIR BANKS, BROKERS OR OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS FOR INFORMATION ON HOW THEY WILL RECEIVE PAYMENTS.

We may also arrange for additional payment offices and may cancel or change these offices, including our use of the trustee's corporate trust offices. These offices are called paying agents. We may also choose to act as our own paying agent or choose one of our subsidiaries to do so. We must notify holders of changes in the paying agents for any particular series of senior debt securities.

Conversion or Exchange of Senior Debt Securities

If and to the extent mentioned in the applicable prospectus supplement, any series of senior debt securities may be optionally or mandatorily convertible or exchangeable for stock or other securities of CIBC or another entity or entities, into the cash value therefor or into any combination of the above. The specific terms on which any senior debt securities series may be so converted or exchanged (as well as any material U.S. and Canadian federal income tax considerations) will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. These terms may include provisions for conversion or exchange, either mandatory, at the holder's option or at our option, in which case the amount or number of securities the senior debt securities holders would receive would be calculated at the time and manner described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Notices

We and the trustee will send notices regarding the senior debt securities only to registered holders, using the address as listed in the trustee's records. With respect to who is a registered holder for this purpose, see Legal Ownership and Book-Entry Issuance.

Regardless of who acts as paying agent, all money paid by us to a paying agent that remains unclaimed at the end of two years after the amount is due to holders will be repaid to us. After that two-year period, holders may look to us for payment and not to the trustee or any other paying agent.

Governing Law

The indenture and the senior debt securities will be governed by New York law, except that, pursuant to the indenture, the ranking of the senior debt securities will be governed by the laws of the Province of Ontario and the federal laws of Canada applicable therein.

Table of Contents

Legal Ownership and Book-Entry Issuance

In this section, we describe special considerations that will apply to registered senior debt securities issued in global i.e., book-entry, form. First we describe the difference between registered ownership and indirect ownership of registered senior debt securities. Then we describe special provisions that apply to global senior debt securities.

Who is the Legal Owner of a Registered Security?

Each senior debt security will be represented either by a certificate issued in definitive form to a particular investor or by one or more global senior debt securities representing senior debt securities. We refer to those who have senior debt securities registered in their own names, on the books that we or the trustee maintains for this purpose, as the registered holders of those senior debt securities. Subject to limited exceptions, we and the trustee are entitled to treat the registered holder of a senior debt security as the person exclusively entitled to vote, to receive notices, to receive any interest or other payment in respect of the senior debt security and to exercise all the rights and power as an owner of the senior debt security. We refer to those who own beneficial interests in senior debt securities that are not registered in their own names as indirect owners of those senior debt securities. As we discuss below, indirect owners are not registered holders, and investors in senior debt securities issued in book-entry form or in street name will be indirect owners.

Book-Entry Owners. Unless otherwise noted in an applicable prospectus supplement, we will issue each senior debt security in book-entry form only. This means senior debt securities will be represented by one or more global senior debt securities registered in the name of a financial institution that holds them as depositary on behalf of other financial institutions that participate in the depositary's book-entry system. These participating institutions, in turn, hold beneficial interests in the senior debt securities on behalf of themselves or their customers.

Under the indenture, subject to limited exceptions and applicable law, only the person in whose name a senior debt security is registered is recognized as the holder of that senior debt security. Consequently, for senior debt securities issued in global form, we will recognize only the depositary as the holder of the senior debt securities and we will make all payments on the senior debt securities, including deliveries of any property other than cash, to the depositary. The depositary passes along the payments it receives to its participants, which in turn pass the payments along to their customers who are the beneficial owners. The depositary and its participants do so under agreements they have made with one another or with their customers; they are not obligated to do so under the terms of the senior debt securities.

As a result, investors will not own senior debt securities directly. Instead, they will own beneficial interests in a global senior debt security, through a bank, broker or other financial institution that participates in the depositary's book-entry system or holds an interest through a participant. As long as the senior debt securities are issued in global form, investors will be indirect owners, and not registered holders, of the senior debt securities.

Street Name Owners. We may issue senior debt securities initially in non-global form or we may terminate an existing global senior debt security, as described below under **Holder's Option to Obtain a Non-Global Security; Special Situations When a Global Security Will Be Terminated.** In these cases, investors may choose to hold their senior debt

securities in their own names or in street name. Senior debt securities held by an investor in street name would be registered in the name of a bank, broker or other financial institution that the investor chooses, and the investor would hold only a beneficial interest in those senior debt securities through an account he or she maintains at that institution.

For senior debt securities held in street name, we will, subject to limited exceptions and applicable law, recognize only the intermediary banks, brokers and other financial institutions in whose names the senior debt securities are registered as the holders of those senior debt securities, and we will make all payments on those senior debt securities, including deliveries of any property other than cash, to them. These institutions pass along the payments they receive to their customers who are the beneficial owners, but only because they agree to do so in their customer agreements or because they are legally required to do so. Investors who hold senior debt securities in street name will be indirect owners, not registered holders, of those senior debt securities.

Registered Holders. Subject to limited exceptions, our obligations, as well as the obligations of the trustee under any indenture and the obligations, if any, of any other third parties employed by us, run only to the registered holders of the senior debt securities. We do not have obligations to investors who hold beneficial interests in global senior debt securities, in street name or by any other indirect means. This will be the case whether an investor

Table of Contents

chooses to be an indirect owner of a senior debt security or has no choice because we are issuing the senior debt securities only in global form.

For example, once we make a payment or give a notice to the registered holder, we have no further responsibility for that payment or notice even if that holder is required, under agreements with depositary participants or customers or by law, to pass it along to the indirect owners but does not do so. Similarly, if we want to obtain the approval of the holders for any purpose—for example, to amend the indenture for a series of senior debt securities or to relieve us of the consequences of a default or of our obligation to comply with a particular provision of an indenture—we would seek the approval only from the registered holders, and not the indirect owners, of the relevant senior debt securities. Whether and how the registered holders contact the indirect owners is up to the registered holders.

When we refer to *you* in this prospectus, we mean all purchasers of the senior debt securities being offered by this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplements, whether they are the registered holders or only indirect owners of those senior debt securities. When we refer to *your* senior debt securities in this prospectus, we mean the senior debt securities in which you will hold a direct or indirect interest.

Special Considerations for Indirect Owners. If you hold senior debt securities through a bank, broker or other financial institution, either in book-entry form or in street name, you should check with your own institution to find out:

- how it handles securities payments and notices;
- whether it imposes fees or charges;
- how it would handle a request for the holders' consent, if ever required;
- how it would exercise rights under the senior debt securities if there were a default or other event triggering the need for holders to act to protect their interests; and
- if the senior debt securities are in book-entry form, how the depositary's rules and procedures will affect these matters.

What is a Global Security?

Unless otherwise noted in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will issue each senior debt security in book-entry form only. Each senior debt security issued in book-entry form will be represented by a global senior debt security that we deposit with and register in the name of one or more financial institutions or clearing systems, or their nominees, which we select. A financial institution or clearing system that we select for any senior debt security for this purpose is called the depositary for that senior debt security. A senior debt security will usually have only one depositary but it may have more. Each series of senior debt securities will have one or more of the following as the depositaries:

- The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York (DTC);
- Euroclear Bank SA/NV (Euroclear);
- Clearstream Banking, S.A. (Clearstream); or
- any other clearing system or financial institution named in the applicable prospectus supplements.

The depositaries named above may also be participants in one another's systems. Thus, for example, if DTC is the depositary for a global senior debt security, investors may hold beneficial interests in that senior debt security through Euroclear or Clearstream, as DTC participants. The depositary or depositaries for your senior debt securities will be named in the applicable prospectus supplements; if none is named, the depositary will be DTC.

A global senior debt security may represent one or any other number of individual senior debt securities. Generally, all senior debt securities represented by the same global senior debt security will have the same terms. We may, however, issue a global senior debt security that represents multiple senior debt securities of the same kind, such as senior debt securities that have different terms and are issued at different times. We call this kind of global senior debt security a master global senior debt security. The applicable prospectus supplements will not indicate whether your senior debt securities are represented by a master global senior debt security.

Table of Contents

A global senior debt security may not be transferred to or registered in the name of anyone other than the depositary or its nominee, unless special termination situations arise. We describe those situations below under [Holder's Option to Obtain a Non-Global Security; Special Situations When a Global Security Will Be Terminated](#). As a result of these arrangements, the depositary, or its nominee, will be the sole registered owner and holder of all senior debt securities represented by a global senior debt security, and investors will be permitted to own only indirect interests in a global senior debt security. Indirect interests must be held by means of an account with a broker, bank or other financial institution that in turn has an account with the depositary or with another institution that does. Thus, an investor whose senior debt security is represented by a global senior debt security will not be a holder of the senior debt security, but only an indirect owner of an interest in the global senior debt security.

If an applicable prospectus supplement for a particular senior debt security indicates that the senior debt security will be issued in global form only, then the senior debt security will be represented by a global senior debt security at all times unless and until the global senior debt security is terminated. We describe the situations in which this can occur below under [Holder's Option to Obtain a Non-Global Security; Special Situations When a Global Security Will Be Terminated](#). If termination occurs, we may issue the senior debt securities through another book-entry clearing system or decide that the senior debt securities may no longer be held through any book-entry clearing system.

Special Considerations for Global Securities. As an indirect owner, an investor's rights relating to a global senior debt security will be governed by the account rules of the depositary and those of the investor's bank, broker, financial institution or other intermediary through which it holds its interest (such as Euroclear or Clearstream, if DTC is the depositary), as well as general laws relating to securities transfers. We do not recognize this type of investor or any intermediary as a holder of senior debt securities and instead deal only with the depositary that holds the global senior debt security.

If senior debt securities are issued only in the form of a global senior debt security, an investor should be aware of the following:

- an investor cannot cause the senior debt securities to be registered in his or her own name, and cannot obtain non-global certificates for his or her interest in the senior debt securities, except in the special situations we describe below;
- an investor will be an indirect holder and must look to his or her own bank, broker or other financial institution for payments on the senior debt securities and protection of his or her legal rights relating to the senior debt securities, as we describe above under [Who is the Legal Owner of a Registered Security?](#) ;
- an investor may not be able to sell interests in the senior debt securities to some insurance companies and other institutions that are required by law to own their senior debt securities in non-book-entry form;
- an investor may not be able to pledge his or her interest in a global senior debt security in circumstances in which certificates representing the senior debt securities must be delivered to the lender or other

beneficiary of the pledge in order for the pledge to be effective;

- the depositary's policies will govern payments, deliveries, transfers, exchanges, notices and other matters relating to an investor's interest in a global senior debt security, and those policies may change from time to time. We and the trustee will have no responsibility for any aspect of the depositary's policies, actions or records of ownership interests in a global senior debt security. We and the trustee also do not supervise the depositary in any way;
- the depositary may require that those who purchase and sell interests in a global senior debt security within its book-entry system use immediately available funds and your bank, broker or other financial institution may require you to do so as well; and
- financial institutions that participate in the depositary's book-entry system and through which an investor holds its interest in the global senior debt securities, directly or indirectly, may also have their own policies affecting payments, deliveries, transfers, exchanges, notices and other matters relating to the senior debt securities, and those policies may change from time to time. For example, if you hold an interest in a global senior debt security through Euroclear or Clearstream,

Table of Contents

when DTC is the depository, Euroclear or Clearstream, as applicable, may require those who purchase and sell interests in that senior debt security through them to use immediately available funds and comply with other policies and procedures, including deadlines for giving instructions as to transactions that are to be effected on a particular day. There may be more than one financial intermediary in the chain of ownership for an investor. We and the trustee do not monitor and are not responsible for the policies or actions or records of ownership interests of any of those intermediaries.

Holder's Option to Obtain a Non-Global Security; Special Situations When a Global Security Will Be Terminated. If we issue any series of senior debt securities in book-entry form but we choose to give the beneficial owners of that series the right to obtain non-global senior debt securities, any beneficial owner entitled to obtain non-global senior debt securities may do so by following the applicable procedures of the depository, any transfer agent or registrar for that series and that owner's bank, broker or other financial institution through which that owner holds its beneficial interest in the senior debt securities. If you are entitled to request a non-global certificate and wish to do so, you will need to allow sufficient lead time to enable us or our agent to prepare the requested certificate.

In addition, in a few special situations described below, a global senior debt security will be terminated and interests in it will be exchanged for certificates in non-global form representing the senior debt securities it represented. After that exchange, the choice of whether to hold the senior debt securities directly or in street name will be up to the investor. Investors must consult their own banks, brokers or other financial institutions, to find out how to have their interests in a global senior debt security transferred on termination to their own names, so that they will be holders. We have described the rights of holders and street name investors above under *Who is the Legal Owner of a Registered Security?*

The special situations for termination of a global senior debt security are as follows:

- the depository notifies us that it is unwilling, unable or no longer permitted under applicable law to continue as depository for that global senior debt security and we do not appoint another institution to act as depository within 60 days;
- we notify the trustee that we wish to terminate that global senior debt security; or
- an event of default has occurred with regard to these senior debt securities and has not been cured or waived.

If a global senior debt security is terminated, only the depository, and neither we nor the trustee for any senior debt securities, is responsible for deciding the names of the institutions in whose names the senior debt securities represented by the global senior debt security will be registered and, therefore, who will be the registered holders of those senior debt securities.

Considerations Relating to DTC

DTC has informed us that it is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a banking organization within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a clearing corporation within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code, and a clearing agency registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Exchange Act. DTC holds securities that DTC participants deposit with DTC. DTC also facilitates the settlement among DTC participants of securities transactions, such as transfers and pledges, in deposited securities through electronic computerized book-entry changes in DTC participants' accounts, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of certificates. DTC participants include securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies and clearing corporations, and may include other organizations. The Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation (DTCC) is the holding company for DTC, National Securities Clearing Corporation and Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, all of which are registered clearing agencies. DTCC is owned by the users of its regulated subsidiaries. Access to the DTC system also is available to others such as banks, brokers, dealers, trust companies and clearing corporations that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a participant, either directly or indirectly. The rules applicable to DTC and DTC participants are on file with the SEC.

Purchases of senior debt securities within the DTC system must be made by or through DTC participants, who will receive a credit for the senior debt securities on DTC's records. Transfers of ownership interests in the

Table of Contents

senior debt securities are accomplished by entries made on the books of participants acting on behalf of beneficial owners.

Redemption notices will be sent to DTC's nominee, Cede & Co., as the registered holder of the senior debt securities. If less than all of the senior debt securities are being redeemed, DTC will determine the amount of the interest of each direct participant to be redeemed in accordance with its then-current procedures.

In instances in which a vote is required, neither DTC nor Cede & Co. will itself consent or vote with respect to the senior debt securities. Under its usual procedures, DTC would mail an omnibus proxy to the relevant trustee as soon as possible after the record date. The omnibus proxy assigns Cede & Co.'s consenting or voting rights to those direct participants to whose accounts such senior debt securities are credited on the record date (identified in a listing attached to the omnibus proxy).

Distribution payments on the senior debt securities will be made by the relevant trustee to DTC. DTC's usual practice is to credit direct participants' accounts on the relevant payment date in accordance with their respective holdings shown on DTC's records unless DTC has reason to believe that it will not receive payments on such payment date. Payments by participants to beneficial owners will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices and will be the responsibility of such participants and not of DTC, the relevant trustee or us, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time. Payment of distributions to DTC is the responsibility of the relevant trustee, and disbursements of such payments to the beneficial owners are the responsibility of direct and indirect participants.

The information in this section concerning DTC and DTC's book-entry system has been obtained from sources that we believe to be accurate, but we assume no responsibility for the accuracy thereof. We do not have any responsibility for the performance by DTC or its participants of their respective obligations as described herein or under the rules and procedures governing their respective operations.

Considerations Relating to Clearstream and Euroclear

Clearstream and Euroclear are securities clearance systems in Europe. Clearstream and Euroclear have respectively informed us that Clearstream and Euroclear each hold securities for their customers and facilitate the clearance and settlement of securities transactions by electronic book-entry transfer between their respective account holders. Clearstream and Euroclear provide various services including safekeeping, administration, clearance and settlement of internationally traded securities and securities lending and borrowing. Clearstream and Euroclear also deal with domestic securities markets in several countries through established depository and custodial relationships. Clearstream and Euroclear have established an electronic bridge between their two systems across which their respective participants may settle trades with each other. Clearstream and Euroclear customers are world-wide financial institutions including underwriters, securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies and clearing corporations. Indirect access to Clearstream and Euroclear is available to other institutions that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with an account holder of either system.

Euroclear and Clearstream may be depositories for a global senior debt security. In addition, if DTC is the depository for a global senior debt security, Euroclear and Clearstream may hold interests in the global senior debt security as participants in DTC.

Edgar Filing: CANADIAN IMPERIAL BANK OF COMMERCE /CAN/ - Form 424B3

As long as any global senior debt security is held by Euroclear or Clearstream, as depositary, you may hold an interest in the global senior debt security only through an organization that participates, directly or indirectly, in Euroclear or Clearstream. If Euroclear or Clearstream is the depositary for a global senior debt security and there is no depositary in the United States, you will not be able to hold interests in that global senior debt security through any securities clearance system in the United States.

Payments, deliveries, transfers, exchanges, notices and other matters relating to the senior debt securities made through Euroclear or Clearstream must comply with the rules and procedures of those systems. Those systems could change their rules and procedures at any time. We have no control over those systems or their participants and we take no responsibility for their activities. Transactions between participants in Euroclear or Clearstream, on one hand, and participants in DTC, on the other hand, when DTC is the depositary, would also be subject to DTC's rules and procedures.

Special Timing Considerations Relating to Transactions in Euroclear and Clearstream. Investors will be able to make and receive through Euroclear and Clearstream payments, deliveries, transfers, exchanges, notices and other transactions involving any senior debt securities held through those systems only on days when those systems

Table of Contents

are open for business. Those systems may not be open for business on days when banks, brokers and other financial institutions are open for business in the United States.

In addition, because of time-zone differences, U.S. investors who hold their interests in the senior debt securities through these systems and wish to transfer their interests, or to receive or make a payment or delivery or exercise any other right with respect to their interests, on a particular day may find that the transaction will not be effected until the next business day in Luxembourg or Brussels, as applicable. Thus, investors who wish to exercise rights that expire on a particular day may need to act before the expiration date. In addition, investors who hold their interests through both DTC and Euroclear or Clearstream may need to make special arrangements to finance any purchases or sales of their interests between the U.S. and European clearing systems, and those transactions may settle later than would be the case for transactions within one clearing system.

Table of Contents

MATERIAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES

Canadian Taxation

In the opinion of Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP, our Canadian federal income tax counsel, the following is a summary of the material Canadian federal income tax consequences under the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) (the Canadian Tax Act) generally applicable at the date hereof to a holder who acquires ownership of a senior debt security pursuant to this prospectus and who for the purposes of the Canadian Tax Act and at all relevant times: (a) is neither resident nor deemed to be resident in Canada; (b) deals at arm's length with CIBC, and any transferee resident (or deemed to be resident) in Canada to whom the holder disposes of the senior debt security; (c) does not use or hold and is not deemed to use or hold the senior debt security in, or in the course of, carrying on a business in Canada; (d) is entitled to receive all payments (including any interest and principal) made on the senior debt security, and (e) is not a, and deals at arm's length with any, specified shareholder of CIBC for purposes of the thin capitalization rules in the Canadian Tax Act (a Non-Resident Holder). A specified shareholder for these purposes generally includes a person who (either alone or together with persons with whom that person is not dealing at arm's length for the purposes of the Canadian Tax Act) owns or has the right to acquire or control or is otherwise deemed to own 25% or more of CIBC's shares determined on a votes or fair market value basis. Special rules which apply to non-resident insurers carrying on business in Canada and elsewhere are not discussed in this summary.

This summary is based upon: (a) the current provisions of the Canadian Tax Act and the regulations thereunder (the Regulations) in force on the date hereof; (b) all specific proposals to amend the Canadian Tax Act or the Regulations publicly announced prior to the date hereof by, or on behalf of, the Minister of Finance (Canada) (Tax Proposals), and (c) the current published assessing practices and administrative policies of the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) as made publicly available by it prior to the date hereof. This summary assumes that the Tax Proposals will be enacted as currently proposed, but no assurance can be given that this will be the case. This summary does not otherwise take into account or anticipate any changes in law or in the practices and policies of the CRA, whether by legislative, governmental or judicial action or interpretation, nor does it take into account provincial, territorial or foreign income tax legislation or considerations.

This summary is of a general nature only, is not exhaustive of all Canadian federal income tax consequences and is not intended to be, nor should it be construed to be, legal or tax advice to any particular Non-Resident Holder. Non-Resident Holders are advised to consult their own tax advisers with respect to their particular situations.

Canadian federal income tax consequences applicable to senior debt securities may be described particularly when such senior debt securities are offered in the applicable prospectus supplement or pricing supplement related thereto and, in that event, the comments following will be superseded in such prospectus supplement or pricing supplement to the extent indicated therein.

Interest paid or credited or deemed to be paid or credited on a senior debt security to a Non-Resident Holder (including any amount paid at maturity in excess of the principal amount and interest deemed to be paid on the senior debt security in certain cases involving an assignment or other transfer of a senior debt security to a resident or deemed resident of Canada) will not be subject to Canadian non-resident withholding tax unless (other than in the case of a prescribed obligation as described below) such interest is participating debt interest for the purposes of the Canadian Tax Act. Interest paid or credited or deemed to be paid or credited on a senior debt security to a Non-Resident Holder will generally not be participating debt interest for the purposes of the Canadian Tax Act provided that no portion of such interest is contingent or dependent upon the use of or production from property in Canada or is computed by reference to revenue, profit, cash flow, commodity price or any other similar criterion or by reference to dividends paid or payable to shareholders of any class or series of shares. **In particular, if any portion of interest paid or credited or deemed to be paid or credited on a senior debt security is to be calculated by reference to an index, exchange**

traded fund, reference basket of securities or other calculation mechanism that could be considered to be a proxy for or have a linkage with CIBC's profitability or dividends paid by CIBC, interest on such senior debt security may be subject to Canadian non-resident withholding tax. A prescribed obligation is an indexed debt obligation (as described below) in respect of which no amount payable is (a) contingent or dependent upon the use of, or production from, property in Canada, or (b) computed by reference to: (i) revenue, profit, cash flow, commodity price or any other similar criterion, other than a change in the purchasing power of money, or (ii) dividends paid or payable to shareholders of any class or series of shares of the capital stock of a corporation. An indexed debt obligation is a debt obligation the terms of which provide for an adjustment to an amount payable in respect of the obligation for a period during which the

Table of Contents

obligation was outstanding which adjustment is determined by reference to a change in the purchasing power of money.

In the event that a senior debt security is redeemed, cancelled, repurchased or purchased, as the case may be, by CIBC or any other resident or deemed resident of Canada (a Canadian Transferee) from a Non-Resident Holder, or is otherwise assigned or transferred by a Non-Resident Holder, to a Canadian Transferee for an amount which exceeds, generally, the issue price thereof, all or a portion of such excess may be deemed to be interest and may be subject to Canadian non-resident withholding tax if: (i) all or a portion of such interest is participating debt interest and (ii) in certain circumstances, the senior debt security is not considered to be an excluded obligation for the purposes of the Canadian Tax Act. A senior debt security which is not an indexed debt obligation, that was issued for an amount not less than 97% of the principal amount (as defined for the purposes of the Canadian Tax Act) of the senior debt security, and the yield from which, expressed in terms of an annual rate (determined in accordance with the Canadian Tax Act) on the amount for which the senior debt security was issued does not exceed 4/3 of the interest stipulated to be payable on the senior debt security, expressed in terms of an annual rate on the outstanding principal amount from time to time, will be an excluded obligation for this purpose.

If applicable, the normal rate of Canadian non-resident withholding tax is 25% but such rate may be reduced under the terms of an applicable income tax treaty.

Generally, there are no other Canadian federal income taxes that would be payable by a Non-Resident Holder as a result of holding or disposing of a senior debt security (including for greater certainty, any gain realized by a Non-Resident Holder on a disposition of a senior debt security).

United States Taxation

The following is a summary of the material U.S. federal income tax consequences that could be applicable to the acquisition, ownership and disposition of the senior debt securities by a U.S. Holder (as defined below) thereof. This section is the opinion of Mayer Brown LLP, our U.S. federal income tax counsel. This description only applies to senior debt securities held as capital assets within the meaning of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code) and issued by us (or through one of our non-U.S. branches).

This summary does not address, except as set forth below, aspects of U.S. federal income taxation that may be applicable to U.S. Holders that are subject to special tax rules, such as:

- financial institutions;

- insurance companies;

- real estate investment trusts;

- regulated investment companies;
- grantor trusts;
- tax-exempt organizations;
- persons that will own senior debt securities through partnerships or other pass-through entities;
- dealers or traders in securities or currencies;
- certain former citizens or long-term residents of the United States;
- holders that will hold a senior debt security as part of a position in a straddle or as part of a hedging, conversion or integrated transaction for U.S. federal income tax purposes; or
- holders that have a functional currency other than the U.S. dollar.

This summary does not address the U.S. federal estate and gift tax, alternative minimum tax, or Medicare unearned income tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership or disposition of the senior debt securities. This summary only addresses the U.S. federal income tax treatment

Table of Contents

of holders that acquire the senior debt securities as part of the initial distribution at their issue price (as defined below).

Each prospective purchaser should consult its tax advisor with respect to the U.S. federal, state, local and non-U.S. tax consequences of acquiring, owning and disposing of the senior debt securities and any consequences arising on account of the purchaser's particular circumstances.

This summary is based on the Code, existing and proposed U.S. Treasury Regulations, administrative pronouncements and judicial decisions, as well as on the income tax treaty between the United States of America and Canada, each as available and as of the date hereof. All of the foregoing are subject to change, possibly with retroactive effect, or differing interpretations which could affect the tax consequences described herein.

For purposes of this summary, a U.S. Holder is a beneficial owner of senior debt securities who for U.S. federal income tax purposes is any of the following:

- an individual citizen or resident of the United States;
- a corporation (or any other entity that is treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes) organized in or under the laws of the United States or any state thereof, including the District of Columbia;
- an estate the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source; or
- a trust (1) that validly elects to be treated as a U.S. person for U.S. federal income tax purposes or (2)(a) the administration over which a U.S. court can exercise primary supervision and (b) all of the substantial decisions of which one or more U.S. persons have the authority to control.

If a partnership (or any other entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) holds the senior debt securities, the tax treatment of the partnership and a partner in such partnership generally will depend on the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. Such partner or partnership should consult its own tax advisor regarding the U.S. federal income tax consequences of the purchase, ownership and disposition of the senior debt securities.

Payments Designated as Interest

Edgar Filing: CANADIAN IMPERIAL BANK OF COMMERCE /CAN/ - Form 424B3

We will report interest paid to a U.S. Holder on a senior debt security as includible in the U.S. Holder's gross income as ordinary income in accordance with its usual method of tax accounting, regardless of whether the senior debt security is treated as indebtedness for U.S. federal income tax purposes. In addition, interest on the senior debt securities will be treated as foreign source income for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Subject to certain conditions and limitations, non-U.S. taxes, if any, withheld on interest payments may be treated as non-U.S. taxes eligible for credit against a U.S. Holder's U.S. federal income tax liability. The limitation on non-U.S. taxes eligible for the U.S. foreign tax credit is calculated separately with respect to

Table of Contents

specific baskets of income. Interest on the senior debt securities generally will constitute passive category income, or, in the case of certain U.S. Holders, general category income. As an alternative to the tax credit, a U.S. Holder may elect to deduct such taxes (the election would then apply to all non-U.S. income taxes such U.S. Holder paid in that taxable year). The rules governing the U.S. foreign tax credit are complex. U.S. Holders are urged to consult their tax advisor regarding the availability of the U.S. foreign tax credit under their particular circumstances.

Sale, Exchange, Retirement or Other Disposition of Senior Debt Securities Treated as Debt

Upon the sale, exchange, retirement or other disposition of a senior debt security, a U.S. Holder will recognize taxable gain or loss equal to the difference, if any, between the amount realized on the sale, exchange, retirement or other disposition, other than accrued but unpaid interest which will be taxable as interest, and such U.S. Holder's adjusted tax basis in the senior debt security. A U.S. Holder's adjusted tax basis in a senior debt security generally will equal the cost of the senior debt security to such U.S. Holder, and any such gain or loss will generally be capital gain or loss. For a non-corporate U.S. Holder, under current law, the maximum marginal U.S. federal income tax rate applicable to the gain will be generally lower than the maximum marginal U.S. federal income tax rate applicable to ordinary income if the U.S. Holder's holding period for the senior debt securities exceeds one year (*i.e.*, such gain is long-term capital gain). Any gain or loss realized on the sale, exchange, retirement or other disposition of a senior debt security generally will be treated as U.S. source gain or loss, as the case may be. Consequently, a U.S. Holder may not be able to claim a credit for any non-U.S. tax imposed upon a disposition of a senior debt security. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations.

Senior Debt Securities Treated as Derivatives

Certain senior debt securities will not be treated as indebtedness for federal income tax purposes, but will be treated as prepaid cash-settled derivative contracts. In this case, holders should generally recognize capital gain or loss upon the sale, exchange or payment on maturity in an amount equal to the difference between the amount they receive at such time and their tax basis in the securities. In general, their tax basis in the securities will be equal to the price you paid for them. Such gain or loss should generally be long-term capital gain or loss if they have held their securities for more than one year. Capital gain recognized by an individual U.S. holder is generally taxed at preferential rates where the property is held for more than one year and is generally taxed at ordinary income rates where the property is held for one year or less. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations. The holding period for securities of a U.S. holder who acquires the securities upon issuance will generally begin on the date after the issue date (*i.e.*, the settlement date) of the securities. If the securities are held by the same U.S. holder until maturity, that holder's holding period will generally include the maturity date.

The U.S. Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service released a 2008 notice that may affect the taxation of holders of securities taxed as prepaid derivatives. According to the notice, the Internal Revenue Service and the U.S. Treasury are considering whether the holder of an instrument such as the securities should be required to accrue ordinary income on a current basis, and they are seeking taxpayer comments on the subject. The notice also states that the

Table of Contents

Internal Revenue Service and the Treasury Department are also considering other relevant issues, including whether gain or loss from such instruments should be treated as ordinary or capital and whether the special constructive ownership rules of Section 1260 of the Code might be applied to such instruments. Similarly, the Internal Revenue Service and the Treasury Department have current projects open with regard to the tax treatment of pre-paid forward contracts and contingent notional principal contracts. While it is not clear whether any securities would be viewed as similar to instruments discussed in such notice, it is possible that any future guidance could materially and adversely affect the tax consequences of an investment in the securities, possibly with retroactive effect.

Senior Debt Securities Treated as Contingent Payment Debt Instruments

Certain senior debt securities may be treated as a single debt instrument subject to the special tax rules governing contingent payment debt instruments. If the senior debt securities are subject to such special rules applicable to contingent payment debt instruments, the amount of interest U.S. holders are required to take into account for each accrual period will be determined by constructing a projected payment schedule for the senior debt securities and applying rules similar to those for accruing original issue discount or OID on a hypothetical noncontingent debt instrument with that projected payment schedule. In addition to accruing interest income in accordance with the comparable yield, a U.S. holder will be required to make adjustments if the actual amounts that holder receives in any taxable year differs from the projected payment schedule. These rules could possibly have the effect of requiring U.S. holders to include amounts in income in respect of the senior debt securities prior to receipt of cash attributable to that income.

U.S. holders will recognize gain or loss on the sale, redemption or maturity of senior debt securities treated as contingent payment debt instruments in an amount equal to the difference, if any, between the amount of cash received at that time and their adjusted basis in the senior debt securities. In general, a U.S. holder's adjusted basis in such senior debt securities will equal the amount the holder paid for the senior debt securities, increased by the amount of interest that was previously accrued with respect to the senior debt securities. Any such gain will generally be ordinary income and any such loss that will generally be ordinary loss to the extent the interest included as income in the current or previous taxable years, and thereafter will be capital loss.

Other Variations

To the extent we issue floating rate senior debt securities, index linked senior debt securities, original issue discount senior debt securities, equity linked senior debt securities, credit linked senior debt securities, commodity linked senior debt securities, non-U.S. currency senior debt securities, dual currency senior debt securities or any other senior debt securities where the above summary is not applicable or does not contain a summary of all of the material U.S. federal income tax consequences that could be applicable to the acquisition, ownership and disposition of any such senior debt securities by a U.S. Holder, the applicable prospectus supplement, product supplement or pricing supplement will contain additional or modified disclosure concerning the material U.S. federal income tax consequences relevant to such type of senior debt security as appropriate.

Table of Contents

Medicare Tax

A U.S. holder that is an individual or estate, or a trust that does not fall into a special class of trusts that is exempt from such tax, is subject to a 3.8% tax on the lesser of (1) the U.S. holder's net investment income (or undistributed net investment income in the case of an estate or trust) for the relevant taxable year and (2) the excess of the U.S. holder's modified adjusted gross income for the taxable year over a certain threshold (which in the case of individuals is between \$125,000 and \$250,000, depending on the individual's circumstances). A holder's net investment income generally includes its interest income and its net gains from the disposition of securities, unless such interest income or net gains are derived in the ordinary course of the conduct of a trade or business (other than a trade or business that consists of certain passive or trading activities). If you are a U.S. holder that is an individual, estate or trust, you are urged to consult your tax advisors regarding the applicability of the Medicare tax to your income and gains in respect of your investment in the debt securities.

U.S. Backup Withholding and Information Reporting

Backup withholding and information reporting requirements apply to certain payments of principal of, and interest on, an obligation and to proceeds of the sale or redemption of an obligation, to certain non-corporate holders of senior debt securities that are U.S. persons. Information reporting generally will apply to payments of principal of, and interest on, senior debt securities, and to proceeds from the sale or redemption of, senior debt securities within the United States, or by a U.S. payor or U.S. middleman, to a holder of senior debt securities that is a U.S. person (other than an exempt recipient, including a corporation, and certain other persons). The payor will be required to backup withhold on payments made within the United States, or by a U.S. payor or U.S. middleman, on a senior debt security to a holder of a senior debt security that is a U.S. person, other than an exempt recipient, such as a corporation, if the holder fails to furnish its correct taxpayer identification number or otherwise fails to comply with, or establish an exemption from, the backup withholding requirements.

Backup withholding is not an additional tax. You generally will be entitled to credit any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules against your U.S. federal income tax liability provided the required information is furnished to the United States Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in a timely manner.

Additionally, U.S. Holders that are individuals (and, to the extent provided in future regulations, certain entities) may be required to disclose information about their senior debt securities on Form 8938 Statement of Specified Foreign Financial Assets if the aggregate value of their senior debt securities and their specified financial assets exceeds \$50,000 (or other thresholds depending on the individual's exact circumstances). Significant penalties can apply if a U.S. Holder fails to disclose its specified foreign financial assets. U.S. Holders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the possible implications of this legislation in their particular circumstances.

Table of Contents

FATCA Withholding

The Foreign Account Tax Compliance provisions of the Code (FATCA) assist the IRS in enforcing U.S. taxpayer compliance. FATCA may impose a 30% withholding tax on payments of U.S. source income and on payments of gross proceeds from the sale, exchange or redemption of property that gives rise to U.S. source dividends or interest (as of 1 January 2019), in each case to (i) certain non-U.S. financial institutions that do not enter into and comply with an agreement to provide the IRS information about their accountholders (as defined for purposes of FATCA), comply with certain rules or law implementing an intergovernmental agreement between the United States and the non-U.S. financial institution s jurisdiction implementing FATCA with respect to such jurisdiction or otherwise qualify for an exemption from, or are deemed to comply with, FATCA (an institution meeting such requirements, a Compliant FFI) and (ii) certain other non-U.S. entities that do not provide payors information about their substantial U.S. holders or establish that they have no substantial U.S. holders.

Starting on the later of 1 January 2019 or the date of publication of final U.S. Treasury regulations defining the term foreign passthru payments (the Publication Date), FATCA may also impose withholding tax on such foreign passthru payments relating to obligations issued (or deemed re-issued) after the date that is six months after the Publication Date. Thus, the Issuer may in certain circumstances be required under FATCA to withhold U.S. tax at a rate of 30% on all or a portion of payments of principal and interest which are treated as foreign passthru payments made to (i) non-U.S. financial institutions (whether holding the senior debt securities as a beneficial owner or intermediary) unless the payee is a Compliant FFI or (ii) any holders that do not provide information sufficient to determine whether the payee is a U.S. person (Recalcitrant Holders). Whether or not FATCA withholding tax could apply to foreign passthru payments on the senior debt securities may depend upon an applicable intergovernmental agreement (IGA) relating to FATCA between the United States and the jurisdiction of the Issuer, Guarantor or the applicable Issuer Branch of Account.

Specifically, the United States and a number of other jurisdictions have entered into IGAs to facilitate the implementation of FATCA. Pursuant to FATCA and the Model 1 IGA, an FFI in an IGA signatory country could be treated as a Reporting Financial Institution (Reporting FI) not subject to withholding under FATCA on any payments it receives. Further, an FFI in a Model 1 IGA jurisdiction would not be required to withhold under FATCA or an IGA (or any law implementing an IGA) from payments it makes unless it has agreed to do so under the U.S. qualified intermediary, withholding foreign partnership, or withholding foreign trust regimes. Under the Model 1 IGA, a Reporting FI would still be required to report certain information in respect of its account holders and investors to its home government or to the IRS. The United States and Canada have entered into an agreement (the US-Canada IGA) based largely on the Model 1 IGA.

We are a Reporting FI pursuant to the US-Canada IGA. However, the FATCA rules, and in particular the rules governing foreign passthru payments, have not yet been fully developed, so the future application of FATCA to the Issuer and the holders of senior debt securities is uncertain. Senior debt securityholders may be required to provide certain information to us or other payors in order (i) for holders to avoid FATCA withholding from payments on the senior debt securities, (ii) for us to avoid the imposition of a FATCA withholding tax on payments to it or (iii) for the Issuer to comply with the rules under FATCA (including laws implementing an IGA thereunder). If a holder (including an intermediary) fails to provide us, or any paying agent

Table of Contents

with any correct, complete and accurate information that may be required for the Issuer to comply with FATCA and/or to prevent the imposition of FATCA withholding tax, the Issuer may withhold amounts otherwise distributable to the holder.

The requirements of the US-Canada IGA have been implemented through amendments to the Canadian Income Tax Act and the enactment of the Canada-United States Enhanced Tax Information Exchange Agreement Implementation Act (the US-Canada IGA Implementation Act). Under the provisions of the US-Canada IGA Implementation Act, we are required to determine whether financial accounts are held by U.S. persons and must report information on certain accounts owned or controlled by U.S. taxpayers, directly to the Canada Revenue Agency (the CRA). We may be required to collect information from holders of senior debt securities (other than senior debt securities that are regularly traded on an established securities market for purposes of the IGA), including such holders' status as a Specified U.S. Person (as defined in the IGA) and report information regarding such holders' investment in the senior debt securities to the CRA.

No additional amounts will be paid in respect of any U.S. tax withheld under the FATCA rules from payments on the senior debt securities. Potential investors should consult their tax advisers regarding the implications of the FATCA rules for their investment in senior debt securities, including the implications resulting from the status under these rules of each financial intermediary through which they hold senior debt securities.

While the senior debt securities are in global form and held within a clearing system, it is expected that FATCA will not affect the amount of any payments made under, or in respect of, the senior debt securities by us, any paying agent or the depository, given that each of the entities in the payment chain beginning with the Issuer and ending with the relevant clearing system is a major financial institution whose business is dependent on compliance with FATCA and that any alternative approach introduced under an intergovernmental agreement will be unlikely to affect the securities. However, FATCA may affect payments made to custodians or intermediaries in the subsequent payment chain leading to the ultimate investor if any such custodian or intermediary generally is unable to receive payments free of FATCA withholding. It also may affect payment to any ultimate investor that is a financial institution that is not entitled to receive payments free of withholding under FATCA, or an ultimate investor that fails to provide its broker (or other custodian or intermediary from which it receives payment) with any information, forms, other documentation or consents that may be necessary for the payments to be made free of FATCA withholding.

Tax Consequences to Non-U.S. Holders

For purposes of this discussion, the term non-U.S. holder means a beneficial owner of a security that is not a partnership or other entity treated as a partnership and is not a U.S. holder. If you are a non-U.S. holder, you generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income or withholding tax for amounts paid in respect of the securities, provided that the payment is not effectively connected with your conduct of a U.S. trade or business. Notwithstanding the foregoing, gain from the sale or exchange of the securities or their settlement at maturity may be subject to U.S. federal income tax if you are a nonresident alien individual and are present in the

Table of Contents

U.S. for 183 days or more during the taxable year of the settlement at maturity, sale or exchange and certain other conditions are satisfied.

If you are engaged in the conduct of a trade or business within the U.S. and if gain realized on the settlement at maturity, sale or exchange of the securities, is effectively connected with the conduct of such trade or business (and, if certain tax treaties apply, is attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by the non-U.S. holder in the U.S.), you generally will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on such gain on a net income basis in the same manner as if you were a U.S. holder as described under the heading Tax Consequences to U.S. Holders, above. In addition, non-U.S. holders that are foreign corporations, may also be subject to a branch profits tax equal to 30% (or such lower rate provided by any applicable tax treaty) of a portion of their earnings and profits that are withdrawn from the U.S. for the taxable year that are effectively connected with their conduct of a trade or business in the U.S., subject to certain adjustments.

Notwithstanding the above, if we determine that there is a material risk that we will be required to withhold on any payments on the securities, we may withhold on any such payment to a non-U.S. holder at a 30% rate, unless such non-U.S. holder has provided to us (i) a valid Internal Revenue Service Form W-8ECI or (ii) a valid Internal Revenue Service Form W-8BEN or Internal Revenue Service Form W-8BEN-E claiming tax treaty benefits that reduce or eliminate withholding. If we elect to withhold and such non-U.S. holder has provided us with a valid Internal Revenue Service Form W-8BEN or Internal Revenue Service Form W-8BEN-E claiming tax treaty benefits that reduce or eliminate withholding, we may nevertheless withhold up to 30% on any payments if there is any possible characterization of the payments that would not be exempt from withholding under the treaty.

Section 871(m) of the Code and Treasury regulations promulgated thereunder (Section 871(m)) generally impose a 30% withholding tax on dividend equivalents paid or deemed paid to non-U.S. holders with respect to certain financial instruments linked to U.S. equities or indices that include U.S. equities (such equities and indices, U.S. Underlying Equities). Section 871(m) generally applies to instruments that substantially replicate the economic performance of one or more U.S. Underlying Equities, as determined upon issuance, based on tests set forth in the applicable Treasury regulations (a Specified Security). Specifically, and subject to the 2017 exemption described in the next paragraph, Section 871(m) will apply if, at issuance, a financial instrument either meets (i) a delta test, if it is a simple contract, or (ii) a substantial equivalence test, if it is a complex contract. Section 871(m) provides certain exceptions to this withholding regime, in particular for instruments linked to certain broad-based indices that meet requirements set forth in the applicable Treasury regulations as well as securities that track such indices. Regulations under Section 871(m) exempt financial instruments issued in 2017 that are not delta-one.

A determination that the securities are not subject to Section 871(m) is not binding on the IRS, and the IRS may disagree with this treatment. Moreover, Section 871(m) is complex and its application may depend on your particular circumstances. For example, if you enter into other transactions relating to U.S. underlying securities, you could be subject to withholding tax or income tax liability under Section 871(m) even if the securities are not Specified Securities

Table of Contents

subject to Section 871(m) as a general matter. You should consult your tax adviser regarding the potential application of Section 871(m) to the securities.

Table of Contents

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell any series of senior debt securities at any time after effectiveness of the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part in one or more of the following ways from time to time:

- through underwriters or dealers;
- through agents; or
- directly to one or more purchasers.

The offered securities may be distributed periodically in one or more transactions at:

- a fixed price or prices, which may be changed;
- market prices prevailing at the time of sale;
- prices related to the prevailing market prices; or
- negotiated prices.

The applicable prospectus supplement will include:

- the initial public offering price;

- the names of any underwriters, dealers or agents;
- the purchase price of the securities;
- our proceeds from the sale of the securities;
- any underwriting discounts or agency fees and other underwriters or agents compensation;
- any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers;
- the place and time of delivery of the securities; and
- any securities exchange on which the securities may be listed.

If underwriters are used in the sale, they will buy the securities for their own account. The underwriters may then resell the securities in one or more transactions, at any time or times at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices. The underwriters may change from time to time any fixed public offering price and any discounts or commissions allowed or re-allowed or paid to dealers. If dealers are utilized in the sale of the securities, we will sell the securities to the dealers as principals. The dealers may then resell the securities to the public at varying prices to be determined by such dealers.

In connection with the offering of securities, we may grant to the underwriters an option to purchase additional securities to cover over-allotments, if any, at the initial public offering price (with an additional underwriting commission), as may be set forth in the prospectus supplement for such securities. If we grant any over-allotment option, the terms of the option will be set forth in the prospectus supplement for the securities.

Table of Contents

This prospectus may be delivered by underwriters and dealers in connection with short sales undertaken to hedge exposures under commitments to acquire our securities to be issued on a delayed or contingent basis.

Underwriters, dealers and agents that participate in the distribution of the securities may be underwriters as defined in the Securities Act. Any discounts or commissions that we pay them and any profit they receive when they resell the securities may be treated as underwriting discounts and commissions under that Act. We may have agreements with underwriters, dealers and agents to indemnify them against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, to contribute with respect to payments which they may be required to make in respect of such liabilities and to reimburse them for certain expenses.

Underwriters, dealers and agents, and their affiliates or associates, may engage in transactions with us or perform services for us in the ordinary course of business and receive compensation from us.

Each series of offered securities will be a new issue of securities and will have no established trading market. Securities may or may not be listed on a national or foreign securities exchange or automated quotation system. Any underwriters or agents to whom securities are sold for public offering or sale may make, but are not required to make, a market in the securities, and the underwriters or agents may discontinue making a market in the securities at any time without notice. No assurance can be given as to the liquidity or the existence of trading markets for any securities.

Any underwriters utilized may engage in stabilizing transactions and syndicate covering transactions in accordance with Rule 104 of Regulation M under the Exchange Act. Stabilizing transactions permit bids to purchase the offered securities or any underlying security so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum. Syndicate covering transactions involve purchases of securities in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover syndicate short positions. Such stabilizing transactions and syndicate covering transactions may cause the price of the offered securities to be higher than would be the case in the absence of such transactions.

Selling Restrictions Outside the United States

Except as described in an applicable prospectus supplement, we have taken no action that would permit a public offering of the securities or possession or distribution of this prospectus or any other offering material in any jurisdiction outside the United States where action for that purpose is required. Accordingly, each underwriter will be required to comply with all applicable laws and regulations in force in any jurisdiction in which it purchases, offers or sells securities or possesses or distributes this prospectus or any other offering material and will obtain any consent, approval or permission required by it for the purchase, offer or sale by it of securities under the laws and regulations in force in any jurisdiction to which it is subject or in which it makes such purchases, offers or sales and we shall have no responsibility in relation to this.

With regard to each security, the relevant purchaser will be required to comply with those restrictions that we and the relevant purchaser shall agree and as shall be set out in an applicable supplement.

Market-Making Resales By Affiliates

This prospectus may be used by CIBC World Markets Corp. in connection with offers and sales of the securities in market-making transactions. In a market-making transaction, CIBC World Markets Corp. may resell a security it acquires from other holders, after the original offering and sale of the security. Resales of this kind may occur in the open market or may be privately negotiated, at prevailing market prices at the time of resale or at related or negotiated prices. In these transactions, CIBC World Markets Corp. may act as principal or agent, including as agent for the counterparty in a transaction in which CIBC World Markets Corp. acts as principal, or as agent for both counterparties in a transaction in which CIBC World Markets Corp. does not act as principal. CIBC World Markets Corp. may receive compensation in the form of discounts and commissions, including from both counterparties in some cases.

The securities to be sold in market-making transactions include securities to be issued after the date of this prospectus, as well as securities previously issued.

We do not expect to receive any proceeds from market-making transactions. We do not expect that CIBC World Markets Corp. or any other affiliate that engages in these transactions will pay any proceeds from its market-making resales to us.

Table of Contents

Information about the trade and settlement dates, as well as the purchase price, for a market-making transaction will be provided to the purchaser in a separate confirmation of sale.

Unless we or an agent informs you in your confirmation of sale that your security is being purchased in its original offering and sale, you may assume that you are purchasing your security in a market-making transaction.

Conflicts of Interest

Our affiliate, CIBC World Markets Corp., may participate in the distribution of the securities as an underwriter, dealer or agent. Any offering of securities in which CIBC World Markets Corp. participates will be conducted in compliance with the applicable requirements of FINRA Rule 5121, a rule of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (FINRA). CIBC World Markets Corp. will not participate in the distribution of an offering of securities that does not have a bona fide public market within the meaning of FINRA Rule 5121 and is not investment grade rated within the meaning of FINRA Rule 5121 or securities in the same series that have equal rights and obligations as investment grade rated securities unless either (1) each member firm responsible for managing the public offering does not have a conflict of interest within the meaning of FINRA Rule 5121, is not an affiliate of any member that does have a conflict of interest, and meets the requirements of FINRA Rule 5121 with respect to disciplinary history or (2) a qualified independent underwriter has participated in the preparation of the prospectus supplement or other offering document for the offering of securities and has exercised the usual standards of due diligence with respect thereto. Neither CIBC World Markets Corp. nor any other FINRA member participating in an offering of these securities that has a conflict of interest will confirm initial sales to any discretionary accounts over which it has authority without the prior specific written approval of the customer.

In compliance with guidelines of FINRA, the maximum commission or discount to be received by the participating FINRA members may not exceed 8% of the aggregate principal amount of securities offered pursuant to this prospectus. We anticipate, however, that the maximum commission or discount to be received in any particular offering of securities will be significantly less than this amount.

CERTAIN U.S. BENEFIT PLAN INVESTOR CONSIDERATIONS

Subject to the following discussion, the senior debt securities may be acquired by an employee benefit plan as defined in Section 3(3) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (ERISA), that is subject to Title I of ERISA, a plan as defined in and subject to Section 4975 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code), or an entity deemed to hold plan assets of the foregoing (each, a benefit plan investor), as well as by governmental plans (as defined in Section 3(32) of ERISA) and church plans (as defined in Section 3(33) of ERISA) (collectively, with benefit plan investors, referred to as plans). Section 406 of ERISA and Section 4975 of the Code prohibit benefit plan investors from engaging in certain transactions with persons that are parties in interest under ERISA or disqualified persons under the Code with respect to such benefit plan investor. A violation of these prohibited transaction rules may result in an excise tax or other penalties and liabilities under ERISA and the Code for such persons or the fiduciaries of such benefit plan investor. In addition, Title I of ERISA requires fiduciaries of a benefit plan investor subject to ERISA to make investments that are prudent, diversified and in accordance with the governing plan documents. Plans that are governmental plans are not subject to the fiduciary and prohibited transaction provisions of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code. However, such plans may be subject to similar restrictions under applicable federal, state, local or other law (similar law).

In considering an investment in the senior debt securities of a portion of the assets of any plan, a fiduciary should determine whether the investment is in accordance with the documents and instruments governing the plan and the applicable provisions of ERISA, the Code or any similar law relating to a fiduciary's duties to the plan including, without limitation, the prudence, diversification, delegation of control and prohibited transaction provisions of ERISA, the Code and any other applicable similar law.

The acquisition and/or holding of the senior debt securities by or on behalf of a benefit plan investor could be considered to give rise to a prohibited transaction if we are or become, or another party involved with this offering is or becomes, a party in interest or a disqualified person with respect to such benefit plan investor. Certain exemptions from the prohibited transaction rules could be applicable to the purchase and holding of the senior debt securities by a benefit plan investor depending on the type and circumstances of the plan fiduciary making the decision to acquire such senior debt securities and the relationship of the party in interest or disqualified person to the benefit plan investor. Included among these exemptions are:

Table of Contents

- Prohibited Transaction Class Exemption (PTCE) 84-14, an exemption for certain transactions determined or effected by independent qualified professional asset managers;
- PTCE 90-1, an exemption for certain transactions involving insurance company pooled separate accounts;
- PTCE 91-38, an exemption for certain transactions involving bank collective investment funds;
- PTCE 95-60, an exemption for transactions involving certain insurance company general accounts; and
- PTCE 96-23, an exemption for plan asset transactions managed by in-house asset managers.

In addition, ERISA Section 408(b)(17) and Section 4975(d)(20) of the Code provide statutory exemptive relief for certain arm's-length transactions with a person that is a party in interest or disqualified person solely by reason of providing services to a benefit plan investor or being an affiliate of such a service provider. Under these provisions, the purchase and sale of the senior debt securities will not constitute a prohibited transaction under ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code, provided that neither the issuer of the senior debt securities nor any of its affiliates have or exercise any discretionary authority or control or render any investment advice with respect to the assets of any benefit plan investor involved in the transaction, and provided further that the benefit plan investor pays no more and receives no less than adequate consideration in connection with the transaction. Even if the conditions specified in one or more of these exemptions are met, the scope of the relief provided by these exemptions might or might not cover all acts which might be construed as prohibited transactions. There can be no assurance that any of these, or any other exemption, will be available with respect to any particular transaction involving the senior debt securities, and prospective acquirers that are benefit plan investors should consult with their legal advisors regarding the applicability of any such exemption.

By acquiring a senior debt security (or interest therein), each purchaser and transferee (and if the purchaser or transferee is a plan, its fiduciary) is deemed to represent, warrant and covenant that either (i) it is not acquiring the senior debt securities (or interest therein) with the assets of a plan; or (ii) the acquisition and holding of the senior debt securities (or interest therein) will not give rise to a nonexempt prohibited transaction under Section 406 of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code because such purchaser or transferee relied on an available prohibited transaction exemption, all of the conditions of which are satisfied, or a violation of similar law.

The foregoing discussion is general in nature and is not intended to be all inclusive. Due to the complexity of these rules and the penalties that may be imposed upon persons involved in nonexempt prohibited transactions, it is particularly important that fiduciaries, or other persons considering purchasing the senior debt securities on behalf of, or with the assets of, any plan, consult with their counsel regarding the potential applicability of ERISA, Section 4975 of the Code and any similar law to such investment and whether an exemption would be applicable to the purchase and holding of the senior debt securities.

Each purchaser and holder of the senior debt securities has exclusive responsibility for ensuring that its purchase and holding of the senior debt securities does not violate the fiduciary or prohibited transaction rules of ERISA, the Code or any similar laws. The sale of any senior debt securities to any plan is in no respect a representation by us or any of our affiliates or representatives that such an investment meets all relevant legal requirements with respect to investments by plans generally or any particular plan, or that such an investment is appropriate for plans generally or any particular plan.

LIMITATIONS ON ENFORCEMENT OF U.S. LAWS AGAINST CIBC, ITS MANAGEMENT AND OTHERS

CIBC is a Canadian chartered bank. Many of its directors and executive officers, including many of the persons who signed the registration statement on Form F-3, of which this prospectus is a part, and some of the experts named in this document, are resident outside of the United States, and a substantial portion of CIBC's assets and all or a substantial portion of the assets of such persons are located outside of the United States. As a result, it may be difficult for United States investors to effect service of process within the United States upon such persons to enforce against them judgments of the courts of the United States predicated upon, among other things, the civil liability provisions of the federal securities laws of the United States. In addition, it may be difficult for United States investors to enforce, in original actions brought in courts in jurisdictions located outside of the United States, among other things, civil liabilities predicated upon such securities laws.

Table of Contents

CIBC has been advised by Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP, its Canadian counsel, that a judgment of a United States court may be enforceable in Canada if: (a) there is a real and substantial connection between the events, persons and circumstances and the forum in which the United States proceedings occur such that the United States court properly assumed jurisdiction; (b) the United States judgment is final and conclusive and for a sum certain; (c) the defendant was properly served with originating process from the United States court; and (d) the United States law that led to the judgment is not contrary to Canadian public policy, as that term would be applied by a Canadian court. CIBC has been advised that in normal circumstances, only civil judgments and not other rights arising from United States securities legislation (for example, penal or similar awards made by a court in a regulatory prosecution or proceeding) are enforceable in Canada. The enforceability of a United States judgment in Canada will be subject to the requirements that: (i) an action to enforce the United States judgment must be commenced in the Canadian court within any applicable limitation period; (ii) the Canadian court has discretion to stay or decline to hear an action on the United States judgment if the United States judgment is under appeal or there is another subsisting judgment in any jurisdiction relating to the same cause of action; (iii) the Canadian court will render judgment only in Canadian dollars; and (iv) an action in the Canadian court on the United States judgment may be affected by bankruptcy, insolvency or other laws of general application limiting the enforcement of creditors' rights generally. The enforceability of a United States judgment in Canada will be subject to the following defenses: (i) the United States judgment was obtained by fraud or in a manner contrary to the principles of natural justice; (ii) the United States judgment is for a claim which under the law of the applicable Canadian province would be characterized as based on a foreign revenue, expropriatory, penal or other public law; (iii) the United States judgment is contrary to the public policy of the applicable Canadian province or to an order made by the Attorney General of Canada under the *Foreign Extraterritorial Measures Act* (Canada) or by the Competition Tribunal under the *Competition Act* (Canada) in respect of certain judgments referred to in these statutes; and (iv) the United States judgment has been satisfied or is void or voidable under United States law.

LEGAL MATTERS

Unless otherwise specified in the prospectus supplement, certain legal matters under Canadian law relating to the securities offered by a prospectus supplement will be passed upon on behalf of CIBC by Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP. Certain legal matters in connection with the offering relating to United States law will be passed upon on behalf of CIBC by Mayer Brown LLP, Chicago, Illinois. Counsel for any underwriters, dealers or agents will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements incorporated by reference in this prospectus from CIBC's Annual Report on Form 40-F for the year ended October 31, 2016 and the effectiveness of CIBC's internal control over financial reporting as of October 31, 2016 have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm, as stated in their reports, which are incorporated herein by reference. Such financial statements have been so incorporated in reliance upon the report of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

Table of Contents

US\$6,000,000,000

**Senior Global Medium-Term Notes
(Structured Notes)**

Prospectus Supplement

March 28, 2017
