

BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA /
Form 424B5
April 18, 2013

The information in this preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is not complete and may be changed. This preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying 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.

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Subject to Completion

Preliminary Prospectus Supplement dated April 18, 2013

Prospectus Supplement

(to the Prospectus Dated December 28, 2012)

THE BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA

U.S.\$ % Senior Notes due

The U.S.\$ Senior Notes due (the “Notes”) offered by this prospectus supplement (this “Prospectus Supplement”) will bear interest at a rate of % from April , 2013 and will mature on April , . Interest on the Notes will be payable in arrears on April and October of each year, commencing October , 2013 and continuing until April , . The Notes will be unsecured and unsubordinated obligations of The Bank of Nova Scotia (the “Bank”) and will constitute deposit liabilities of the Bank for purposes of the *Bank Act* (Canada) (the “Bank Act”).

Investing in the notes involves risks. See “Risk Factors” beginning on page S-1 of this Prospectus Supplement and page 6 of the accompanying prospectus of the Bank dated December 28, 2012 (the “Prospectus”).

Prospective investors should be aware that the acquisition of the Notes described herein may have tax consequences both in the United States and in Canada. Such consequences for investors who are resident in, or citizens of, the United States may not be described fully herein.

The enforcement by investors of civil liabilities under the United States federal securities laws may be affected adversely by the fact that the Bank is a Canadian bank, that many of its officers and directors, and some of the experts named in this Prospectus Supplement, may be residents of Canada and that all or a substantial portion of the assets of the Bank and such persons may be located outside the United States.

Neither the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) nor any state securities regulator has approved or disapproved of the Notes, or determined if this Prospectus Supplement or the accompanying Prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

**Price to
the Public(1) Underwriters’ FeesNet Proceeds to the Bank(1)(2)**

Per Note	%	%	%
Total	U.S.\$	U.S.\$	U.S.\$

(1) Plus accrued interest, if any, from April , 2013 to the date of delivery. Accrued interest must be paid by the purchasers.

(2) Before deduction of expenses estimated at U.S.\$.

The underwriters, as principals, conditionally offer the Notes, subject to prior sale, if, as and when issued by the Bank, and accepted by the underwriters in accordance with the conditions contained in the underwriting agreement referred to under “Plan of Distribution” in this Prospectus Supplement. The underwriters may sell Notes for less than the initial offering price in circumstances described under “Plan of Distribution.” In addition, the underwriters may effect transactions which stabilize or maintain the market price of the Notes at levels other than those that might otherwise prevail in the open market. Such transactions, if commenced, may be discontinued at any time. See “Plan of Distribution.”

The Notes will not constitute deposits that are insured under the *Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation Act (Canada)* or by the United States Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other Canadian or U.S. government agency or instrumentality.

The principal executive office of the Bank is located at 1709 Hollis Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J 3B7 and its executive offices are at Scotia Plaza, 44 King Street West, Toronto, Ontario, M5H 1H1. The Notes will be ready for delivery through the book-entry facilities of The Depository Trust Company and its direct and indirect participants, including Euroclear Bank S.A./N.V. and Clearstream Banking, société anonyme, on or about April , 2013.

Joint Book-Running Managers

Citigroup	Scotiabank	Barclays
BofA Merrill Lynch		J.P. Morgan

April , 2013

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
Prospectus Supplement	
<u>About This Prospectus Supplement</u>	S-1
<u>Risk Factors</u>	S-1
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	S-3
<u>Details of the Offering</u>	S-3
<u>Certain U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations</u>	S-7
<u>Certain Canadian Federal Income Tax Considerations</u>	S-8
<u>Plan of Distribution (Conflicts of Interest)</u>	S-9
<u>Legal Matters</u>	S-12
<u>Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	S-12
Prospectus	
About This Prospectus	2
Presentation of Financial Information	3
Caution Regarding Forward-Looking Statements	4
Where You Can Find More Information	4
Incorporation of Certain Information by Reference	5
Risk Factors	6
The Bank of Nova Scotia	7
Consolidated Capitalization of the Bank	8
Consolidated Earnings Ratios	9
Comparative Per Share Market Price	10
Use of Proceeds	11
Description of Common Shares and Preferred Shares	12
Description of the Debt Securities We May Offer	16
United States Taxation	28
Canadian Taxation	37
Employee Retirement Income Security Act	39
Plan of Distribution	40
Limitations on Enforcement of U.S. Laws Against the Bank, Our Management and Others	42
Validity of Securities	42
Experts	42
Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution	42

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

This document consists of two parts. The first part is this Prospectus Supplement, which describes the specific terms of this offering. The second part, the accompanying Prospectus, gives more general information, some of which may not apply to this offering. If information in this Prospectus Supplement is inconsistent with the accompanying Prospectus, investors should rely on the information in this Prospectus Supplement. This Prospectus Supplement, the accompanying Prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference into each of them include important information about the Bank, the Notes being offered and other information investors should know before investing in the Notes.

Risk Factors

An investment in Notes of the Bank is subject to certain risks. Before deciding whether to invest in the Notes, investors should carefully consider the risks set out herein and incorporated by reference in this Prospectus Supplement (including subsequently filed documents incorporated by reference herein).

The value of the Notes will be affected by the general creditworthiness of the Bank. Prospective investors should consider the categories of risks identified in the Bank's most recent annual report filed on Form 40-F and quarterly report to shareholders filed on Form 6-K, which are incorporated by reference herein, including credit risk, market risk, liquidity risk, operational risk, reputational risk and environmental risk.

The Notes will be unsecured and unsubordinated obligations of the Bank and will rank on a parity with all of the Bank's other senior unsecured debt including deposit liabilities, other than certain governmental claims in accordance with applicable law. Except to the extent regulatory requirements affect the Bank's decisions to issue more senior debt, there is no limit on the Bank's ability to incur additional senior debt. Any payment to be made on the Notes depends on the ability of the Bank to satisfy its obligations as they come due. As a result, the actual and perceived creditworthiness of the Bank may affect the market value of the Notes and, in the event the Bank was to default on its obligations, holders of the Notes may not receive the amounts owed to them under the terms of the Notes.

Real or anticipated changes in credit ratings on the Bank's deposit liabilities may affect the market value of the Notes. In addition, real or anticipated changes in credit ratings can affect the cost at which the Bank can transact or obtain funding, and thereby affect the Bank's liquidity, business, financial condition or results of operations and, therefore, the Bank's ability to make payments on the Notes could be adversely affected.

The value of the Notes may be affected by market value fluctuations resulting from factors which influence the Bank's operations, including regulatory developments, competition and global market activity.

Prevailing interest rates will affect the market value of the Notes. Assuming all other factors remain unchanged, the market value of the Notes will decline as prevailing interest rates for similar debt instruments rise, and increase as prevailing interest rates for comparable debt instruments decline.

The Notes are a new issue of securities and there may be no market through which the Notes may be sold and purchasers may therefore be unable to resell such Notes. In addition, the Bank does not intend to apply for listing or quotation of the Notes on any securities exchange or automated quotation system. These factors may affect the pricing of the Notes in any secondary market, the transparency and availability of trading prices and the liquidity of the Notes.

There can be no assurance that an active trading market will develop for the Notes after this offering, or if developed, that such a market will be sustained at the offering price of the Notes. While certain of the underwriters intend to make a market in the Notes, the underwriters will not be obligated to do so and may stop their market-making at any time. In addition, any market-making activities will be

subject to limits of the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”), and the Exchange Act.

If any of the Notes are traded after their initial issuance, they may trade at a discount from their initial offering price. Future trading prices of the Notes will depend on many factors, including prevailing interest rates, the market for similar securities, general economic conditions and our financial condition, performance, prospects and other factors. Accordingly, you may be required to bear the financial risk of an investment in the Notes for an indefinite period of time.

The senior debt indenture governing the Notes does not contain any financial covenants and contains only limited restrictive covenants. In addition, the senior debt indenture will not limit the Bank’s or its subsidiaries’ ability to incur additional indebtedness, issue or repurchase securities, pay dividends or engage in transactions with affiliates. The Bank’s ability to incur additional indebtedness and use its funds for any purpose in the Bank’s discretion may increase the risk that the Bank may be unable to service its debt, including paying its obligations under the Notes.

The Notes and the related senior debt indenture will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York (other than certain limited provisions that will be governed by the law of the Province of Ontario and applicable laws of Canada). Generally, in an action commenced in a Canadian court for the enforcement of the senior debt indenture or the Notes, a plaintiff will be required to prove those non-Canadian laws as a matter of fact by the evidence of persons who are experts in those laws.

This paragraph is relevant only if you are a fiduciary within the meaning of Section 3(21) of the U.S. Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (“ERISA”) (including an insurance company and any fund manager treated as a fiduciary under the U.S. Department of Labor’s Regulations Section 2510.3-101 as modified by Section 3(42) of ERISA (the “Plan Asset Regulation”) of a pension or employee benefit plan (as defined in Section 3(3) of ERISA), including certain governmental, church and non-U.S. plans and IRAs and Keogh plans. These persons should consult with their counsel regarding the deemed representations they are required to make. See “Employee Retirement Income Security Act” in the accompanying Prospectus.

The Notes will be denominated in U.S. dollars. If you are a non-U.S. investor who purchases the Notes with a currency other than U.S. dollars, changes in rates of exchange may have an adverse effect on the value, price or returns of your investment. This Prospectus Supplement contains a general description of certain U.S. tax considerations and certain Canadian tax considerations relevant to Non-Resident Holders (as defined) 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 the Notes and receiving the payments that might be due under the Notes.

We will have the right to redeem the Notes and if we redeem your Notes, depending on the market conditions at the time of redemption, you may not be able to reinvest the redemption proceeds in a security with a comparable return.

Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act Withholding

The U.S. “Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act” (or “FATCA”) imposes a new reporting regime and, potentially, a 30% withholding tax with respect to (i) certain payments from sources within the United States, (ii) “foreign passthru payments” made to certain non-U.S. financial institutions that do not comply with this new reporting regime, and (iii) payments to certain investors that do not provide identification information with respect to interests issued by a participating non-U.S. financial institution. The Bank is classified as a financial institution for these purposes. If an amount in respect of such withholding tax were to be deducted or withheld from interest, principal or other payments made in respect of the Notes, neither the Bank nor any paying agent nor any other person would, pursuant to the conditions of the Notes, be required to pay additional amounts as a result of the deduction or withholding. As a result, investors may receive less interest or principal than expected. Prospective investors should refer to the section “United

States Taxation—Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act Withholding.”

S-2

Use of Proceeds

The net proceeds to the Bank from the sale of the Notes, after deducting the estimated expenses of the issue and the underwriters' discounts and commissions, will amount to approximately U.S.\$. Such net proceeds will be added to the Bank's funds and will be used for general business purposes.

Details of the Offering

The following description of the terms of the Notes supplements, and to the extent inconsistent therewith replaces, the description set forth under the heading "Description of the Debt Securities We May Offer" in the accompanying Prospectus and should be read in conjunction with such description. As used in this description, the terms the "Bank," "we," "us" and "our" refer only to The Bank of Nova Scotia and not to any of its subsidiaries. All capitalized terms used under this heading "Details of the Offering" that are not defined herein have the meanings ascribed thereto in the accompanying Prospectus.

General

The following is a description of the terms of the U.S.\$ % Senior Notes due offered by this Prospectus Supplement (which are referred to in this Prospectus Supplement as the "Notes" and in the accompanying Prospectus as "Debt Securities"). The Notes are part of the Debt Securities registered by us with the SEC and which are to be issued on terms that will be determined at the time of sale. The Notes will constitute our unsecured and unsubordinated obligations and will constitute deposit liabilities of the Bank for purposes of the Bank Act and will rank on a parity with all of our other senior unsecured debt including deposit liabilities, other than certain governmental claims in accordance with applicable law, and prior to all of our subordinated debt. The Notes are to be issued under a senior debt indenture among us, Computershare Trust Company, N.A., as United States trustee, and Computershare Trust Company of Canada, as Canadian trustee, which is more fully described in the Prospectus under the heading "Description of the Debt Securities We May Offer."

Payment of the principal and interest on the Notes will be made in U.S. dollars. We will pay interest, principal and any other money due on the Notes at the corporate trust office of Computershare Trust Company, N.A., 350 Indiana St., Suite 750, Golden, Colorado 80401, or such other office as may be agreed upon. Holders of Notes 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.

The Notes are not entitled to the benefits of any sinking fund.

The provisions of the senior debt indenture relating to defeasance and covenant defeasance (described under the heading "Description of the Debt Securities We May Offer — Defeasance" in the accompanying Prospectus) will apply to the Notes.

The Notes will be issued in denominations of U.S.\$2,000 and integral multiples of U.S.\$1,000 in excess of such amount. Upon issuance, the Notes will be represented by one or more fully registered global notes. Each global note will be deposited with, or on behalf of, The Depository Trust Company, as depository. You may elect to hold interests in the global notes through either the depository (in the United States), Clearstream or Euroclear, or indirectly through organizations that are participants in such systems. See "Description of the Debt Securities We May Offer — Legal Ownership and Book-Entry Issuance" in the accompanying Prospectus.

Maturity

The Notes will mature on April , .

Interest

The Notes will bear interest from and including April , 2013 at a rate equal to % . We will pay interest in arrears on April and October of each year, beginning October , 2013 (each, an “Interest Payment Date”), and on the maturity date. Interest will be payable on each Interest Payment Date to the persons in whose name the Notes are registered at the close of business on the preceding April or October , whether or not a business day. However, we will pay interest on the maturity date to the same persons to whom the principal will be payable. If any Interest Payment Date or the maturity date falls on a day that is not a business day, we will postpone the making of such interest payment to the next succeeding business day (and no interest will be paid in respect of the delay). A “business day” means each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday that is not a day on which banking institutions are authorized or required by law or executive order to close in The City of New York, New York or Toronto, Ontario.

Interest on the Notes will accrue from and including April , 2013 to but excluding the first Interest Payment Date and then from and including each Interest Payment Date to which interest has been paid or duly provided for to, but excluding, the next Interest Payment Date or the maturity date, as the case may be.

Interest on the Notes will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months.

Payment of Additional Amounts

All payments made by or on behalf of the Bank under or with respect to the Notes will be made free and clear of and without withholding or deduction for or on account of any present or future tax, duty, levy, impost, assessment or other governmental charge (including penalties, interest and other liabilities related thereto) imposed or levied by or on behalf of the Government of Canada or any province or territory thereof or by any authority or agency therein or thereof having power to tax (hereafter “Canadian taxes”), unless the Bank is required to withhold or deduct Canadian taxes by law or by the interpretation or administration thereof. If the Bank is so required to withhold or deduct any amount for or on account of Canadian taxes from any payment made under or with respect to the Notes, we will pay to each holder of Notes as additional interest such additional amounts (“additional amounts”) as may be necessary so that the net amount received by each such holder after such withholding or deduction (and after deducting any Canadian taxes on such additional amounts) will not be less than the amount such holder would have received if such Canadian taxes had not been withheld or deducted, except as described below. However, no additional amounts will be payable with respect to a payment made to a holder (such holder, an “excluded holder”) in respect of the beneficial owner thereof:

- with which the Bank does not deal at arm’s length (for the purposes of the *Income Tax Act* (Canada)) at the time of the making of such payment;
- which is subject to such Canadian taxes by reason of the holder being a resident, domiciliary or national of, engaged in business or maintaining a permanent establishment or other physical presence in or otherwise having some connection with Canada or any province or territory thereof otherwise than by the mere holding of the Notes or the receipt of payments thereunder;
- which is subject to such Canadian taxes by reason of the holder’s failure to comply with any certification, identification, documentation or other reporting requirements if compliance is required by law, regulation, administrative practice or an applicable treaty as a precondition to exemption from, or a reduction in the rate of deduction or withholding of, such Canadian taxes (provided that the Bank advises the Trustees and the holders of the Notes then outstanding of any change in such requirements);
- with respect to any estate, inheritance, gift, sale, transfer, personal property or similar tax or other governmental charge; or

which is a fiduciary or partnership or person other than the sole beneficial owner of such payment to the extent that the Canadian taxes would not have been imposed on such payment had such holder been the sole beneficial owner of such Notes.

The Bank will also:

make such withholding or deduction; and

remit the full amount deducted or withheld to the relevant authority in accordance with applicable law.

The Bank will furnish to the holders of the Notes, within 60 days after the date the payment of any Canadian taxes is due pursuant to applicable law, certified copies of tax receipts or other documents evidencing such payment by such person.

The Bank will indemnify and hold harmless each holder of Notes (other than an excluded holder) from and against, and upon written request reimburse each such holder for the amount (excluding any additional amounts that have previously been paid by the Bank with respect thereto) of:

any Canadian taxes so levied or imposed and paid by such holder as a result of payments made by or on behalf of the Bank under or with respect to the Notes;

any liability (including penalties, interest and expenses) arising therefrom or with respect thereto; and

any Canadian taxes imposed with respect to any reimbursement under the preceding two bullet points, but excluding any such Canadian taxes on such holder's net income.

In any event, no additional amounts or indemnity amounts will be payable under the provisions described above in respect of any Note in excess of the additional amounts and the indemnity amounts which would be required if, at all relevant times, the holder of such Note were a resident of the United States for purposes of and was entitled to the benefits of the Canada-U.S. Income Tax Convention (1980), as amended, including any protocols thereto. As a result of the limitation on the payment of additional amounts and indemnity amounts discussed in the preceding sentence, the additional amounts or indemnity amounts received by certain holders of Notes may be less than the amount of Canadian taxes withheld or deducted or the amount of Canadian taxes (and related amounts) levied or imposed giving rise to the obligation to pay the indemnity amounts, as the case may be, and, accordingly, the net amount received by such holders of Notes will be less than the amount such holders would have received had there been no such withholding or deduction in respect of Canadian taxes or had such Canadian taxes (and related amounts) not been levied or imposed.

Wherever in the senior debt indenture governing the terms of the Notes there is mentioned, in any context, the payment of principal, interest, if any, or any other amount payable under or with respect to a Note, such mention shall be deemed to include mention of the payment of additional amounts to the extent that, in such context, additional amounts are, were or would be payable in respect thereof.

In the event of the occurrence of any transaction or event resulting in a successor to the Bank, all references to Canada in the preceding paragraphs of this subsection shall be deemed to be references to the jurisdiction of organization of the successor entity.

Payments of principal and interest in respect of the Notes are subject in all cases to any withholding or deduction required pursuant to an agreement described in Section 1471(b) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the Code) or otherwise imposed pursuant to Sections 1471 through 1474 of the Code, any regulations or agreements thereunder, official interpretations thereof, or any law implementing an intergovernmental approach thereto.

Optional Redemption

We may redeem the Notes in whole or in part from time to time on or after _____ (30 days prior to the maturity date of the Notes), at our option, at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the Notes being redeemed, together with accrued and unpaid interest to the date fixed for redemption.

Tax Redemption

The Bank (or its successor) may redeem the Notes, in whole but not in part, at a redemption price equal to the principal amount thereof together with accrued and unpaid interest to the date fixed for redemption, upon the giving of a notice as described below, if:

as a result of any change (including any announced prospective change) in or amendment to the laws (or any regulations or rulings promulgated thereunder) of Canada (or the jurisdiction of organization of the successor to the Bank) or of any political subdivision or taxing authority thereof or therein affecting taxation, or any change in official position regarding the application or interpretation of such laws, regulations or rulings (including a holding by a court of competent jurisdiction), which change or amendment is announced or becomes effective on or after the date of this Prospectus Supplement (or, in the case of a successor to the Bank, after the date of succession), and which in the written opinion to the Bank (or its successor) of legal counsel of recognized standing has resulted or will result (assuming, in the case of any announced prospective change, that such announced change will become effective as of the date specified in such announcement and in the form announced) in the Bank (or its successor) becoming obligated to pay, on the next succeeding date on which interest is due, additional amounts with respect to the Notes as described under “ — Payment of Additional Amounts;” or on or after the date of this Prospectus Supplement (or, in the case of a successor to the Bank, after the date of succession), any action has been taken by any taxing authority of, or any decision has been rendered by a court of competent jurisdiction in, Canada (or the jurisdiction of organization of the successor to the Bank) or any political subdivision or taxing authority thereof or therein, including any of those actions specified in the paragraph immediately above, whether or not such action was taken or decision was rendered with respect to the Bank (or its successor), or any change, amendment, application or interpretation shall be officially proposed, which, in any such case, in the written opinion to the Bank (or its successor) of legal counsel of recognized standing, will result (assuming that such change, amendment, application, interpretation or action is applied to the Notes by the taxing authority and that, in the case of any announced prospective change, such announced change will become effective as of the date specified in such announcement and in the form announced) in the Bank (or its successor) becoming obligated to pay, on the next succeeding date on which interest is due, additional amounts with respect to the Notes; and, in any such case, the Bank (or its successor), in its business judgment, determines that such obligation cannot be avoided by the use of reasonable measures available to it (or its successor).

In the event the Bank elects to redeem the Notes pursuant to the provisions set forth in the preceding paragraph, it shall deliver to the Trustees a certificate, signed by an authorized officer, stating (i) that the Bank is entitled to redeem such Notes pursuant to their terms and (ii) the principal amount of the Notes to be redeemed.

Notice of intention to redeem such Notes will be given to holders of the Notes not more than 45 nor less than 30 days prior to the date fixed for redemption and such notice will specify, among other things, the date fixed for redemption and the redemption price.

Further Issues

We may from time to time, without notice to or the consent of the registered holders of the Notes, create and issue further notes ranking *pari passu* with the Notes in all respects (or in all respects except for the payment of interest accruing prior to the issue date of such further notes or except for the first payment of interest following the issue date of such further notes) and so that such further notes may be consolidated and form a single series with the Notes and have the same terms as to status or otherwise as the Notes.

Certain U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations

Prospective investors should refer to the section “United States Taxation” in the Prospectus for a discussion of the material United States federal income tax consequences to a United States holder (as defined therein).

In addition, the following sections replace the corresponding sections in the Prospectus:

Information with Respect to Foreign Financial Assets

Certain holders that own “specified foreign financial assets” with an aggregate value in excess of U.S.\$50,000 on the last day of the taxable year (or an aggregate value in excess of U.S.\$75,000 at any time during the taxable year) will generally be required to file an information report with respect to such assets with their tax returns. “Specified foreign financial assets” include any financial accounts maintained by foreign financial institutions, as well as any of the following, but only if they are not held in accounts maintained by financial institutions: (i) stock or securities issued by non–United States persons, (ii) financial instruments and contracts held for investment that have non–United States issuers or counterparties, and (iii) interests in foreign entities. The securities may be subject to these rules. United States holders are urged to consult their tax advisors regarding the application of this legislation to their ownership of the securities.

Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act Withholding

Sections 1471 through 1474 of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (“FATCA”) impose a new reporting regime and potentially a 30% withholding tax with respect to certain payments to (i) any non-U.S. financial institution (a “foreign financial institution”, or “FFI” (as defined by FATCA)) that does not become a “Participating FFI” by entering into an agreement with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) to provide the IRS with certain information in respect of its account holders and investors or is not otherwise exempt from or in deemed compliance with FATCA and (ii) any investor (unless otherwise exempt from FATCA) that does not provide information sufficient to determine whether the investor is a U.S. person or should otherwise be treated as holding a “United States Account” (a “Recalcitrant Holder”). The Bank is classified as an FFI.

The new withholding regime will be phased in beginning January 1, 2014 for payments from sources within the United States and will apply to “foreign passthru payments” (a term not yet defined) no earlier than January 1, 2017. This withholding would potentially apply to payments in respect of any Notes that are issued on or after the “grandfathering date,” which is the later of (a) January 1, 2014 and (b) the date that is six months after the date on which final U.S. Treasury regulations defining the term foreign passthru payment are filed with the Federal Register, or which are materially modified on or after the grandfathering date. If Notes are issued before the grandfathering date, and additional Notes of the same series are issued on or after that date, the additional Notes may not be treated as grandfathered, which may have negative consequences for the existing Notes, including a negative impact on market price.

The United States and a number of other jurisdictions have announced their intention to negotiate intergovernmental agreements to facilitate the implementation of FATCA (each, an “IGA”). Pursuant to FATCA and the “Model 1” and

“Model 2” IGAs released by the United States, an FFI in an IGA signatory country could be treated as a “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) (any such withholding being “FATCA Withholding”) from

S-7

payments it makes (unless it has agreed to do so under the U.S. “qualified intermediary,” “withholding foreign partnership,” or “withholding foreign trust” regimes). The Model 2 IGA leaves open the possibility that a Reporting FI might in the future be required to withhold as a Participating FFI on foreign passthru payments and payments that it makes to Recalcitrant Holders. Under each Model 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 indicated an intention to enter into an agreement (a “US-Canada IGA”) however no assurance can be given that the United States and Canada will enter into such an agreement.

The Bank expects to be treated as a Reporting FI pursuant to a U.S.-Canada IGA and does not anticipate being obliged to deduct any FATCA Withholding on payments it makes. There can be no assurance, however, that the Bank will be treated as a Reporting FI, or that it would in the future not be required to deduct FATCA Withholding from payments it makes. Accordingly, the Bank and financial institutions through which payments on the Notes are made may be required to withhold FATCA Withholding if (i) any FFI through or to which payment on such Notes is made is not a Participating FFI, a Reporting FI, or otherwise exempt from or in deemed compliance with FATCA or (ii) an investor is a Recalcitrant Holder.

If an amount in respect of FATCA Withholding were to be deducted or withheld from interest, principal or other payments made in respect of the Notes, neither the Bank nor any paying agent nor any other person would, pursuant to the conditions of the Notes, be required to pay additional amounts as a result of the deduction or withholding. As a result, investors may receive less interest or principal than expected.

FATCA is particularly complex and its application is uncertain at this time. The above description is based in part on regulations, official guidance and model IGAs, all of which are subject to change or may be implemented in a materially different form.

Certain Canadian Federal Income Tax Considerations

The following is a summary of the principal Canadian federal income tax considerations generally applicable to a purchaser who acquires, as beneficial owner, Notes, including entitlements to all payments thereunder, pursuant to this offering and who, at all relevant times, for purposes of the application of the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) and the Income Tax Regulations (collectively, the “Act”) is not, and is not deemed to be, resident in Canada, deals at arm’s length with the Bank and with any transferee resident (or deemed to be resident) in Canada to whom the purchaser disposes of the Notes, does not use or hold the Notes in a business carried on in Canada, is not a “specified shareholder” and is not a person who does not deal at arm’s length with a “specified shareholder” (as defined for purposes of subsection 18(5) of the Act) of the Bank and does not receive any payment of interest on the Notes in respect of a debt or other obligation to pay an amount to a person with whom the Bank does not deal at arm’s length (a “Non-Resident Holder”). Special rules, which are not discussed in this summary, may apply to a Non-Resident Holder that is an insurer that carries on an insurance business in Canada and elsewhere.

This summary is based upon the current provisions of the Act and an understanding of the current administrative practices and assessing policies of the Canada Revenue Agency published in writing prior to the date hereof. This summary takes into account all specific proposals to amend the Act publicly announced by or on behalf of the Minister of Finance prior to the date hereof (the “Proposals”) and assumes that all Proposals will be enacted in the form proposed. However, no assurance can be given that the Proposals will be enacted as proposed or at all. This summary does not otherwise take into account any changes in law or in administrative practices or assessing policies, whether by legislative, administrative or judicial action, nor does it take into account any provincial, territorial or foreign income tax considerations, which may differ from those discussed herein.

This summary is of a general nature only and is not intended to be legal or tax advice to any particular purchaser. This summary is not exhaustive of all Canadian federal income tax considerations. Accordingly,

prospective purchasers should consult their own tax advisors with respect to their particular circumstances.

S-8

No Canadian withholding tax will apply to interest or principal paid or credited to a Non-Resident Holder by the Bank or to proceeds received by a Non-Resident Holder on the disposition of a Note, including on a redemption, payment on maturity, repurchase or purchase for cancellation.

No other tax on income or gains will be payable by a Non-Resident Holder on interest or principal, or on proceeds received by a holder on the disposition of a Note, including on a redemption, payment on maturity, repurchase or purchase for cancellation.

Plan Of Distribution (Conflicts of Interest)

Under the terms and subject to the conditions contained in an underwriting agreement dated the date of this Prospectus Supplement, the underwriters listed in the table below have severally agreed to purchase, and we have agreed to sell to them, the principal amount of the Notes set forth opposite each underwriter's name below.

Underwriter	Principal Amount of Notes
Citigroup Global Markets Inc.	U.S.\$
Scotia Capital (USA) Inc.	
Barclays Capital Inc.	
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith	
Incorporated	
J.P. Morgan Securities LLC	
Total U.S.\$	

The Notes are being offered by the underwriters subject to approval of legal matters by counsel for the underwriters and other conditions. The underwriting agreement provides that the underwriters are obligated to purchase all of the Notes if any are purchased. The underwriting agreement also provides that if an underwriter defaults, the purchase commitments of the non-defaulting underwriters may also be increased or the offering may be terminated.

The underwriters propose initially to offer the Notes to the public at the public offering price on the cover page of this Prospectus Supplement, and may offer the Notes to dealers at that price less a concession not in excess of % of the principal amount per Note. The underwriters may allow, and the dealers may reallow, a discount not in excess of % of the principal amount of the Notes to other dealers. After the initial public offering of the Notes, the underwriters may change the public offering price and discount to broker-dealers.

The expenses of the offering, not including the underwriting commissions, are estimated to be U.S.\$ and are payable by the Bank.

The Notes are a new issue of securities with no established trading market. The underwriters intend to make a secondary market for the Notes. However, they are not obligated to do so and may discontinue making a secondary market for the Notes at any time without notice. If a trading market develops, no assurance can be given as to how liquid that trading market for the Notes will be.

The Bank has agreed to indemnify the underwriters against liabilities under the Securities Act, or contribute to payments that the underwriters may be required to make in that respect.

In connection with this offering, the underwriters may engage in stabilizing transactions, syndicate covering transactions and penalty bids in accordance with Regulation M under the Exchange Act. 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. A short position is more likely to be created if the underwriters are concerned that there may be downward pressure on the price of the Notes in the open market after pricing that could adversely affect investors who

S-9

purchase in the offering. Penalty bids permit the underwriters to reclaim a selling concession from a broker-dealer when the Notes originally sold by such broker/dealer are purchased in a stabilizing or covering transaction to cover short positions.

These stabilizing transactions, syndicate covering transactions and penalty bids may have the effect of raising or maintaining the market price of the Notes or preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the Notes. As a result, the price of the Notes may be higher than the price that might otherwise exist in the open market. These transactions, if commenced, may be discontinued at any time.

In compliance with the guidelines of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (“FINRA”), the maximum commission or discount to be received by any FINRA member or independent broker-dealer may not exceed 8% of the aggregate principal amount of the Notes offered pursuant to this Prospectus Supplement. It is anticipated that the maximum commission or discount to be received in any particular offering of Notes will be significantly less than this amount.

In the ordinary course of business, the underwriters and their affiliates have provided financial advisory, investment banking and general financing and banking services for the Bank for customary fees. The underwriters and/or their affiliates may provide such services to the Bank in the future.

We expect that delivery of the Notes will be made against payment therefor on or about the fifth business day following the date of pricing of the Notes (this settlement cycle being referred to as “T+5”). Under Rule 15c6-1 of the Exchange Act, trades in the secondary market generally are required to settle in three business days, unless the parties to any such trade expressly agree otherwise. Accordingly, purchasers who wish to trade their Notes on the date of pricing or the next succeeding business day will be required, by virtue of the fact that the Notes initially will settle in T+5, to specify an alternate settlement cycle at the time of any such trade to prevent a failed settlement. Purchasers of Notes who wish to trade their Notes on the date of pricing or the next succeeding business day should consult their own advisor.

Conflicts of Interest

Because Scotia Capital (USA) Inc. is an affiliate of the Bank and is participating in the distribution of the Notes in this offering as an underwriter, Scotia Capital (USA) Inc. has a “conflict of interest” as defined in FINRA Rule 5121. Consequently, this offering is being conducted in compliance with FINRA Rule 5121. Pursuant to that rule, the appointment of a qualified independent underwriter is not necessary in connection with this offering, as the offering is of a class of securities rated Baa or better by Moody’s rating service or BBB or better by Standard & Poor’s rating service or rated in a comparable category by another rating service acceptable to FINRA. Scotia Capital (USA) Inc. is not permitted to sell Notes in this offering to accounts over which discretionary control is exercised without the prior specific written authority of the accountholder.

Offering Restrictions

This Prospectus Supplement does not constitute an offer of the Notes, directly or indirectly, in Canada or to residents of Canada. Each underwriter has represented and agreed that it has not offered or sold, directly or indirectly, and that it will not, directly or indirectly, offer, sell or deliver, any of the Notes in or from Canada or to any resident of Canada. Each underwriter has also agreed that it will include a comparable provision in any sub-underwriting, banking group or selling group agreement or similar arrangement with respect to the Notes that may be entered into by such underwriter.

European Economic Area

Public offer selling restriction under the Prospectus Directive.

In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area which has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a “Relevant Member State”), each Underwriter has represented and agreed that with effect from and including the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that Relevant Member State (the “Relevant Implementation Date”), it has not made and will not make an offer of Notes which are the subject of the offering contemplated by the Prospectus Supplement to the public in that Relevant Member State except that it may, with effect from and including the Relevant Implementation Date, make an offer of such Notes to the public in that Relevant Member State (a) at any time to any legal entity which is a qualified investor as defined in the Prospectus Directive; (b) at any time to fewer than 100, or, if the Relevant Member State has implemented the relevant provision of the 2010 PD Amending Directive, 150 natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus

S-10

Directive), as permitted under the Prospectus Directive, subject to obtaining the prior consent of the relevant Manager or Managers nominated by the Issuer for any such offer; or (c) at any time in any other circumstances falling within Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive, provided that that no such offer of Notes referred to in (a) to (c) above shall require the Issuer or any Underwriter to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive, or supplement a prospectus pursuant to Article 16 of the Prospectus Directive.

For the purposes of this provision, the expression an “offer of Notes to the public” in relation to any Notes in any Relevant Member State means 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 the Notes, as the same may be varied in that Member State by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that Member State; the expression “Prospectus Directive” means Directive 2003/71/EC (and amendments thereto, including the 2010 PD Amending Directive, to the extent implemented in the Relevant Member State), and includes any relevant implementing measure in the Relevant Member State; and the expression “2010 PD Amending Directive” means Directive 2010/73/EU.

United Kingdom

This Prospectus Supplement and the accompanying Prospectus are only being distributed to, and are only directed at, persons in the United Kingdom that are qualified investors within the meaning of Article 2(1)(e) of the Prospectus Directive that are also (i) investment professionals falling within Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 (the “Order”) or (ii) high net worth entities, and other persons to whom it may lawfully be communicated, falling within Article 49(2)(a) to (d) of the Order (each such person being referred to as a “Relevant Person”). This Prospectus Supplement and the accompanying Prospectus and its contents are confidential and should not be distributed, published or reproduced (in whole or in part) or disclosed by recipients to any other persons in the United Kingdom. Any person in the United Kingdom that is not a Relevant Person should not act or rely on this document or any of its contents.

Hong Kong

The Notes may not be offered or sold in Hong Kong by means of any document other than (i) in circumstances which do not constitute an offer to the public within the meaning of the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 32, Laws of Hong Kong), or (ii) to “professional investors” within the meaning of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571, Laws of Hong Kong) and any rules made thereunder, or (iii) in other circumstances which do not result in the document being a “prospectus” within the meaning of the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 32, Laws of Hong Kong) and no advertisement, invitation or document relating to the Notes may be issued or may be in the possession of any person for the purpose of issue (in each case whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere), which is directed at, or the contents of which are likely to be accessed or read by, the public in Hong Kong (except if permitted to do so under the laws of Hong Kong) other than with respect to Notes which are or are intended to be disposed of only to persons outside Hong Kong or only to “professional investors” within the meaning of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571, Laws of Hong Kong) and any rules made thereunder.

Japan

The Notes offered in this Prospectus Supplement have not been registered under the Securities and Exchange Law of Japan. The Notes have not been offered or sold and will not be offered or sold, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to or for the account of any resident of Japan, except (i) pursuant to an exemption from the registration requirements of the Securities and Exchange Law and (ii) in compliance with any other applicable requirements of Japanese law.

Singapore

This Prospectus Supplement and the accompanying Prospectus have not been registered as a Prospectus with the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Accordingly, this Prospectus Supplement, the accompanying Prospectus, and any other document or material in connection with the offer or sale, or

S-11

invitation for subscription or purchase, of the Notes may not be circulated or distributed, nor may the Notes be offered or sold, or be made the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase, whether directly or indirectly, to persons in Singapore other than (i) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the Securities and Futures Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore (the "SFA"), (ii) to a relevant person pursuant to Section 275(1), or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A), and in accordance with the conditions specified in Section 275 of the SFA or (iii) otherwise pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions of, any other applicable provision of the SFA, in each case subject to compliance with conditions set forth in the SFA.

Where the Notes are subscribed or purchased under Section 275 of the SFA by a relevant person which is:

a corporation (which is not an accredited investor (as defined in Section 4A of the SFA)) the sole business of which is to hold investments and the entire share capital of which is owned by one or more individuals, each of whom is an accredited investor; or

a trust (where the trustee is not an accredited investor) whose sole purpose is to hold investments and each beneficiary of the trust is an individual who is an accredited investor, shares, debentures and units of shares and debentures of that corporation or the beneficiaries' rights and interest (howsoever described) in that trust shall not be transferred within six months after that corporation or that trust has acquired the Notes pursuant to an offer made under Section 275 of the SFA except:

to an institutional investor (for corporations, under Section 274 of the SFA) or to a relevant person defined in Section 275(2) of the SFA, or to any person pursuant to an offer that is made on terms that such shares, debentures and units of shares and debentures of that corporation or such rights and interest in that trust are acquired at a consideration of not less than U.S.\$200,000 (or its equivalent in a foreign currency) for each transaction, whether such amount is to be paid for in cash or by exchange of securities or other assets, and further for corporations, in accordance with the conditions specified in Section 275 of the SFA;

where no consideration is or will be given for the transfer; or

where the transfer is by operation of law.

Legal Matters

Certain legal matters in connection with the offering of the Notes will be passed upon, on behalf of the Bank, by Allen & Overy LLP, the Bank's U.S. counsel, and Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP, the Bank's Canadian counsel. Certain legal matters will be passed upon for the underwriters by Morrison & Foerster LLP, the underwriters' U.S. counsel.

Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

KPMG LLP, Chartered Accountants, Toronto, Ontario, is the external auditor who prepared the Auditors' Report to Shareholders with respect to the consolidated statement of financial position of the Bank as at October 31, 2012, October 31, 2011 and November 1, 2010 and the consolidated statements of income, comprehensive income, changes in equity and cash flows for each of the years in the two-year period ended October 31, 2012 and notes, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information. KPMG LLP is independent with respect to the Bank within the meaning of the Rules of Professional Conduct of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario and within the meaning of the Securities Act and the applicable rules and regulations thereunder.

Table of Contents

Common Shares

Preferred Shares

Senior Debt Securities

Subordinated Debt Securities

up to an aggregate initial offering price of U.S.\$18,000,000,000

or the equivalent thereof in other currencies.

The Bank of Nova Scotia (the **Bank**) may from time to time offer and issue common shares, preferred shares, senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities.

The securities offered hereby may be offered separately or together, in amounts, at prices and on terms to be set forth in an accompanying prospectus supplement. Information as to a particular offering that is omitted from this prospectus will be contained in one or more prospectus supplements that will be delivered to purchasers together with this prospectus. The Bank may sell up to U.S.\$18,000,000,000 in aggregate initial offering price of the securities (or the U.S. dollar equivalent thereof if any of the securities are denominated in a currency or currency unit other than U.S. dollars) during the period that this prospectus, including any amendments thereto, remains valid. The specific terms of the securities in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement and may include, where applicable, the specific designation, aggregate principal amount, the currency or the currency unit for which the securities may be purchased, maturity, interest provisions, authorized denominations, offering price, any terms for redemption at the option of the Bank or the holder, any exchange or conversion terms and any other specific terms.

The securities may be sold through underwriters or dealers purchasing as principals, through agents designated by the Bank (such underwriters, dealers and agents are collectively referred to in this prospectus as **investment dealers** and individually as an **investment dealer**) or by the Bank directly pursuant to applicable statutory exemptions, from time to time. See **Plan of Distribution**. Each prospectus supplement will identify each investment dealer engaged in connection with the offering and sale of those securities to which the prospectus supplement relates, and will also set forth the terms of the offering of such securities, including the net proceeds to the Bank and, to the extent applicable, any fees payable to the investment dealers.

The common shares of the Bank are listed on the New York Stock Exchange and the Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol **BNS**.

The head office of the Bank is located at 1709 Hollis Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J 3B7 and its executive offices are located at Scotia Plaza, 44 King Street West, Toronto, Ontario, M5H 1H1.

You should read this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement carefully before you invest in any of the securities of the Bank.

Investing in these securities involves certain risks. To read about certain factors you should consider before buying any of the securities, see the Risk Factors section on page 6 of this prospectus and in the most recent annual report on Form 40-F of the Bank, which is incorporated by reference herein, as well as any other reports on Form 6-K that are specifically incorporated by reference herein and, if any, in an applicable prospectus supplement.

NEITHER THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (THE SEC) NOR ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION HAS APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED OF THESE SECURITIES OR PASSED UPON THE ADEQUACY OR ACCURACY OF THIS PROSPECTUS. ANY REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

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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. Such consequences for investors who are resident in, or citizens of, Canada or the United States may not be described fully herein or in any applicable prospectus supplement.

The enforcement by investors of civil liabilities under the United States federal securities laws may be affected adversely by the fact that the Bank is a Canadian bank, that many of its officers and directors, and some or all of the underwriters or experts named in this prospectus, may be residents of Canada and that all or a substantial portion of the assets of the Bank and such persons may be located outside the United States.

The securities will not constitute deposits that are insured under the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation Act or by the United States Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other Canadian or U.S. government agency or instrumentality.

This prospectus is dated December 28, 2012.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>About This Prospectus</u>	2
<u>Presentation of Financial Information</u>	3
<u>Caution Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	4
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	4
<u>Incorporation of Certain Information by Reference</u>	5
<u>Risk Factors</u>	6
<u>The Bank of Nova Scotia</u>	7
<u>Consolidated Capitalization of the Bank</u>	8
<u>Consolidated Earnings Ratios</u>	9
<u>Comparative Per Share Market Price</u>	10
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	11
<u>Description of Common Shares and Preferred Shares</u>	12
<u>Description of the Debt Securities We May Offer</u>	16
<u>United States Taxation</u>	28
<u>Canadian Taxation</u>	37
<u>Employee Retirement Income Security Act</u>	39
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	40
<u>Limitations on Enforcement of U.S. Laws Against the Bank, Our Management and Others</u>	42
<u>Validity of Securities</u>	42
<u>Experts</u>	42
<u>Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution</u>	42

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

General

This document is called a prospectus and is part of a registration statement that we filed with the SEC using a shelf registration or continuous offering process. Under this shelf registration, we may from time to time sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings. The registration statement containing this prospectus, including exhibits to the registration statement, provides additional information about us and the securities offered under this prospectus. The registration statement can be read at the SEC website or at the SEC offices mentioned under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell securities under this shelf registration statement we will provide one or more supplements to this prospectus containing specific information about the terms of the securities being offered. Any such supplements, which we refer to in this prospectus as the applicable prospectus supplements, may include a discussion of any additional risk factors or other special considerations that apply to those securities and may also add to, update or change the information in this prospectus. The applicable prospectus supplements relating to each series of securities will be attached to the front of this prospectus. If there is any inconsistency between the information in this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information in the most recent applicable prospectus supplement. We urge you to read carefully both this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement accompanying this prospectus, together with the information incorporated herein and in any applicable prospectus supplement by reference under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**, before deciding whether to invest in any of the securities being offered.

When acquiring any securities discussed in this prospectus, you should rely only on the information provided in this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplements, including the information incorporated by reference. We have not authorized anyone to give any information or to make any representation different from or in addition to that contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement. Therefore, if anyone does give you such different information, you should not rely on it. If you are in a jurisdiction where offers to sell, or solicitations of offers to purchase, the securities offered by this prospectus are unlawful, or if you are a person to whom it is unlawful to direct these types of activities, then the offer presented in this prospectus does not extend to you. The information contained in this prospectus speaks only as of the date of this prospectus unless the information specifically indicates that another date applies. Therefore, you should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus or applicable prospectus supplement is accurate on any date subsequent to the date set forth on the front of the document or that any information we have incorporated by reference is correct on any date subsequent to the date of the document incorporated by reference, even though this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement is delivered or securities are sold on a later date.

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, which may be our affiliates. If we, directly or through dealers or agents, solicit offers to purchase the securities, we reserve the sole right to accept and, together with the applicable dealers or agents, to reject, in whole or in part, any of those offers. An applicable prospectus supplement will contain the names of the underwriters, dealers or agents, if any, together with the terms of offering, the compensation of those persons and the net proceeds to us. Any underwriters, dealers or agents participating in the offering may be deemed underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the **Securities Act**).

Table of Contents

PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION

International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) replaced Canadian generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) for publicly accountable enterprises beginning in 2011. For the Bank, IFRS became effective for interim and annual periods commencing November 1, 2011 (adoption date), and include the preparation and reporting of one year of comparative figures, including an opening balance sheet as of November 1, 2010 (transition date). For additional information regarding the Bank's adoption of IFRS, see the sections entitled First-time adoption of IFRS and Explanation of significant adjustments from Canadian GAAP to IFRS in our Annual Report on Form 40-F for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2012.

Additionally, the Bank publishes its consolidated financial statements in Canadian dollars. In this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, currency amounts are stated in Canadian dollars, unless specified otherwise. References to \$, Cdn\$ and dollars are to Canadian dollars, and references to U.S.\$ are to U.S. dollars.

The tables below set 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, 2012 and the high and low daily noon buying rates for the month of November 2012 and the period December 1, 2012 through December 14, 2012. On December 14, 2012, the noon buying rate was U.S.\$1.00 = \$1.01. Our reference to the noon buying rate is the inverse of 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.

Year Ended October 31,

High

Low