

CANADIAN IMPERIAL BANK OF COMMERCE /CAN/
 Form FWP
 November 30, 2018

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| | Subject to Completion Preliminary Term Sheet dated November 30, 2018 | Filed Pursuant to Rule 433 Registration Statement No. 333-216286 (To Prospectus dated March 28, 2017, Prospectus Supplement dated November 6, 2018 and Product Supplement EQUITY INDICES ARN-1 dated March 30, 2017) |
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| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Units \$10 principal amount per unit CUSIP No. | Pricing Date* Settlement Date* Maturity Date* | December , 2018 December , 2018 February , 2020 |
| *Subject to change based on the actual date the notes are priced for initial sale to the public (the pricing date) | | |

Accelerated Return Notes® Linked to the Russell 2000® Index

- § Maturity of approximately 14 months
- § 3-to-1 upside exposure to increases in the Index, subject to a capped return of [12% to 16%]
- § 1-to-1 downside exposure to decreases in the Index, with up to 100% of your investment at risk
- § All payments occur at maturity and are subject to the credit risk of Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce
- § No periodic interest payments
- § In addition to the underwriting discount set forth below, the notes include a hedging-related charge of \$0.075 per unit. See Structuring the Notes
- § Limited secondary market liquidity, with no exchange listing
- § The notes are unsecured debt securities and are not savings accounts or insured deposits of a bank. The notes are not insured or guaranteed by the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation, the U.S. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency of the United States, Canada, or any other jurisdiction

The notes are being issued by Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC). There are important differences between the notes and a conventional debt security, including different investment risks and certain additional costs. See Risk Factors and Additional Risk Factors beginning on page TS-6 of this term sheet and Risk Factors beginning on page PS-6 of product supplement EQUITY INDICES ARN-1.

The initial estimated value of the notes as of the pricing date is expected to be between \$9.362 and \$9.651 per unit, which is less than the public offering price listed below. See Summary on the following page, Risk Factors beginning on page TS-6 of this term sheet and Structuring the Notes on page TS-12 of this term sheet for additional information. The actual value of your notes at any time will reflect many factors and cannot be predicted with accuracy.

None of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC), any state securities commission, or any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this Note Prospectus (as defined below) is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

| | <u>Per Unit</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Public offering price(1) | \$ 10.00 | \$ |
| Underwriting discount(1) | \$ 0.20 | \$ |
| Proceeds, before expenses, to CIBC | \$ 9.80 | \$ |

(1) For any purchase of 500,000 units or more in a single transaction by an individual investor or in combined transactions with the investor's household in this offering, the public offering price and the underwriting discount will be \$9.95 per unit and \$0.15 per unit, respectively. See Supplement to the Plan of Distribution below.

The notes:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Are Not FDIC Insured | Are Not Bank Guaranteed | May Lose Value |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|

Merrill Lynch & Co.

December , 2018

Accelerated Return Notes®

Linked to the Russell 2000® Index, due February , 2020

Summary

The Accelerated Return Notes® Linked to the Russell 2000® Index, due February , 2020 (the notes) are our senior unsecured debt securities. The notes are not guaranteed or insured by the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation, the U.S. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency in the United States, Canada or any other jurisdiction or secured by collateral. The notes are not bail-inable notes (as defined on page S-2 of the prospectus supplement). **The notes will rank equally with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated debt. Any payments due on the notes, including any repayment of principal, will be subject to the credit risk of CIBC.** The notes provide you a leveraged return, subject to a cap, if the Ending Value of the Market Measure, which is the Russell 2000® Index (the Index), is greater than the Starting Value. If the Ending Value is less than the Starting Value, you will lose all or a portion of the principal amount of your notes. Any payments on the notes will be calculated based on the \$10 principal amount per unit and will depend on the performance of the Index, subject to our credit risk. See Terms of the Notes below.

The economic terms of the notes (including the Capped Value) are based on our internal funding rate, which is the rate we would pay to borrow funds through the issuance of market-linked notes, and the economic terms of certain related hedging arrangements. Our internal funding rate is typically lower than the rate we would pay when we issue conventional fixed rate debt securities. This difference in funding rate, as well as the underwriting discount and the hedging related charge described below, will reduce the economic terms of the notes to you and the initial estimated value of the notes on the pricing date. Due to these factors, the public offering price you pay to purchase the notes will be greater than the initial estimated value of the notes.

On the cover page of this term sheet, we have provided the initial estimated value range for the notes. This initial estimated value range was determined based on our pricing models. The initial estimated value as of the pricing date will be based on our internal funding rate on the pricing date, market conditions and other relevant factors existing at that time, and our assumptions about market parameters. For more information about the initial estimated value and the structuring of the notes, see Structuring the Notes on page TS-12.

Terms of the Notes

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Issuer: | Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) |
| Principal Amount: | \$10.00 per unit |
| Term: | Approximately 14 months |
| Market Measure: | The Russell 2000® Index (Bloomberg symbol: RTY), a price return index |
| Starting Value: | The closing level of the Market Measure on the pricing date |
| Ending Value: | The average of the closing levels of the Market Measure on each calculation day occurring during the Maturity Valuation Period. The scheduled calculation days are subject to postponement in the event of Market Disruption Events, |

Redemption Amount Determination

On the maturity date, you will receive a cash payment per unit determined as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| | as described beginning on page PS-17 of product supplement EQUITY INDICES ARN-1. |
| Participation Rate: | 300% |
| Capped Value: | [\$11.20 to \$11.60] per unit, which represents a return of [12% to 16%] over the principal amount. The actual Capped Value will be determined on the pricing date. |
| Maturity Valuation Period: | Five scheduled calculation days shortly before the maturity date |
| Fees and Charges: | The underwriting discount of \$0.20 per unit listed on the cover page and the hedging related charge of \$0.075 per unit described in Structuring the Notes on page TS-12. |
| Calculation Agent: | Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated (MLPF&S) |

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Linked to the Russell 2000® Index, due February , 2020

The terms and risks of the notes are contained in this term sheet and in the following:

§ Product supplement EQUITY INDICES ARN-1 dated March 30, 2017:

https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1045520/000110465917020283/a17-7416_11424b5.htm

§ Prospectus dated March 28, 2017 and prospectus supplement dated November 6, 2018:

https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1045520/000110465918066166/a18-37094_1424b2.htm

These documents (together, the Note Prospectus) have been filed as part of a registration statement with the SEC, which may, without cost, be accessed on the SEC website as indicated above or obtained from MLPF&S by calling 1-800-294-1322. Before you invest, you should read the Note Prospectus, including this term sheet, for information about us and this offering. Any prior or contemporaneous oral statements and any other written materials you may have received are superseded by the Note Prospectus. When you read the accompanying product supplement, please note that all references in such supplement to the prospectus supplement dated March 28, 2017, or to any sections therein, should refer instead to the accompanying prospectus supplement dated November 6, 2018 or to the corresponding sections of such prospectus supplement, as applicable, unless otherwise specified or the context otherwise requires. Capitalized terms used but not defined in this term sheet have the meanings set forth in product supplement EQUITY INDICES ARN-1. Unless otherwise indicated or unless the context requires otherwise, all references in this document to we, us, our, or similar references are to CIBC.

Investor Considerations

You may wish to consider an investment in the notes if:

§ You anticipate that the Index will increase moderately from the Starting Value to the Ending Value.

§ You are willing to risk a loss of principal and return if the Index decreases from the Starting Value to the Ending Value.

§ You accept that the return on the notes will be capped.

§ You are willing to forgo the interest payments that are paid on conventional interest bearing debt securities.

§ You are willing to forgo dividends or other benefits of owning the stocks included in the Index.

§ You are willing to accept a limited or no market for sales prior to maturity, and understand that the market prices for the notes,

The notes may not be an appropriate investment for you if:

§ You believe that the Index will decrease from the Starting Value to the Ending Value or that it will not increase sufficiently over the term of the notes to provide you with your desired return.

§ You seek principal repayment or preservation of capital.

§ You seek an uncapped return on your investment.

§ You seek interest payments or other current income on your investment.

§ You want to receive dividends or other distributions paid on the stocks included in the Index.

§ You seek an investment for which there will be a liquid secondary market.

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if any, will be affected by various factors, including our actual and perceived creditworthiness, our internal funding rate and fees and charges on the notes.

§ You are unwilling or are unable to take market risk on the notes or to take our credit risk as issuer of the notes.

§ You are willing to assume our credit risk, as issuer of the notes, for all payments under the notes, including the Redemption Amount.

We urge you to consult your investment, legal, tax, accounting, and other advisors before you invest in the notes.

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Hypothetical Payout Profile and Examples of Payments at Maturity

The graph below is based on **hypothetical** numbers and values.

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This graph reflects the returns on the notes, based on the Participation Rate of 300% and a hypothetical Capped Value of \$11.40 per unit (the midpoint of the Capped Value range of [\$11.20 to \$11.60]). The green line reflects the returns on the notes, while the dotted gray line reflects the returns of a direct investment in the stocks included in the Index, excluding dividends.

This graph has been prepared for purposes of illustration only.

The following table and examples are for purposes of illustration only. They are based on **hypothetical** values and show **hypothetical** returns on the notes. They illustrate the calculation of the Redemption Amount and total rate of return based on a hypothetical Starting Value of 100, the Participation Rate of 300%, a hypothetical Capped Value of \$11.40 per unit and a range of hypothetical Ending Values. **The actual amount you receive and the resulting total rate of return will depend on the actual Starting Value, Ending Value, Capped Value, and whether you hold the notes to maturity.** The following examples do not take into account any tax consequences from investing in the notes.

For recent actual levels of the Market Measure, see The Index section below. The Index is a price return index and as such the Ending Value will not include any income generated by dividends paid on the stocks included in the Index, which you would otherwise be entitled to receive if you invested in those stocks directly. In addition, all payments on the notes are subject to issuer credit risk.

| Ending Value | Percentage Change from the Starting Value to the Ending Value | Redemption Amount per Unit | Total Rate of Return on the Notes |
|--------------|---|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 0.00 | -100.00% | \$0.00 | -100.00% |
| 50.00 | -50.00% | \$5.00 | -50.00% |

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| | | | |
|-----------|---------|------------|---------|
| 80.00 | -20.00% | \$8.00 | -20.00% |
| 90.00 | -10.00% | \$9.00 | -10.00% |
| 94.00 | -6.00% | \$9.40 | -6.00% |
| 97.00 | -3.00% | \$9.70 | -3.00% |
| 100.00(1) | 0.00% | \$10.00 | 0.00% |
| 102.00 | 2.00% | \$10.60 | 6.00% |
| 103.00 | 3.00% | \$10.90 | 9.00% |
| 104.67 | 4.67% | \$11.40(2) | 14.00% |
| 110.00 | 10.00% | \$11.40 | 14.00% |
| 120.00 | 20.00% | \$11.40 | 14.00% |
| 130.00 | 30.00% | \$11.40 | 14.00% |
| 140.00 | 40.00% | \$11.40 | 14.00% |
| 150.00 | 50.00% | \$11.40 | 14.00% |
| 160.00 | 60.00% | \$11.40 | 14.00% |

(1) The **hypothetical** Starting Value of 100.00 used in these examples has been chosen for illustrative purposes only, and does not represent a likely actual Starting Value for the Market Measure.

(2) The Redemption Amount per unit cannot exceed the **hypothetical** Capped Value.

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Linked to the Russell 2000® Index, due February , 2020

Redemption Amount Calculation Examples

Example 1

The Ending Value is 80.00, or 80.00% of the Starting Value:

Starting Value: 100.00

Ending Value: 80.00

= **\$8.00** Redemption Amount per unit

Example 2

The Ending Value is 103.00, or 103.00% of the Starting Value:

Starting Value: 100.00

Ending Value: 103.00

= **\$10.90** Redemption Amount per unit

Example 3

The Ending Value is 130.00, or 130.00% of the Starting Value:

Starting Value: 100.00

Ending Value: 130.00

= \$19.00, however, because the Redemption Amount for the notes cannot exceed the hypothetical Capped Value, the Redemption Amount will be \$11.40 per unit

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Risk Factors

There are important differences between the notes and a conventional debt security. An investment in the notes involves significant risks, including those listed below. You should carefully review the more detailed explanation of risks relating to the notes in the Risk Factors sections beginning on page PS-6 of product supplement EQUITY INDICES ARN-1, page S-1 of the prospectus supplement, and page 1 of the prospectus identified above. We also urge you to consult your investment, legal, tax, accounting, and other advisors before you invest in the notes.

§ Depending on the performance of the Index as measured shortly before the maturity date, your investment may result in a loss; there is no guaranteed return of principal.

§ Your return on the notes may be less than the yield you could earn by owning a conventional fixed or floating rate debt security of comparable maturity.

§ Your investment return is limited to the return represented by the Capped Value and may be less than a comparable investment directly in the stocks included in the Index.

§ Payments on the notes are subject to our credit risk, and actual or perceived changes in our creditworthiness are expected to affect the value of the notes. If we become insolvent or are unable to pay our obligations, you may lose your entire investment.

§ Our initial estimated value of the notes will be lower than the public offering price of the notes. The public offering price of the notes will exceed our initial estimated value because costs associated with selling and structuring the notes, as well as hedging the notes, all as further described in Structuring the Notes on page TS-12, are included in the public offering price of the notes.

§ Our initial estimated value does not represent future values of the notes and may differ from others' estimates. Our initial estimated value is only an estimate, which will be determined by reference to our internal pricing models when the terms of the notes are set. This estimated value will be based on market conditions and other relevant factors existing at that time, our internal funding rate on the pricing date and our 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 or less than our initial 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 market value of the notes could change significantly based on, among other things, changes in market conditions, including the value of the Market Measure, our creditworthiness, interest rate movements and other relevant factors, which may impact the price at which MLPF&S or any other party would be willing to buy notes from you in any secondary market transactions. Our estimated value does not represent a minimum price at which MLPF&S or any other party would be willing to buy your notes in any secondary market (if any exists) at any time.

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§ Our initial estimated value of the notes will not be determined by reference to credit spreads for our conventional fixed-rate debt. The internal funding rate to be used in the determination of our initial estimated value of the notes 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. If we were to use the interest rate implied by our conventional fixed-rate debt, we would expect the economic terms of the notes to be more favorable to you. Consequently, our use of an internal funding rate for market-linked notes would have an adverse effect on the economic terms of the notes, the initial estimated value of the notes on the pricing date, and any secondary market prices of the notes.

§ A trading market is not expected to develop for the notes. Neither we nor MLPF&S is obligated to make a market for, or to repurchase, the notes. There is no assurance that any party will be willing to purchase your notes at any price in any secondary market.

§ Our business, hedging, and trading activities, and those of MLPF&S and our respective affiliates (including trades in shares of companies included in the Index), and any hedging and trading activities we, MLPF&S or our respective affiliates engage in for our clients' accounts, may affect the market value and return of the notes and may create conflicts of interest with you.

§ The Index sponsor may adjust the Index in a way that affects its level, and has no obligation to consider your interests.

§ You will have no rights of a holder of the securities represented by the Index, and you will not be entitled to receive securities or dividends or other distributions by the issuers of those securities.

§ While we, MLPF&S or our respective affiliates may from time to time own securities of companies included in the Index, we, MLPF&S and our respective affiliates do not control any company included in the Index, and have not verified any disclosure made by any other company.

§ There may be potential conflicts of interest involving the calculation agent, which is MLPF&S. We have the right to appoint and remove the calculation agent.

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§ The U.S. federal income tax consequences of the notes are uncertain, and may be adverse to a holder of the notes. See Summary of U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences below and U.S. Federal Income Tax Summary beginning on page PS-29 of product supplement EQUITY INDICES ARN-1. For a discussion of the Canadian federal income tax consequences of investing in the notes, see Material Income Tax Consequences Canadian Taxation in the prospectus dated March 28, 2017, as supplemented by the discussion under Summary of Canadian Federal Income Tax Considerations herein.

Additional Risk Factors

The notes are subject to risks associated with small-size capitalization companies.

The stocks composing the Index are issued by companies with small-sized market capitalization. The stock prices of small-size companies may be more volatile than stock prices of large capitalization companies. Small-size capitalization companies may be less able to withstand adverse economic, market, trade and competitive conditions relative to larger companies. Small-size capitalization companies may also be more susceptible to adverse developments related to their products or services.

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The Index

All disclosures contained in this term sheet regarding the Index, including, without limitation, its make up, method of calculation, and changes in its components, have been derived from publicly available sources, which we have not independently verified. The information reflects the policies of, and is subject to change by, FTSE Russell (the Index sponsor). The Index sponsor, which licenses the copyright and all other rights to the Index, has no obligation to continue to publish, and may discontinue publication of, the Index. The consequences of the Index sponsor discontinuing publication of the Index are discussed in the section entitled Description of ARNs Discontinuance of an Index on page PS-19 of product supplement EQUITY INDICES ARN-1. None of us, the calculation agent, or MLPF&S accepts any responsibility for the calculation, maintenance or publication of the Index or any successor index.

The Index is one of the Russell U.S. indices, which is designed to track the performance of the small-capitalization segment of the U.S. equity market. The companies included in the Index are the middle 2,000 of the companies that form the Russell 3000ETM Index, which is composed of the 4,000 largest U.S. companies as determined by total market capitalization and represents approximately 99% of the U.S. equity market. The Index is reported by Bloomberg L.P. under the ticker symbol RTY.

Defining Eligible Securities

All companies that are determined to be part of the U.S. equity market under FTSE Russell's country-assignment methodology are included in the Russell U.S. indices. If a company is incorporated in, has a stated headquarters location in, and also trades in the same country (American Depositary Receipts and American Depositary Shares are not eligible), the company is assigned to the equity market of its country of incorporation. If any of the three do not match, FTSE Russell then defines three Home Country Indicators (HCI): country of incorporation, country of headquarters, and country of the most liquid exchange as defined by two-year average daily dollar trading volume from all exchanges within a country. Using the HCIs, FTSE Russell cross-compares the primary location of the company's assets with the three HCIs. If the primary location of the company's assets matches any of the HCIs, then the company is assigned to its primary asset location. If there is insufficient information to determine the country in which the company's assets are primarily located, FTSE Russell will use the primary location of the company's revenues for the same cross-comparison and will assign the company to the appropriate country in a similar fashion. FTSE Russell uses an average of two years of assets or revenue data for analysis to reduce potential turnover. If conclusive country details cannot be derived from assets or revenue, FTSE Russell assigns the company to the country where its headquarters are located unless the country is a Benefit Driven Incorporation (BDI) country; in which case, the company will be assigned to the country of its most liquid stock exchange. For any companies incorporated or headquartered in a U.S. territory, including countries such as Puerto Rico, Guam, and U.S. Virgin Islands, a U.S. HCI is assigned. If a company is designated as a Chinese N Share, it will not be considered for inclusion within the Russell U.S. indices. An N Share company is controlled by mainland Chinese entities, companies or individuals. It must be incorporated outside of China and traded on the New York Stock Exchange, the Nasdaq exchange or the NYSE American with a majority of its revenues or assets derived from the People's Republic of China.

All securities eligible for inclusion in Russell U.S. indices