

Horizon Technology Finance Corp
Form 10-Q
November 09, 2011

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 10-Q

(Mark One)

QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT
OF 1934

FOR THE QUARTERLY PERIOD ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2011
OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF
1934

FOR THE TRANSITION PERIOD FROM TO

COMMISSION FILE NUMBER: 814-00802

HORIZON TECHNOLOGY FINANCE CORPORATION
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

DELAWARE
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or
organization)

27-2114934
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

312 Farmington Avenue
Farmington, CT
(Address of principal executive offices)

06032
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code (860) 676-8654
Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of Each Class
Common Stock, par value \$0.001 per share

Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered
The NASDAQ Global Market

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No .

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§ 232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to

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submit and post such files). Yes " No "

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, or a non-accelerated filer. See definition of "accelerated filer" and large accelerated filer" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer " Accelerated filer " Non-accelerated filer Smaller Reporting Company "

(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).
Yes " No .

As of November 9, 2011, the Registrant had 7,626,718 shares of common stock, \$0.001 par value, outstanding.

HORIZON TECHNOLOGY FINANCE CORPORATION

FORM 10-Q
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Forward-Looking Statements

This quarterly report on Form 10-Q, including the Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, contains statements that constitute forward-looking statements, which relate to future events or our future performance or financial condition. These forward-looking statements are not historical facts, but rather are based on current expectations, estimates and projections about our industry, our beliefs and our assumptions. The forward-looking statements contained in this quarterly report on Form 10-Q involve risks and uncertainties, including statements as to:

- our future operating results, including the performance of our existing loans and warrants;
- the introduction, withdrawal, success and timing of business initiatives and strategies;

changes in political, economic or industry conditions, the interest rate environment or financial and capital markets, which could result in changes in the value of our assets;

- the relative and absolute investment performance and operations of our Advisor;
 - the impact of increased competition;
 - the impact of investments we intend to make and future acquisitions and divestitures;
 - the unfavorable resolution of legal proceedings;
 - our business prospects and the prospects of our portfolio companies;
 - the impact, extent and timing of technological changes and the adequacy of intellectual property protection;
 - our regulatory structure and tax status;
 - the adequacy of our cash resources and working capital;
 - the timing of cash flows, if any, from the operations of our portfolio companies;
- the impact of interest rate volatility on our results, particularly if we use leverage as part of our investment strategy;
- the ability of our portfolio companies to achieve their objective;
 - our ability to cause a subsidiary to become a licensed SBIC;
- the impact of legislative and regulatory actions and reforms and regulatory supervisory or enforcement actions of government agencies relating to us or our Advisor;
 - our contractual arrangements and relationships with third parties;

- our ability to access capital and any future financings by us;
- the ability of our Advisor to attract and retain highly talented professionals; and
- the impact of changes to tax legislation and, generally, our tax position.

We use words such as “anticipates,” “believes,” “expects,” “intends,” “seeks” and similar expressions to identify forward-looking statements. Undue influence should not be placed on the forward looking statements as our actual results could differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements for any reason, including the factors in “Risk Factors” in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010 and elsewhere in this quarterly report on Form 10-Q.

We have based the forward-looking statements included in this report on information available to us on the date of this report, and we assume no obligation to update any such forward-looking statements. Although we undertake no obligation to revise or update any forward-looking statements in this quarterly report on Form 10-Q, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, you are advised to consult any additional disclosures that we may make directly to you or through reports that we in the future may file with the SEC, including, future reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K and annual reports on Form 10-K.

Horizon Technology Finance Corporation and Subsidiaries

Consolidated Statements of Assets and Liabilities (Unaudited)
(In thousands, except share data)

	September 30, 2011	December 31, 2010
ASSETS		
Non-affiliate investments at fair value (cost of \$179,651 and \$133,494, respectively) (Note 4)	\$ 180,186	\$ 136,810
Cash and cash equivalents	32,598	76,793
Interest receivable	2,477	1,938
Other assets (Note 2)	1,610	664
Total assets	\$ 216,871	\$ 216,205
LIABILITIES		
Borrowings (Note 6)	\$ 81,885	\$ 87,425
Base management fee payable (Note 3)	362	360
Incentive fee payable (Note 3)	1,453	414
Other accrued expenses	792	811
Total liabilities	84,492	89,010
Net assets		
Common stock, par value \$0.001 per share, 100,000,000 shares authorized, 7,626,718 shares outstanding as of September 30, 2011 and 7,593,421 shares outstanding as of December 31, 2010	8	8
Paid-in capital in excess of par	124,361	123,836
Accumulated undistributed (distributions in excess of) net investment income	1,507	(143)
Net unrealized appreciation on investments	508	3,043
Net realized gain on investments	5,995	451
Total net assets	132,379	127,195
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 216,871	\$ 216,205
Net asset value per common share	\$ 17.36	\$ 16.75

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

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The cash settlement amounts shown above are entirely hypothetical; they are based on market prices for the underlier stocks that may not be achieved on the determination date and on assumptions that may prove to be erroneous. The actual market value of your notes on the stated maturity date or at any other time, including any time you may wish to sell your notes, may bear little relation to the hypothetical cash settlement amounts shown above, and these amounts should not be viewed as an indication of the financial return on an investment in the offered notes. The hypothetical cash settlement amounts on notes held to the stated maturity date in the examples above assume you purchased your notes at their face amount and have not been adjusted to reflect the actual issue price you pay for your notes. The return on your investment (whether positive or negative) in your notes will be affected by the amount you pay for your notes. If you purchase your notes for a price other than the face amount, the return on your investment will differ from, and may be significantly lower than, the hypothetical returns suggested by the above examples. Please read [Additional Risk Factors Specific to the Underlier-Linked Digital Notes](#) [The Market Value of Your Notes May Be Influenced by Many Unpredictable Factors](#) in the accompanying Product Supplement No. 7.

Payments on the notes are economically equivalent to the amounts that would be paid on a combination of other instruments. For example, payments on the notes are economically equivalent to a combination of an interest-bearing bond bought by the holder and one or more options entered into between the holder and us (with one or more implicit option premiums paid over time). The discussion in this paragraph does not modify or affect the terms of the notes or the U.S. federal income tax treatment of the notes, as described elsewhere in this Pricing Supplement.

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We cannot predict the actual final underlier level or what the market value of your notes will be on any particular trading day, nor can we predict the relationship between the underlier level and the market value of your notes at any time prior to the stated maturity date. The actual amount that you will receive, if any, at maturity and the rate of return on the offered notes will depend on the actual initial underlier level, the cap level, the threshold settlement amount and the maximum settlement amount, which we will set on the trade date, and the actual final underlier level determined by the calculation agent as described above. Moreover, the assumptions on which the hypothetical returns are based may turn out to be inaccurate. Consequently, the amount of cash to be paid in respect of your notes, if any, on the stated maturity date may be very different from the information reflected in the table and chart above.

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ADDITIONAL RISK FACTORS SPECIFIC TO YOUR NOTES

An investment in your notes is subject to the risks described below, as well as the risks and considerations described under Risk Factors in the accompanying Prospectus, under Risk Factors in the accompanying Prospectus Supplement, under Additional Risk Factors Specific to the Notes in the accompanying General Terms Supplement, and under Additional Risk Factors Specific to the Underlier-Linked Digital Notes in the accompanying Product Supplement No. 7. You should carefully review these risks and considerations as well as the terms of the notes described herein and in the accompanying Prospectus, the accompanying Prospectus Supplement, the accompanying General Terms Supplement and the accompanying Product Supplement No. 7. Your notes are a riskier investment than ordinary debt securities. Also, your notes are not equivalent to investing directly in the underlier stocks, i.e., the stocks comprising the underlier to which your notes are linked. You should carefully consider whether the offered notes are suited to your particular circumstances.

The Notes Are Subject to the Credit Risk of the Bank

Although the return on the notes will be based on the performance of the underlier, the payment of any amount due on the notes is subject to the credit risk of the Bank, as issuer of the notes. The notes are our unsecured obligations. As further described in the accompanying Prospectus and Prospectus Supplement, the notes will rank on par with all of the other unsecured and unsubordinated debt obligations of the Bank, except such obligations as may be preferred by operation of law. Investors are dependent on our ability to pay all amounts due on the notes, and therefore investors are subject to our credit risk and to changes in the market's view of our creditworthiness. See Description of Senior Debt Securities Ranking on page 2 of the accompanying Prospectus.

The Amount Payable on Your Notes Is Not Linked to the Level of the Underlier at Any Time Other than the Determination Date

The final underlier level will be based on the closing level of the underlier on the determination date (subject to adjustment as described elsewhere in this Pricing Supplement). Therefore, if the closing level of the underlier dropped precipitously on the determination date, the cash settlement amount for your notes may be significantly less than it would have been had the cash settlement amount been linked to the closing level of the underlier prior to such drop in the level of the underlier. Although the actual level of the underlier on the stated maturity date or at other times during the life of your notes may be higher than the final underlier level, you will not benefit from the closing level of the underlier at any time other than on the determination date.

You May Lose Your Entire Investment in the Notes

You may lose your entire investment in the notes. The cash payment on your notes, if any, on the stated maturity date will be based on the performance of the underlier as measured from the initial underlier level set on the trade date (which could be higher or lower than the actual closing level of the underlier on that date) to the closing level on the determination date. If the final underlier level is *less than* the threshold level, you will lose, for each \$1,000 of the face amount of your notes, an amount equal to the *product* of (i) the buffer rate *times* (ii) the *sum* of the underlier return *plus* the threshold amount *times* (iii) \$1,000. Thus, you may lose your entire investment in the notes, which would include any premium to face amount you paid when you purchased the notes.

Also, the market price of your notes prior to the stated maturity date may be significantly lower than the purchase price you pay for your notes. Consequently, if you sell your notes before the stated maturity date, you may receive significantly less than the amount of your investment in the notes.

Your Notes Do Not Bear Interest

You will not receive any interest payments on your notes. As a result, even if the cash settlement amount payable for your notes on the stated maturity date exceeds the face amount of your notes, the overall return you earn on your notes may be less than you would have earned by investing in a non-index-linked debt security of comparable maturity that bears interest at a prevailing market rate.

The Potential for the Value of Your Notes to Increase Will Be Limited by the Maximum Settlement Amount

Your ability to participate in any change in the value of the underlier over the life of your notes will be limited because of the maximum settlement amount (which is equal to the threshold settlement amount). The maximum settlement amount will limit the cash settlement amount you may receive for each of your notes at maturity, no matter how much the level of the underlier may rise beyond the initial underlier level over the life of your notes. Accordingly, the

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amount payable for each of your notes may be significantly less than it would have been had you invested directly in the underlier.

The Notes Will Not Be Listed on Any Securities Exchange and We Do Not Expect A Trading Market For the Notes to Develop

The notes will not be listed or displayed on any securities exchange or any automated quotation system. Although CIBCWM and/or its affiliates may purchase the notes from holders, they are not obligated to do so and are not required to make a market for the notes. There can be no assurance that a secondary market will develop for the notes. Because we do not expect that any market makers will participate in a secondary market for the notes, the price at which you may be able to sell your notes is likely to depend on the price, if any, at which CIBCWM and/or its affiliates are willing to buy your notes.

If a secondary market does exist, it may be limited. Accordingly, there may be a limited number of buyers if you decide to sell your notes prior to the stated maturity date. This may affect the price you receive upon such sale. Consequently, you should be willing to hold the notes to the stated maturity date.

The Historical Performance of the Underlier Should Not Be Taken as an Indication of Its Future Performance

The final level of the underlier will determine the amount to be paid on the notes at maturity. The historical performance of the underlier does not necessarily give an indication of its future performance. As a result, it is impossible to predict whether the level of the underlier will rise or fall during the term of the notes. The level of the underlier will be influenced by complex and interrelated political, economic, financial and other factors.

You Have No Shareholder Rights or Rights to Receive Any Underlier Stock

Investing in the notes will not make you a holder of any of the underlier stocks. Neither you nor any other holder or owner of the notes will have any rights with respect to the underlier stocks, including any voting rights, any right to receive dividends or other distributions, any rights to make a claim against the underlier stocks or any other rights of a holder of the underlier stocks. Your notes will be paid in cash and you will have no right to receive delivery of any underlier stocks.

We May Sell an Additional Aggregate Face Amount of the Notes at a Different Issue Price

At our sole option, we may decide to sell an additional aggregate face amount of the notes subsequent to the date of this Pricing Supplement. The issue price of the notes in the subsequent sale may differ substantially (higher or lower) from the original issue price you paid as provided on the cover of this Pricing Supplement.

If You Purchase Your Notes at a Premium to Face Amount, the Return on Your Investment Will Be Lower Than the Return on Notes Purchased at Face Amount and the Impact of Certain Key Terms of the Notes Will Be Negatively Affected

The cash settlement amount will not be adjusted based on the issue price you pay for the notes. If you purchase notes at a price that differs from the face amount of the notes, then the return on your investment in such notes held to the stated maturity date will differ from, and may be substantially less than, the return on notes purchased at face amount. If you purchase your notes at a premium to face amount and hold them to the stated maturity date, the return on your investment in the notes will be lower than it would have been had you purchased the notes at face amount or a discount to face amount. In addition, the impact of the threshold level, the threshold settlement amount and the maximum settlement amount on the return on your investment will depend upon the price you pay for your notes relative to face amount. For example, if you purchase your notes at a premium to face amount, the threshold settlement amount and maximum settlement amount will permit a lower positive return on your investment in the notes than would have been the case for notes purchased at face amount or a discount to face amount. Similarly, if the final underlier level is less than the threshold level, you will incur a greater percentage decrease in your investment in the notes than would have been the case for notes purchased at face amount or a discount to face amount.

There Are Potential Conflicts of Interest Between You and the Calculation Agent

The calculation agent will, among other things, determine the cash settlement amount payable at maturity of the notes. We will serve as the calculation agent. We may appoint a different calculation agent without your consent and without notifying you. The calculation agent will exercise its judgment when performing its functions. For example, the calculation agent may have to determine whether a market disruption event affecting the underlier has occurred. This determination may, in turn, depend on the calculation agent's judgment as to whether the event has materially

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interfered with our ability or the ability of one of our affiliates or a similarly situated party to unwind our hedge positions. Since this determination by the calculation agent will affect the payment at maturity on the notes, the calculation agent may have a conflict of interest if it needs to make a determination of this kind. See General Terms of the Underlier-Linked Digital Notes Role of Calculation Agent in the accompanying Product Supplement No. 7.

The Inclusion of Dealer Spread and Projected Profit from Hedging in the Original Issue Price Is Likely to Adversely Affect Secondary Market Prices

Assuming no change in market conditions or any other relevant factors, the price, if any, at which CIBCWM or any other party is willing to purchase the notes at any time in secondary market transactions will likely be significantly lower than the original issue price, since secondary market prices are likely to exclude the cost of hedging our obligations under the notes that is included in the original issue price. The cost of hedging includes the projected profit that we, our affiliates or any third-party who may conduct hedging activities related to the notes, including any dealer in the notes, may realize in consideration for assuming the risks inherent in managing the hedging transactions. These secondary market prices are also likely to be reduced by the costs of unwinding the related hedging transactions. In addition, any secondary market prices may differ from values determined by pricing models used by CIBCWM as a result of dealer discounts, mark-ups or other transaction costs. Furthermore, if the dealer from which you purchase notes is to conduct trading and hedging activities for us in connection with the notes, that dealer may profit in connection with such trading and hedging activities and such profit, if any, will be in addition to the compensation that the dealer receives for the sale of the notes to you. You should be aware that the potential to earn a profit in connection with hedging activities may create a further incentive for the dealer to sell the notes to you, in addition to the compensation they would receive for the sale of the notes.

The Bank's Estimated Value of the Notes Will Be Lower Than the Original Issue Price (Price to Public) of the Notes

The Bank's estimated value is only an estimate using several factors. The original issue price of the notes will exceed the Bank's estimated value because costs associated with selling and structuring the notes, as well as hedging the notes, are included in the original issue price of the notes. See The Bank's Estimated Value of the Notes in this Pricing Supplement.

The Bank's Estimated Value Does Not Represent Future Values of the Notes and May Differ from Others' Estimates

The Bank's estimated value of the notes is determined by reference to the Bank's internal pricing models when the terms of the notes are set. This estimated value is based on market conditions and other relevant factors existing at that time and the Bank's assumptions about market parameters, which can include volatility, dividend rates, interest rates and other factors. Different pricing models and assumptions could provide valuations for the notes that are greater than or less than the Bank's estimated value. In addition, market conditions and other relevant factors in the future may change, and any assumptions may prove to be incorrect. On future dates, the value of the notes could change significantly based on, among other things, changes in market conditions, our creditworthiness, interest rate movements and other relevant factors, which may impact the price, if any, at which CIBCWM or any other person would be willing to buy notes from you in secondary market transactions. See The Bank's Estimated Value of the Notes in this Pricing Supplement.

The Bank's Estimated Value Is Not Determined by Reference to Credit Spreads for Our Conventional Fixed-Rate Debt

The internal funding rate used in the determination of the Bank's estimated value generally represents a discount from the credit spreads for our conventional fixed-rate debt. If the Bank were to use the interest rate implied by our conventional fixed-rate credit spreads, we would expect the economic terms of the notes to be more favorable to you. Consequently, our use of an internal funding rate would have an adverse effect on the terms of the notes and any secondary market prices of the notes. See "The Bank's Estimated Value of the Notes" in this Pricing Supplement.

We Cannot Control Actions By Any of the Unaffiliated Companies Whose Securities Are Included in the Underlier

Actions by any company whose securities are included in the underlier may have an adverse effect on the price of its security, the final underlier level and the value of the notes. These companies will not be involved in the offering of the notes and will have no obligations with respect to the notes, including any obligation to take our or your

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interests into consideration for any reason. These companies will not receive any of the proceeds of the offering of the notes and will not be responsible for, and will not have participated in, the determination of the timing of, prices for, or quantities of, the notes to be issued. These companies will not be involved with the administration, marketing or trading of the notes and will have no obligations with respect to the cash settlement amount to be paid to you at maturity.

The Indenture Provides Only Limited Acceleration and Enforcement Rights for the Notes

In connection with the implementation of certain Canadian federal statutes, the indenture under which the notes are issued provides that, for any notes of a series issued on or after November 6, 2018, including the notes offered by this pricing supplement, acceleration will only be permitted if (i) we default in the payment of the principal of, or interest on, any note of that series and, in each case, the default continues for a period of 30 business days, or (ii) certain bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization events occur. See **Description of the Notes We May Offer Events of Default** in the Prospectus Supplement. As a result, before you invest in the notes, you should consider the risk that your safeguards and your ability to effect remedies under the indenture will be limited.

We and Our Respective Affiliates Have No Affiliation with the Underlier Sponsor and Have Not Independently Verified Its Public Disclosure of Information

We and our respective affiliates are not affiliated in any way with the underlier sponsor and have no ability to control or predict its actions, including any errors in or discontinuation of disclosure regarding the methods or policies relating to the calculation of the underlier. We have derived the information about the underlier sponsor and the underlier contained herein from publicly available information, without independent verification. You, as an investor in the notes, should make your own investigation into the underlier and the underlier sponsor. The underlier sponsor is not involved in the offering of the notes made hereby in any way and has no obligation to consider your interest as an owner of notes in taking any actions that might affect the value of the notes.

The U.S. Federal Tax Consequences of An Investment in the Notes Are Unclear

There is no direct legal authority regarding the proper U.S. federal tax treatment of the notes, and we do not plan to request a ruling from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS"). Consequently, significant aspects of the tax treatment of the notes are uncertain, and the IRS or a court might not agree with the treatment of the notes as prepaid cash-settled derivative contracts. If the IRS were successful in asserting an alternative treatment of the notes, the tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of the notes might be materially and adversely affected. The U.S. Treasury Department and the IRS released a notice requesting comments on various issues regarding the U.S. federal income tax treatment of prepaid forward contracts and similar instruments. See **Supplemental Discussion of U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences** in the accompanying Product Supplement No. 7. Any Treasury regulations or other guidance promulgated after consideration of these issues could materially and adversely affect the tax consequences of an investment in the notes, 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 notes should review carefully the section of the accompanying Product Supplement No. 7 entitled **Supplemental Discussion of U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences** and consult their tax advisers regarding the U.S. federal tax consequences of an investment in the notes (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.

There Can Be No Assurance that the Canadian Federal Income Tax Consequences of an Investment in the Notes Will Not Change in the Future

There can be no assurance that Canadian federal income tax laws, the judicial interpretation thereof, or the administrative policies and assessing practices of the Canada Revenue Agency will not be changed in a manner that adversely affects investors. For a discussion of the Canadian federal income tax consequences of investing in the notes, please read the section of this Pricing Supplement entitled "Certain Canadian Federal Income Tax Considerations" as well as the section entitled "Material Income Tax Consequences - Canadian Taxation" in the accompanying Prospectus. You should consult your tax advisor with respect to your own particular situation.

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THE UNDERLIER

The underlier includes a representative sample of 500 leading companies in leading industries of the U.S. economy. The underlier is calculated, maintained and published by S&P.

As of July 31, 2017, companies with multiple share class lines are no longer eligible for inclusion in the underlier. Constituents of the underlier prior to July 31, 2017 with multiple share class lines will be grandfathered in and continue to be included in the underlier. If an underlier constituent reorganizes into a multiple share class line structure, that company will be reviewed for continued inclusion in the underlier at the discretion of the S&P Index Committee. Also as of July 31, 2017, the criteria employed by S&P for purposes of making additions to the underlier were changed as follows:

- with respect to the U.S. company criterion, (i) the IEX was added as an eligible exchange for the primary listing of the relevant company's common stock and (ii) the former corporate governance structure consistent with U.S. practice requirement was removed; and
- with respect to constituents of the S&P MidCap 400® Index and the S&P SmallCap 600® Index that are being considered for addition to the underlier, the financial viability, public float and/or liquidity eligibility criteria no longer need to be met if the S&P Index Committee decides that such an addition will enhance the representativeness of the underlier as a market benchmark.

As of January 31, 2019, the 500 companies included in the underlier were divided into eleven Global Industry Classification Sectors. The Global Industry Classification Sectors include (with the approximate percentage currently included in such sectors indicated in parentheses): Information Technology (19.9%), Health Care (15.1%), Financials (13.5%), Communication Services (10.3%), Consumer Discretionary (10.1%), Industrials (9.5%), Consumer Staples (7.2%), Energy (5.5%), Utilities (3.2%), Real Estate (3.0%) and Materials (2.7%). Sector designations are determined by the underlier sponsor using criteria it has selected or developed. Index sponsors may use very different standards for determining sector designations. In addition, many companies operate in a number of sectors, but are listed in only one sector and the basis on which that sector is selected may also differ. As a result, sector comparisons between indices with different index sponsors may reflect differences in methodology as well as actual differences in the sector composition of the indices. As of the close of business on September 21, 2018, S&P and MSCI, Inc. updated the Global Industry Classification Sector structure. Among other things, the update broadened the Telecommunications Services sector and renamed it the Communication Services sector. The renamed sector includes the previously existing Telecommunication Services Industry group, as well as the Media Industry group, which was moved from the Consumer Discretionary sector and renamed the Media & Entertainment Industry group. The Media & Entertainment Industry group contains three industries: Media, Entertainment and Interactive Media & Services. The Media industry continues to consist of the Advertising, Broadcasting, Cable & Satellite and Publishing sub-industries. The Entertainment industry contains the Movies & Entertainment sub-industry (which includes online entertainment streaming companies in addition to companies previously classified in such industry prior to September 21, 2018) and the Interactive Home Entertainment sub-industry (which includes companies previously classified in the Home Entertainment Software sub-industry prior to September 21, 2018 (when the Home Entertainment Software sub-industry was a sub-industry in the Information Technology sector), as well as producers of interactive gaming products, including mobile gaming applications). The Interactive Media & Services industry and sub-industry includes companies engaged in content and information creation or distribution through proprietary platforms, where revenues are derived primarily through pay-per-click advertisements, and includes search engines, social media and networking platforms, online

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classifieds and online review companies. The Global Industry Classification Sector structure changes are effective for the S&P 500® Index as of the open of business on September 24, 2018 to coincide with the September 2018 quarterly rebalancing.

The above information supplements the description of the underlier found in the accompanying General Terms Supplement. This information was derived from information prepared by the underlier sponsor, however, the percentages we have listed above are approximate and may not match the information available on the underlier sponsor's website due to subsequent corporation actions or other activity relating to a particular stock. For more details about the underlier, the underlier sponsor and license agreement between the underlier sponsor and the Issuer, see The Underliers S&P 500® Index in the accompanying General Terms Supplement.

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License Agreement

We and S&P have entered into a non-transferable, non-exclusive license agreement providing for the sublicense to us, in exchange for a fee, of the right to use the S&P 500® Index in connection with the issuance of the notes.

The S&P 500® Index is a product of S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC (SPDJI), and has been licensed for use by CIBC. Standard & Poor's®, S&P® and S&P 500® are registered trademarks of Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC; Dow Jones® is a registered trademark of Dow Jones Trademark Holdings LLC (Dow Jones); and these trademarks have been licensed for use by SPDJI and sublicensed for certain purposes by CIBC. The notes are not sponsored, endorsed, sold or promoted by SPDJI, Dow Jones, Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC, or their respective affiliates, and none of such parties make any representation regarding the advisability of investing in the notes nor do they have any liability for any errors, omissions, or interruptions of the S&P 500® Index.

Historical Closing Levels of the Underlier

The closing level of the underlier has fluctuated in the past and may, in the future, experience significant fluctuations. Any historical upward or downward trend in the closing level of the underlier during the period shown below is not an indication that the underlier is more or less likely to increase or decrease at any time during the life of your notes.

You should not take the historical levels of the underlier as an indication of the future performance of the underlier. We cannot give you any assurance that the future performance of the underlier or the underlier stocks will result in your receiving an amount greater than the outstanding face amount of your notes on the stated maturity date.

Neither we nor any of our affiliates make any representation to you as to the performance of the underlier. Before investing in the offered notes, you should consult publicly available information to determine the levels of the underlier between the date of this Pricing Supplement and the date of your purchase of the offered notes. The actual performance of the underlier over the life of the offered notes, as well as the cash settlement amount, may bear little relation to the historical closing levels shown below.

The graph below shows the daily historical closing levels of the underlier from February 13, 2009 through February 13, 2019. We obtained the closing levels in the graph below from Bloomberg Financial Services, without independent verification.

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THE BANK'S ESTIMATED VALUE OF THE NOTES

The Bank's estimated value of the notes set forth on the cover of this Pricing Supplement is equal to the sum of the values of the following hypothetical components: (1) a fixed-income debt component with the same maturity as the notes, valued using our internal funding rate for structured debt described below, and (2) the derivative or derivatives underlying the economic terms of the notes. The Bank's estimated value does not represent a minimum price at which CIBCWM or any other person would be willing to buy your notes in any secondary market (if any exists) at any time. The internal funding rate used in the determination of the Bank's estimated value generally represents a discount from the credit spreads for our conventional fixed-rate debt. The discount is based on, among other things, our view of the funding value of the notes as well as the higher issuance, operational and ongoing liability management costs of the notes in comparison to those costs for our conventional fixed-rate debt. For additional information, see **Additional Risk Factors Specific to Your Notes – The Bank's Estimated Value Is Not Determined by Reference to Credit Spreads for Our Conventional Fixed-Rate Debt** in this Pricing Supplement. The value of the derivative or derivatives underlying the economic terms of the notes is derived from the Bank's or a third party hedge provider's internal pricing models. These models are dependent on inputs such as the traded market prices of comparable derivative instruments and on various other inputs, some of which are market-observable, and which can include volatility, dividend rates, interest rates and other factors, as well as assumptions about future market events and/or environments. Accordingly, the Bank's estimated value of the notes is determined when the terms of the notes are set based on market conditions and other relevant factors and assumptions existing at that time. See **Additional Risk Factors Specific to Your Notes – The Bank's Estimated Value Does Not Represent Future Values of the Notes and May Differ from Others' Estimates** in this Pricing Supplement.

The Bank's estimated value of the notes will be lower than the original issue price of the notes because costs associated with selling, structuring and hedging the notes are included in the original issue price of the notes. These costs include the projected profits that our hedge counterparties, which may include our affiliates, expect to realize for assuming risks inherent in hedging our obligations under the notes and the estimated cost of hedging our obligations under the notes. Because hedging our obligations entails risk and may be influenced by market forces beyond our control, this hedging may result in a profit that is more or less than expected, or it may result in a loss. We or one or more of our affiliates will retain any profits realized in hedging our obligations under the notes. See **Additional Risk Factors Specific to Your Notes – The Bank's Estimated Value of the Notes Will Be Lower Than the Original Issue Price (Price to Public) of the Notes** in this Pricing Supplement.

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SUPPLEMENTAL PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION (CONFLICTS OF INTEREST)

Pursuant to the terms of a distribution agreement, the Bank expects to agree to sell to CIBCWM, and CIBCWM expects to agree to purchase from the Bank, the aggregate face amount of the offered notes specified on the front cover of this Pricing Supplement. CIBCWM proposes initially to offer the notes to the public at the price to public set forth on the cover page of this Pricing Supplement, and to certain unaffiliated securities dealers at such price.

The Bank owns, directly or indirectly, all of the outstanding equity securities of CIBCWM. In accordance with FINRA Rule 5121, CIBCWM may not make sales in this offering to any of its discretionary accounts without the prior written approval of the customer.

We expect to deliver the notes against payment therefor in New York, New York on _____, 2019, which is expected to be the fourth scheduled business day following the date of this Pricing Supplement and of the pricing of the notes. Under Rule 15c6-1 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, trades in the secondary market generally are required to settle in two business days, unless the parties to any such trade expressly agree otherwise. Accordingly, purchasers who wish to trade notes on any date prior to two business days before delivery will be required, by virtue of the fact that the notes are expected to settle in four business days (T + 4), to specify alternative settlement arrangements to prevent a failed settlement.

The Bank may use this Pricing Supplement in the initial sale of the notes. In addition, CIBCWM or another of the Bank's affiliates may use this Pricing Supplement in market-making transactions in any notes after their initial sale. Unless CIBCWM or we inform you otherwise in the confirmation of sale, this Pricing Supplement is being used by CIBCWM in a market-making transaction.

While CIBCWM may make markets in the notes, it is under no obligation to do so and may discontinue any market-making activities at any time without notice. The price that it makes available from time to time after the issue date at which it would be willing to repurchase the notes will generally reflect its estimate of their value. That estimated value will be based upon a variety of factors, including then prevailing market conditions, our creditworthiness and transaction costs. However, for a period of approximately three months after the trade date, the price at which CIBCWM may repurchase the notes is expected to be higher than their estimated value at that time. This is because, at the beginning of this period, that price will not include certain costs that were included in the original issue price, particularly our hedging costs and profits. As the period continues, these costs are expected to be gradually included in the price that CIBCWM would be willing to pay, and the difference between that price and CIBCWM's estimate of the value of the notes will decrease over time until the end of this period. After this period, if CIBCWM continues to make a market in the notes, the prices that it would pay for them are expected to reflect its estimated value, as well as customary bid-ask spreads for similar trades. In addition, the value of the notes shown on your account statement may not be identical to the price at which CIBCWM would be willing to purchase the notes at that time, and could be lower than CIBCWM's price. See the section titled Supplemental Plan of Distribution Conflicts of Interest in the accompanying Prospectus Supplement.

The price at which you purchase the notes includes costs that the Bank or its affiliates expect to incur and profits that the Bank or its affiliates expect to realize in connection with hedging activities related to the notes, as set forth above. These costs and profits

will likely reduce the secondary market price, if any secondary market develops, for the notes.

Any notes which are the subject of the offering contemplated by this Pricing Supplement, the accompanying Product Supplement No. 7, accompanying General Terms Supplement, accompanying Prospectus Supplement and accompanying Prospectus may not be offered, sold or otherwise made available to any retail investor in the European Economic Area (the EEA). Consequently no key information document required by Regulation (EU) No 1286/2014 (the PRIIPs Regulation) for offering or selling the notes or otherwise making them available to retail investors in the EEA has been prepared and therefore offering or selling the notes or otherwise making them available to any retail investor in the EEA may be unlawful under the PRIIPs Regulation. For the purposes

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of this provision:

- (a) the expression "retail investor" means a person who is one (or more) of the following:
- (i) a retail client as defined in point (11) of Article 4(1) of Directive 2014/65/EU (as amended, MiFID II);
 - (ii) a customer within the meaning of Directive 2002/92/EC, where that customer would not qualify as a professional client as defined in point (10) of Article 4(1) of MiFID II; or
 - (iii) not a qualified investor as defined in Directive 2003/71/EC; and
- (b) the expression "an offer" includes the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the notes to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe for the notes.

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CERTAIN UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

The following discussion is a brief summary of the material U.S. federal income tax considerations relating to an investment in the notes. The following summary is not complete and is both qualified and supplemented by the discussion entitled "Supplemental Discussion of U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences" in the accompanying Product Supplement No. 7, which you should carefully review prior to investing in the notes.

The U.S. federal income tax considerations of your investment in the notes are uncertain. No statutory, judicial or administrative authority directly discusses how the notes should be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes. In the opinion of our tax counsel, Mayer Brown LLP, it would generally be reasonable to treat the notes as prepaid cash-settled derivative contracts. Pursuant to the terms of the notes, you agree to treat the notes in this manner for all U.S. federal income tax purposes. If this treatment is respected, you should generally recognize capital gain or loss upon the sale, exchange or payment upon maturity in an amount equal to the difference between the amount you receive in such transaction and the amount that you paid for your notes. Such gain or loss should generally be treated as long-term capital gain or loss if you have held your notes for more than one year.

The expected characterization of the notes is not binding on the IRS or the courts. It is possible that the IRS would seek to characterize the notes in a manner that results in tax consequences to you that are different from those described above or in the accompanying Product Supplement No. 7. Such alternate treatments could include a requirement that a holder accrue ordinary income over the life of the notes or treat all gain or loss at maturity as ordinary gain or loss. For a more detailed discussion of certain alternative characterizations with respect to the notes and certain other considerations with respect to an investment in the notes, you should consider the discussion set forth in "Supplemental Discussion of U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences" of Product Supplement No. 7. We are not responsible for any adverse consequences that you may experience as a result of any alternative characterization of the notes for U.S. federal income tax or other tax purposes.

U.S. tax rules treat certain financial products issued to non-U.S. holders in 2017 or thereafter as giving rise to withholdable dividend equivalent payments when the financial product provides a payment or credit in respect of dividend payments on certain U.S. underliers. These rules do not apply if the financial product references a qualified index and does not contain short positions on more than 5 percent of the components within the index. Additionally, the Internal Revenue Service has issued a Notice that excludes financial products issued prior to 2021 that are not "delta-one" with respect to underlying securities that could pay withholdable dividend equivalent payments. In the opinion of Mayer Brown LLP, these rules should not apply to the notes.

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CERTAIN CANADIAN FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

In the opinion of Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP, our Canadian tax counsel, the following summary describes the principal Canadian federal income tax considerations under the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) (the "Canadian Tax Act") generally applicable at the date hereof to a purchaser who acquires beneficial ownership of a note pursuant to this Pricing Supplement and who for the purposes of the Canadian Tax Act and the regulations thereto 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 purchaser disposes of the note; (c) does not use or hold and is not deemed to use or hold the note 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 note, 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 supplemental to and should be read together with the description of material Canadian federal income tax considerations relevant to a Non-Resident Holder owning notes under "Material Income Tax Consequences - Canadian Taxation" in the accompanying Prospectus and a Non-Resident Holder should carefully read that description as well.

This summary is of a general nature only 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 with their own tax advisors with respect to their particular circumstances.

Based on Canadian tax counsel's understanding of the Canada Revenue Agency's administrative policies and having regard to the terms of the notes, interest payable on the notes should not be considered to be participating debt interest as defined in the Canadian Tax Act and accordingly, a Non-Resident Holder should not be subject to Canadian non-resident withholding tax in respect of amounts paid or credited or deemed to have been paid or credited by CIBC on a note as, on account of or in lieu of payment of, or in satisfaction of, interest.

Non-Resident Holders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the consequences to them of a disposition of the notes to a person with whom they are not dealing at arm's length for purposes of the Canadian Tax Act.

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We have not authorized anyone to provide any information or to make any representations other than those contained or incorporated by reference in this Pricing Supplement, the accompanying Product Supplement No. 7, the accompanying General Terms Supplement, the accompanying Prospectus Supplement or the accompanying Prospectus. We take no responsibility for, and can provide no assurance as to the reliability of, any other information that others may give you. This Pricing Supplement, the accompanying Product Supplement No. 7, the accompanying General Terms Supplement, the accompanying Prospectus Supplement and the accompanying Prospectus is an offer to sell only the notes offered hereby, but only under circumstances and in jurisdictions where it is lawful to do so. The information contained in this Pricing Supplement, the accompanying Product Supplement No. 7, the accompanying General Terms Supplement, the accompanying Prospectus Supplement and the accompanying Prospectus is current only as of the respective dates of such documents.

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