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

On February 8, 2024, BCE Inc. (BCE) announced a 3.1% increase in its quarterly dividend per share to \$0.9975 (\$3.99 annually) from \$0.9675 (\$3.87 annually). The cash dividend will be paid on April 15, 2024 to holders of record as of March 15, 2024. This is the 20th consecutive annual increase in the dividend paid by BCE Inc.

From the press release: "BCE is in a good position, having achieved our financial targets for 2023 while having weathered increasing macroeconomic headwinds and an unsupportive public policy environment this past year. Looking ahead, we are increasing BCE's common share dividend by 3.1% for 2024. This will be a transformational year for Bell as we balance growth with financial performance, continue to adapt in the face of external pressures, and focus on revenue-generation on our transformation journey to a tech services and digital media leader."

BCE is Canada's largest communications company (based on total revenue and total combined customer connections), providing advanced Bell broadband wireless, Internet, TV, media and business communications services.

BCE Inc. is in the Communication Services sector of our Dearborn Partners High & Rising Dividend separately managed account (SMA) portfolio. So far this year, 6 of 25 companies in our High & Rising Dividend portfolio have announced 6 dividend increases averaging about 2.6% 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.

This dividend increase announcement is not a complete description of, nor a recommendation to invest in, any investment strategy (the "Strategy") mentioned herein. It is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an offer to sell nor a solicitation to buy, is not a recommendation regarding any securities transaction, nor is it an offer to provide advisory or other services by Dearborn Partners, L.L.C. The information contained in this writing should not be construed as financial or investment advice on any subject matter. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. There is no assurance the Strategy will be profitable, achieve its objectives, be suitable for you, or not incur losses. Some of the information herein has been obtained from third party sources. We believe such information is reliable but we have not in each case verified its accuracy or completeness. Any opinions herein are as of the date of this report and are subject to change without notice. Dividends are not guaranteed and must be authorized by the company's board of directors. There is no assurance that any Rising Dividend portfolio company will increase its dividend, or not reduce its dividend, or not have a significant decrease in its stock price. Dividend yield is one component of performance and should not be the only consideration for investment. Dearborn Partners L.L.C. is an investment adviser registered under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended. Registration does not imply a certain level of skill or training. For a complete list of all Dearborn Rising Dividend holdings that in the past year - increased their dividends, had no dividend increases, or had a dividend decrease, please contact the Dearborn Rising Dividend Team at RD@dearbornpartners.com. It should not be assumed that portfolio trades made in the future will be profitable, or will increase their dividends, or will equal the performance of the securities in this announcement.

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