

DEARBORN PARTNERS

Another Dearborn Partners Core Rising and High & Rising Dividend SMA Portfolio Increase: BCE Inc.

On February 3, 2022, BCE Inc. (BCE) announced a 5.1% increase in its quarterly dividend per share to \$0.92 (\$3.68 annually) from \$0.875 (\$3.5 annually). The cash dividend will be paid on April 15, 2022 to holders of record as of March 15, 2022. This is the 18th consecutive annual increase in the dividend paid by BCE Inc.

"Looking ahead to 2022, our financial guidance is underpinned by a positive financial profile for all three Bell operating segments that reflects sound industry fundamentals and our consistent execution in a competitive marketplace as we build on the favourable financial performance, significant broadband investments and operating momentum we delivered in 2021. Moreover, given the strong valuation position of our major defined benefit pension plans, we anticipate taking contribution holidays starting this year that will effectively reduce our annual cash funding, supporting ongoing fibre and 5G acceleration and a 5.1% increase in BCE's common share dividend for 2022," said Glen LeBlanc, Chief Financial Officer for BCE and Bell Canada.

BCE is Canada's largest communications company, providing advanced Bell broadband wireless, Internet, TV, media and business communications services.

BCE Inc. is in the Communication Services sector of our Dearborn Partners Rising Dividend separately managed account (SMA) portfolio. In our High & Rising Dividend Portfolio, 4 of 25 companies have announced 4 dividend increases averaging about 4% more than these companies paid a year earlier. No companies in this portfolio have reduced or suspended dividends so far this year.

Thank you for your continued interest in our Dearborn Partners Rising Dividend Strategy.

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