

CANADIAN IMPERIAL BANK OF COMMERCE /CAN/
Form 424B2
August 03, 2018

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The information in this preliminary pricing supplement is not complete and may be changed. This preliminary pricing supplement and the accompanying prospectus supplement and prospectus are not an offer to sell these securities and we are not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Subject to Completion, Dated August 3, 2018

PRICING SUPPLEMENT No. WF-53 dated , 2018

(To Prospectus Supplement dated March 28, 2017

and Prospectus dated March 28, 2017)

Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce

Senior Global Medium-Term Notes (Structured Notes)

Market Linked Securities Leveraged Upside Participation to a Cap and Fixed Percentage Buffered Downside

Principal at Risk Securities Linked to the EURO STOXX 50® Index due September 8, 2020

€	Linked to the EURO STOXX 50® Index
€	Unlike ordinary debt securities, the securities do not pay interest at a specified rate or repay a fixed amount of principal at maturity. Instead, the securities provide for a payment at maturity that may be greater than, equal to or less than the principal amount of the securities, depending on the performance of the Index from its starting level to its ending level. The payment at maturity will reflect the following terms:
	o If the level of the Index increases, you will receive the principal amount plus 300% participation in the upside performance of the Index, subject to a maximum total return at maturity of 27% to 32% (to be determined on the pricing date)
	o If the level of the Index does not change or decreases but the decrease is not more than 10%, you will be repaid the principal amount
	o If the level of the Index decreases by more than 10%, you will receive less than the principal amount and have 1-to-1 downside exposure to the decrease in the level of the Index in excess of 10%

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¢	Investors may lose up to 90% of the principal amount
¢	All payments on the securities are subject to the credit risk of Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and you will have no ability to pursue any securities included in the Index for payment; if Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce defaults on its obligations, you could lose all or some of your investment
¢	No periodic interest payments or dividends
¢	No exchange listing; designed to be held to maturity

The securities have complex features and investing in the securities involves risks not associated with an investment in conventional debt securities. See Risk Factors herein.

The securities are unsecured obligations of Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and all payments on the securities are subject to the credit risk of Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. The securities will not constitute deposits insured by the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation, the U.S. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other government agency or instrumentality of Canada, the United States or any other jurisdiction.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) nor any state or provincial securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this pricing supplement or the accompanying prospectus supplement and prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

	Principal amount(1)	Maximum Underwriting Discount and Commission(2)	Minimum Proceeds to Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce
Per Security	\$1,000.00	\$30.00	\$970.00
Total	\$	\$	\$

(1) Our estimated value of the securities on the pricing date, based on our internal pricing models, is expected to be between \$935.60 and \$956.20 per security. The estimated value is expected to be less than the principal amount of the securities. See The Estimated Value of the Securities in this pricing supplement.

(2) The agent, Wells Fargo Securities, LLC, will receive an underwriting discount of up to \$30.00 per security. The agent may resell the securities to other securities dealers at the principal amount less a concession not in excess of \$17.50 per security. Such securities dealers may include Wells Fargo Advisors (WFA) (the trade name of the retail brokerage business of Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC and Wells Fargo Advisors Financial Network, LLC, each an affiliate of Wells Fargo Securities). In addition to the selling concession allowed to WFA, the agent will pay \$0.75 per security of the underwriting discount to WFA as a distribution expense fee for each security sold by WFA. See Use of Proceeds and Hedging and Supplemental Plan of Distribution in this pricing supplement for information regarding how we may hedge our obligations under the securities.

Wells Fargo Securities

**Market Linked Securities Leveraged Upside Participation
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Principal at Risk Securities Linked to the EURO STOXX 50® Index due September 8, 2020**

ABOUT THIS PRICING SUPPLEMENT

You should read this pricing supplement together with the prospectus dated March 28, 2017 and the prospectus supplement dated March 28, 2017, relating to our Senior Global Medium-Term Notes (Structured Notes), of which these securities are a part, for additional information about the securities. Information included in this pricing supplement supersedes information in the prospectus supplement and prospectus to the extent it is different from that information. Certain defined terms used but not defined herein have the meanings set forth in the prospectus supplement and prospectus.

You should rely only on the information contained in or incorporated by reference in this pricing supplement, the accompanying prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. This pricing supplement may be used only for the purpose for which it has been prepared. No one is authorized to give information other than that contained in this pricing supplement, the accompanying prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, and in the documents referred to in this pricing supplement, the prospectus supplement and the prospectus and which are made available to the public. We have not, and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC (Wells Fargo Securities) has not, authorized any other person to provide you with different or additional information. If anyone provides you with different or additional information, you should not rely on it.

We are not, and Wells Fargo Securities is not, making an offer to sell the securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should not assume that the information contained in or incorporated by reference in this pricing supplement, the accompanying prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date of the applicable document. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date. Neither this pricing supplement, nor the accompanying prospectus supplement, nor the accompanying prospectus constitutes an offer, or an invitation on our behalf or on behalf of Wells Fargo Securities, to subscribe for and purchase any of the securities and may not be used for or in connection with an offer or solicitation by anyone in any jurisdiction in which such an offer or solicitation is not authorized or to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such an offer or solicitation.

References to CIBC, the Issuer, the Bank, we, us and our in this pricing supplement are references to Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce or to any of our subsidiaries, unless we state otherwise or the context otherwise requires.

You may access the prospectus supplement and prospectus on the SEC website www.sec.gov as follows (or if such address has changed, by reviewing our filing for the relevant date on the SEC website):

- Prospectus Supplement dated March 28, 2017 and Prospectus dated March 28, 2017 filed with the SEC on March 28, 2017:

https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1045520/000110465917019619/a17-8647_1424b3.htm

**Market Linked Securities Leveraged Upside Participation
to a Cap and Fixed Percentage Buffered Downside
Principal at Risk Securities Linked to the EURO STOXX 50® Index due September 8, 2020**

INVESTMENT DESCRIPTION

The Principal at Risk Securities Linked to the EURO STOXX 50® Index due September 8, 2020 (the securities) are senior unsecured debt securities of Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce that do not pay interest at a specified rate or repay a fixed amount of principal at maturity. Instead, the securities provide for a payment at maturity that may be greater than, equal to or less than the principal amount of the securities depending on the performance of the EURO STOXX 50® Index (the Index) from its starting level on the pricing date to its ending level on the calculation date. The securities provide:

- (i) the possibility of a 300% leveraged return at maturity if the level of the Index increases from its starting level to its ending level, provided that the total return at maturity of the securities will not exceed the maximum total return of 27% to 32% (to be determined on the pricing date);
- (ii) repayment of principal if, and only if, the ending level of the Index is not less than the starting level by more than 10%; and
- (iii) 1-to-1 downside exposure to decreases in the level of the Index if and to the extent the ending level is less than the starting level by more than 10%.

If the ending level is less than the starting level by more than 10%, you will receive at maturity less, and up to 90% less, than the principal amount of your securities. All payments on the securities are subject to the credit risk of Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

The Index is designed to track the performance of supersector leaders in the Eurozone.

The Index was developed by STOXX Limited and is calculated, maintained and published by STOXX Limited. EURO STOXX 50® Index is a trademark of STOXX Limited and has been licensed for use by Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. The securities are not sponsored, endorsed, sold, or promoted by STOXX Limited and STOXX Limited makes no representation regarding the advisability of investing in the securities. See The EURO STOXX 50® Index in this pricing supplement for additional information.

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**Market Linked Securities Leveraged Upside Participation
to a Cap and Fixed Percentage Buffered Downside
Principal at Risk Securities Linked to the EURO STOXX 50® Index due September 8, 2020**

INVESTOR CONSIDERATIONS

We have designed the securities for investors who:

- seek 300% leveraged exposure to any upside performance of the Index if the ending level is greater than the starting level, subject to the maximum total return at maturity of 27% to 32% (to be determined on the pricing date);
- desire to limit downside exposure to the Index through the 10% buffer;
- understand that if the ending level is less than the starting level by more than 10%, they will receive at maturity less, and up to 90% less, than the principal amount per security;
- are willing to forgo periodic interest payments on the securities and dividends on securities included in the Index; and
- are willing to hold the securities until maturity.

The securities are not designed for, and may not be a suitable investment for, investors who:

- seek a liquid investment or are unable or unwilling to hold the securities to maturity;
- are unwilling to accept the risk that the ending level of the Index may decrease by more than 10% from the starting level;
- seek uncapped exposure to the upside performance of the Index;

- seek full return at maturity of the principal amount of the securities;
- are unwilling to purchase securities with an estimated value as of the pricing date that is lower than the principal amount, and may be as low as the lower estimate set forth on the cover page;
- seek current income (including income in the form of periodic interest payments);
- are unwilling to accept the risk of exposure to the Eurozone equity market;
- seek exposure to the Index but are unwilling to accept the risk/return trade-offs inherent in the payment at stated maturity for the securities;
- are unwilling to accept the credit risk of Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce to obtain exposure to the Index generally, or to the exposure to the Index that the securities provide specifically; or
- prefer the lower risk of fixed income investments with comparable maturities issued by companies with comparable credit ratings.

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**Market Linked Securities Leveraged Upside Participation
to a Cap and Fixed Percentage Buffered Downside
Principal at Risk Securities Linked to the EURO STOXX 50® Index due September 8, 2020**

TERMS OF THE SECURITIES

The information in this Terms of the Securities section is only a summary and is qualified by the more detailed information set forth in this pricing supplement, the prospectus supplement dated March 28, 2017 and the prospectus dated March 28, 2017, each filed with the SEC. See About This Pricing Supplement in this pricing supplement.

Market Measure: EURO STOXX 50® Index (Bloomberg ticker symbol SX5E)

Pricing Date: Expected to be August 31, 2018

Issue Date: Expected to be September 6, 2018 (to be determined on the pricing date and expected to be the 3rd scheduled business day after the pricing date)

Principal Amount: \$1,000 per security. References in this pricing supplement to a security are to a security with a face amount of \$1,000.

Redemption Amount: On the stated maturity date, you will be entitled to receive a cash payment per security in U.S. dollars equal to the redemption amount. The redemption amount per security will equal:

- if the ending level is greater than the starting level: the lesser of:

(i) \$1,000 *plus*:

(ii) the capped value;

- if the ending level is less than or equal to the starting level, but greater than or equal to the threshold level: \$1,000; or

- if the ending level is less than the threshold level: \$1,000 *minus*:

If the ending level is less than the threshold level, you will receive at stated maturity less, and up to 90% less, than the principal amount of your securities.

**Stated Maturity
Date:**

September 8, 2020. If a market disruption event occurs and is continuing on the calculation date, the stated maturity date will be postponed until the later of (i) September 8, 2020 and (ii) five business days after the ending level is determined. See *Additional Terms of the Securities Market Disruption Events* in this pricing supplement. The securities are not subject to redemption at the option of Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce or repayment at the option of any holder of the securities prior to the stated maturity date.

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Market Linked Securities Leveraged Upside Participation to a Cap and Fixed Percentage Buffered Downside

Principal at Risk Securities Linked to the EURO STOXX 50® Index due September 8, 2020

Starting Level:

, the closing level of the Index on the pricing date. The closing level of the Index on any trading day means the official closing level of the Index as reported by the Index sponsor on such trading day.

Ending Level:

The ending level will be the closing level of the Index on the calculation date.

Capped Value:

The capped value will be determined on the pricing date and will be within the range of 127% to 132% of the principal amount per security (\$1,270 to \$1,320 per security). As a result of the capped value, the maximum total return at maturity of the securities will be 27% to 32%.

Threshold Level:

, which is equal to 90% of the starting level.

Participation Rate:

300%

Calculation Date:

Expected to be August 31, 2020 or, if such day is not a trading day, the next succeeding trading day. The calculation date is subject to postponement due to the occurrence of a market disruption event. See Additional Terms of the Securities Market Disruption Events. A trading day means a day, as determined by the calculation agent, on which (i) the Index sponsor is scheduled to publish the level of the Index and (ii) each related futures or options exchange is scheduled to be open for trading for its regular trading session. The relevant stock exchange for any security underlying the Index means the primary exchange or quotation system on which such security is traded, as determined by the calculation agent. The related futures or options exchange for the Index means an exchange or quotation system where trading has a material effect (as determined by the calculation agent) on the overall market for futures or options contracts relating to the Index.

Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. We may appoint a different calculation agent without your consent and without notifying you.

Calculation Agent:

All determinations made by the calculation agent will be at the sole discretion of it, and, in the absence of manifest error, will be conclusive for all purposes and binding on us and you. All percentages and other amounts resulting from any calculation with respect to the securities will be rounded at the calculation agent's discretion. The calculation agent will have no liability for its determinations.

A Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday that is neither a legal holiday nor a day on which banking institutions are authorized or obligated by law, regulation or order to close in New York or Toronto.

Business Day:

No Listing:

The securities will not be listed on any securities exchange or quoted on any automated quotation system.

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**Market Linked Securities Leveraged Upside Participation
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Principal at Risk Securities Linked to the EURO STOXX 50® Index due September 8, 2020**

Clearance and Settlement: The Depository Trust Company (DTC)

Material U.S. Tax Consequences:

By purchasing the securities, each holder agrees to treat them as pre-paid cash-settled derivative contracts for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Assuming this treatment is respected, gain or loss recognized on the securities should be treated as long-term capital gain or loss if the holder has held the securities for more than a year. However, if the Internal Revenue Service were successful in asserting an alternative treatment of the securities, the tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of the securities might be materially and adversely affected. As described below under Certain United States Federal Income Tax Considerations, in 2007, the U.S. Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service released a notice requesting comments on various issues regarding the U.S. federal income tax treatment of prepaid forward contracts and similar instruments. Future Treasury regulations or other guidance could materially and adversely affect the tax consequences of an investment in the securities, including the character and timing of income or loss and the degree, if any, to which income realized by non-U.S. persons should be subject to withholding tax, possibly with retroactive effect. Both U.S. and non-U.S. persons considering an investment in the securities should review carefully the section of this pricing supplement entitled Certain United States Federal Income Tax Considerations and consult their tax advisers regarding the U.S. federal tax consequences of an investment in the securities (including possible alternative treatments and the issues presented by the notice), as well as tax consequences arising under the laws of any state, local or non-U.S. taxing jurisdiction.

Benefit Plan Investor Considerations:

For a discussion of benefit plan investor considerations, please see Certain U.S. Benefit Plan Investor Considerations in the accompanying prospectus.

Agent:

Wells Fargo Securities. The agent may resell the securities to other securities dealers, including securities dealers acting as custodians, at the principal amount of the securities less a concession of not in excess of \$17.50 per security. Such securities dealers may include Wells Fargo Advisors (WFA) (the trade name of the retail brokerage business of Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC and Wells Fargo Advisors Financial Network, LLC, each an affiliate of Wells Fargo Securities). In addition to the selling concession allowed to WFA, Wells Fargo Securities will pay \$0.75 per security of the underwriting discount to WFA as a distribution expense fee for each security sold by WFA.

Denominations: \$1,000 and any integral multiple of \$1,000.

CUSIP / ISIN: 13605WLY5 / US13605WLY56

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**Market Linked Securities Leveraged Upside Participation
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DETERMINING PAYMENT AT MATURITY

On the stated maturity date, you will receive a cash payment per security (the redemption amount) calculated as follows:

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HYPOTHETICAL PAYOUT PROFILE

The following profile is based on a hypothetical capped value of 129.50% or \$1,295 per security (the midpoint of the specified range for the capped value), a participation rate of 300% and a threshold level equal to 90% of the starting level. This graph has been prepared for purposes of illustration only. Your actual return will depend on the actual starting level, the actual ending level, the actual capped value and whether you hold your securities to maturity.

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**Market Linked Securities Leveraged Upside Participation
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Principal at Risk Securities Linked to the EURO STOXX 50® Index due September 8, 2020**

RISK FACTORS

The securities have complex features and investing in the securities will involve risks not associated with an investment in conventional debt securities or in the Index. You should carefully consider the risk factors set forth below as well as the other information contained in this pricing supplement and the accompanying prospectus supplement and prospectus, including the documents they incorporate by reference. As described in more detail below, the value of the securities may vary considerably before the stated maturity date due to events that are difficult to predict and are beyond our control. You should reach an investment decision only after you have carefully considered with your advisors the suitability of an investment in the securities in light of your particular circumstances.

If The Ending Level Is Less Than The Threshold Level, You Will Receive At Maturity Less, And Up To 90% Less, Than The Principal Amount Of Your Securities.

We will not repay you a fixed amount on the securities on the stated maturity date. The redemption amount will depend on the direction of and percentage change in the ending level of the Index relative to the starting level and the other terms of the securities. Because the level of the Index will be subject to market fluctuations, the redemption amount you receive may be more or less, and possibly significantly less, than the principal amount of your securities.

If the ending level is less than the threshold level, the redemption amount that you receive at stated maturity will be reduced by an amount equal to the decline in the level of the Index to the extent it is below the threshold level (expressed as a percentage of the starting level). The threshold level is 90% of the starting level. As a result, you may receive less, and up to 90% less, than the principal amount per security at maturity even if the level of the Index is greater than or equal to the starting level or the threshold level at certain times during the term of the securities.

Even if the ending level is greater than the starting level, the amount you receive at stated maturity may only be slightly greater than the principal amount, and your yield on the securities may be less than the yield you would earn if you bought a traditional interest-bearing debt security of Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce or another issuer with a similar credit rating with the same stated maturity date.

Your Return Will Be Limited By The Capped Value And May Be Lower Than The Return On A Direct Investment In The Index.

The opportunity to participate in the possible increases in the level of the Index through an investment in the securities will be limited because the redemption amount will not exceed the capped value. Furthermore, the effect of the participation rate will be progressively reduced for all ending levels exceeding the ending level at which the capped value is reached.

Your Return On The Securities Could Be Less Than If You Owned Securities Included In The Index.

Your return on the securities will not reflect the return you would realize if you actually owned the securities included in the Index and received the dividends and other payments paid on those securities. This is in part because the redemption amount payable at stated maturity will be determined by reference to the ending level of the Index, which will be calculated by reference to the prices of the securities in the Index without taking into consideration the value of dividends and other payments paid on those securities. In addition, the redemption amount will not be greater than the capped value.

No Periodic Interest Will Be Paid On The Securities.

No periodic interest will be paid on the securities. However, if the securities were classified for U.S. federal income tax purposes as contingent payment debt instruments rather than prepaid forward contracts, you would be required to accrue interest income over the term of your securities. See Certain United States Federal Income Tax Considerations in this pricing supplement.

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**Market Linked Securities Leveraged Upside Participation
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Principal at Risk Securities Linked to the EURO STOXX 50® Index due September 8, 2020**

The Securities Are Subject To The Credit Risk Of Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

The securities are our obligations exclusively and are not, either directly or indirectly, an obligation of any third party. Any amounts payable under the securities are subject to our creditworthiness, and you will have no ability to pursue any securities included in the Index for payment. As a result, our actual and perceived creditworthiness and actual or anticipated decreases in our credit ratings may affect the value of the securities and, in the event we were to default on our obligations, you may not receive any amounts owed to you under the terms of the securities.

The Estimated Value Of The Securities Will Not Be An Indication Of The Price, If Any, At Which Wells Fargo Securities Or Any Other Person May Be Willing To Buy The Securities From You In The Secondary Market.

The price, if any, at which Wells Fargo Securities or any of its affiliates may purchase the securities in the secondary market will be based on Wells Fargo Securities' proprietary pricing models and will fluctuate over the term of the securities as a result of changes in the market and other factors described in the next risk factor. Any such secondary market price for the securities will also be reduced by a bid-offer spread, which may vary depending on the aggregate principal amount of the securities to be purchased in the secondary market transaction, and the expected cost of unwinding any related hedging transactions. Unless the factors described in the next risk factor change significantly in your favor, any such secondary market price for the securities will likely be less than the principal amount.

If Wells Fargo Securities or any of its affiliates makes a secondary market in the securities at any time up to the issue date or during the three-month period following the issue date, the secondary market price offered by Wells Fargo Securities or any of its affiliates will be increased by an amount reflecting a portion of the costs associated with selling, structuring, hedging and issuing the securities that are included in the principal amount. Because this portion of the costs is not fully deducted upon issuance, any secondary market price offered by Wells Fargo Securities or any of its affiliates during this period will be higher than it would be if it were based solely on Wells Fargo Securities' proprietary pricing models less the bid-offer spread and hedging unwind costs described above. The amount of this increase in the secondary market price will decline steadily to zero over this three-month period. If you hold the securities through an account at Wells Fargo Securities or one of its affiliates, we expect that this increase will also be reflected in the value indicated for the securities on your brokerage account statement. If you hold your securities through an account at a broker-dealer other than Wells Fargo Securities or any of its affiliates, the value of the securities on your brokerage account statement may be different than if you held your securities at Wells Fargo Securities or any of its affiliates.

The Value Of The Securities Prior To Stated Maturity Will Be Affected By Numerous Factors, Some Of Which Are Related In Complex Ways.

The value of the securities prior to stated maturity will be affected by the level of the Index at that time, interest rates at that time and a number of other factors, some of which are interrelated in complex ways. The effect of any one factor may be offset or magnified by the effect of another factor. The following factors, among others, are expected to affect the value of the securities. When we refer to the value of your security, we mean the value you could receive for your security if you are able to sell it in the open market before the stated maturity date.

- **Index Performance.** The value of the securities prior to maturity will depend substantially on the level of the Index. The price at which you may be able to sell the securities before stated maturity may be at a discount, which could be substantial, from their principal amount, if the level of the Index at such time is less than, equal to or not sufficiently above its starting level.
- **Capped Value.** We anticipate that the value of the securities will always be at a discount to the capped value.
- **Interest Rates.** The value of the securities may be affected by changes in the interest rates in the U.S. markets.

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**Market Linked Securities Leveraged Upside Participation
to a Cap and Fixed Percentage Buffered Downside**

Principal at Risk Securities Linked to the EURO STOXX 50® Index due September 8, 2020

- **Volatility Of The Index.** Volatility is the term used to describe the size and frequency of market fluctuations. The value of the securities may be affected if the volatility of the Index changes.
- **Time Remaining To Maturity.** The value of the securities at any given time prior to maturity will likely be different from that which would be expected based on the then-current level