

ROYAL BANK OF CANADA  
 Form FWP  
 May 25, 2018

RBC Capital Markets® Filed Pursuant to Rule 433  
 Registration Statement No. 333-208507

The information in this preliminary terms supplement is not complete and may be changed.

Preliminary Terms

Supplement

Subject to Completion:

Dated May 25, 2018

Pricing Supplement

Dated May \_\_, 2018 to

the Product Prospectus

Supplement ERN-EI-1

Dated January 12, 2016,

Prospectus Supplement

Dated January 8, 2016,

and Prospectus Dated

January 8, 2016

\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Geared Buffered Enhanced Return Notes  
 Linked to the S&P 500® Index,  
 Due May 29, 2020  
 Royal Bank of Canada

Royal Bank of Canada is offering the Geared Buffered Enhanced Return Notes (the “Notes”) linked to the performance of the S&P 500® Index (the “Reference Asset”). The CUSIP number for the Notes is 78013XLH9. The Notes do not pay interest.

If the Final Level of the Reference Asset is greater than the Initial Level, investors will receive a 150% leveraged positive return, up to a maximum return of \$1,200 per \$1,000 in Principal Amount. If the Final Level of the Reference Asset is greater than 80.00% of the Initial Level (the “Buffer Level”), but less than the Initial Level, investors will receive the Principal Amount.

However, if the Final Level is less than the Initial Level by more than the Buffer Percentage, investors will lose 1.25% of the principal amount of the Notes for each 1% decrease from the Initial Level to the Final Level by more than the Buffer Percentage. Accordingly, investors may lose all or substantially all of their principal amount. Any payments on the Notes are subject to our credit risk.

Issue Date: May 30, 2018

Maturity Date: May 29, 2020

The Notes will not be listed on any securities exchange.

Investing in the Notes involves a number of risks. See “Risk Factors” beginning on page S-1 of the prospectus supplement dated January 8, 2016, “Additional Risk Factors Specific to the Notes” beginning on page PS-4 of the product prospectus supplement dated January 12, 2016, and “Selected Risk Considerations” on page P-6 of this terms supplement.

The Notes will not constitute deposits insured by the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation, the U.S. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other Canadian or U.S. government agency or instrumentality.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined that this terms supplement is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

	<u>Per Note</u>	<u>Total</u>
Price to public	100.00%	\$
Underwriting discounts and commissions	0.00%	\$
Proceeds to Royal Bank of Canada	100.00%	\$

The initial estimated value of the Notes as of the date of this terms supplement is \$996.83 per \$1,000 in principal amount, which is less than the price to public. The final pricing supplement relating to the Notes will set forth our estimate of the initial value of the Notes as of the Pricing Date, which will not be less than \$976.83 per \$1,000 in principal amount. The actual value of the Notes at any time will reflect many factors, cannot be predicted with accuracy, and may be less than this amount. We describe our determination of the initial estimated value in more detail below.

If the Notes priced on the date of this terms supplement, RBC Capital Markets, LLC, which we refer to as RBCCM, acting as agent for Royal Bank of Canada, would not be expected to receive a commission in connection with the sale of the Notes. See “Supplemental Plan of Distribution (Conflicts of Interest)” below.

We may use this terms supplement in the initial sale of the Notes. In addition, RBCCM or another of our affiliates may use this terms supplement in a market-making transaction in the Notes after their initial sale. Unless we or our agent informs the purchaser otherwise in the confirmation of sale, this terms supplement is being used in a market-making transaction.

RBC Capital Markets, LLC

---

Geared Buffered Return Notes  
Linked to the S&P 500® Index

SUMMARY

The information in this “Summary” section is qualified by the more detailed information set forth in this terms supplement, the product prospectus supplement, the prospectus supplement, and the prospectus.

Issuer: Royal Bank of Canada (“Royal Bank”)  
Issue: Senior Global Medium-Term Notes, Series G  
Underwriter: RBC Capital Markets, LLC (“RBCCM”)  
Reference Asset: S&P 500® Index  
Bloomberg Ticker: SPX  
Currency: U.S. Dollars  
Minimum Investment: \$1,000 and minimum denominations of \$1,000 in excess thereof  
Pricing Date: May 25, 2018  
Issue Date: May 30, 2018  
CUSIP: 78013XLH9  
Valuation Date: May 26, 2020

Payment at Maturity (if held to maturity): If, on the Valuation Date, the Final Level is greater than or equal to the Initial Level, you will receive, for each \$1,000 in principal amount of the Notes, the lesser of:  
1.  $\$1,000 + [\$1,000 \times (\text{Percentage Change} \times \text{Leverage Factor})]$  and  
2. Maximum Redemption Amount  
If on the Valuation Date, the Final Level is greater than or equal to the Buffer Level but less than the Initial Level, you will receive \$1,000 per \$1,000 principal amount of the Notes.  
If the Final Level is less than the Buffer Level, then the investor will receive, for each \$1,000 in principal amount of the Notes:  
 $\text{Principal Amount} + [\text{Principal Amount} \times (\text{Percentage Change} + \text{Buffer Percentage}) \times \text{Downside Multiplier}]$   
This amount will be less than the principal amount, and you may lose all or substantially all of your investment in the Notes.

Percentage Change: The Percentage Change, expressed as a percentage, is calculated using the following formula:  
Initial Level: 2,727.76, which was the closing level of the Reference Asset on May 24, 2018.

P-2 RBC Capital Markets, LLC

---

Geared Buffered Return Notes  
Linked to the S&P 500® Index

Final Level: The closing level of the Reference Asset on the Valuation Date.

Leverage Factor: 150%

Maximum Redemption Amount: \$1,200 per \$1,000 in Principal Amount.

Buffer Percentage: 20.00%

Buffer Level: 2,182.21, which is 80.00% of the Initial Level.

Downside Multiplier: 100% divided by the Buffer Level. Accordingly, the Downside Multiplier will be 1.25.

Maturity Date: May 29, 2020, subject to extension for market and other disruptions, as described in the product prospectus supplement dated January 12, 2016.

Term: Approximately two (2) years.

Principal at Risk: The Notes are NOT principal protected. You may lose all or a substantial portion of your principal amount at maturity if the Final Level is less than the Buffer Level.

Calculation Agent: RBCCM

U.S. Tax Treatment: By purchasing a Note, each holder agrees (in the absence of a change in law, an administrative determination or a judicial ruling to the contrary) to treat the Note as a pre-paid cash-settled derivative contract for U.S. federal income tax purposes. However, the U.S. federal income tax consequences of your investment in the Notes are uncertain and the Internal Revenue Service could assert that the Notes should be taxed in a manner that is different from that described in the preceding sentence. Please see the section below, "Supplemental Discussion of U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences," and the discussion (including the opinion of our counsel Morrison & Foerster LLP) in the product prospectus supplement dated January 12, 2016 under "Supplemental Discussion of U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences," which apply to the Notes.

Secondary Market: RBCCM (or one of its affiliates), though not obligated to do so, may maintain a secondary market in the Notes after the Issue Date. The amount that you may receive upon sale of your Notes prior to maturity may be less than the principal amount of your Notes.

Listing: The Notes will not be listed on any securities exchange.

Clearance and Settlement: DTC global (including through its indirect participants Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg as described under "Description of Debt Securities—Ownership and Book-Entry Issuance" in the prospectus dated January 8, 2016).

P-3 RBC Capital Markets, LLC

---

Geared Buffered Return Notes  
Linked to the S&P 500® Index

Terms Incorporated in the Master Note: All of the terms appearing above the item captioned “Secondary Market” on pages P-2 and P-3 of this terms supplement and the terms appearing under the caption “General Terms of the Notes” in the product prospectus supplement dated January 12, 2016, as modified by this terms supplement. In addition to those terms, the following two sentences are also so incorporated into the master note: RBC confirms that it fully understands and is able to calculate the effective annual rate of interest applicable to the Notes based on the methodology for calculating per annum rates provided for in the Notes. RBC irrevocably agrees not to plead or assert Section 4 of the Interest Act (Canada), whether by way of defense or otherwise, in any proceeding relating to the Notes.

P-4 RBC Capital Markets, LLC

---

Gear­ed Buffer­ed Return Notes  
Link­ed to the S&P 500® Index

#### ADDITIONAL TERMS OF YOUR NOTES

You should read this terms supplement together with the prospectus dated January 8, 2016, as supplemented by the prospectus supplement dated January 8, 2016 and the product prospectus supplement dated January 12, 2016, relating to our Senior Global Medium-Term Notes, Series G, of which these Notes are a part. Capitalized terms used but not defined in this terms supplement will have the meanings given to them in the product prospectus supplement. In the event of any conflict, this terms supplement will control. The Notes vary from the terms described in the product prospectus supplement in several important ways. You should read this terms supplement carefully.

This terms supplement, together with the documents listed below, contains the terms of the Notes and supersedes all prior or contemporaneous oral statements as well as any other written materials including preliminary or indicative pricing terms, correspondence, trade ideas, structures for implementation, sample structures, brochures or other educational materials of ours. You should carefully consider, among other things, the matters set forth in “Risk Factors” in the prospectus supplement dated January 8, 2016 and “Additional Risk Factors Specific to the Notes” in the product prospectus supplement dated January 12, 2016, as the Notes involve risks not associated with conventional debt securities. We urge you to consult your investment, legal, tax, accounting and other advisors before you invest in the Notes. You may access these documents on the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov) as follows (or if that address has changed, by reviewing our filings for the relevant date on the SEC website):

Prospectus dated January 8, 2016:

<http://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1000275/000121465916008810/j18160424b3.htm>

Prospectus Supplement dated January 8, 2016:

<http://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1000275/000121465916008811/p14150424b3.htm>

Product Prospectus Supplement ERN-EI-1 dated January 12, 2016:

<https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1000275/000114036116047560/form424b5.htm>

Our Central Index Key, or CIK, on the SEC website is 1000275. As used in this terms supplement, “we,” “us,” or “our” refers to Royal Bank of Canada.

Royal Bank of Canada has filed a registration statement (including a product prospectus supplement, a prospectus supplement, and a prospectus) with the SEC for the offering to which this terms supplement relates. Before you invest, you should read those documents and the other documents relating to this offering that we have filed with the SEC for more complete information about us and this offering. You may obtain these documents without cost by visiting EDGAR on the SEC website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). Alternatively, Royal Bank of Canada, any agent or any dealer participating in this offering will arrange to send you the product prospectus supplement, the prospectus supplement and the prospectus if you so request by calling toll-free at 1-877-688-2301.

P-5 RBC Capital Markets, LLC

---

Gear­ed Buffered Return Notes  
 Linked to the S&P 500® Index

HYPOTHETICAL RETURNS

The examples set out below are included for illustration purposes only. The hypothetical Percentage Changes of the Reference Asset used to illustrate the calculation of the Payment at Maturity (rounded to two decimal places) are not estimates or forecasts of the Final Level or the level of the Reference Asset on any trading day prior to the Maturity Date. All examples are based on the Leverage Factor of 150%, the Buffer Percentage of 20.00% (the Buffer Level is 80.00% of the Initial Level), and the Downside Multiplier of 1.25 (100% divided by 80.00%), a Maximum Redemption Amount of 120.00%, and assume that a holder purchased Notes with an aggregate principal amount of \$1,000, and that no market disruption event occurs on the Valuation Date.

Example 1—Calculation of the Payment at Maturity where the Percentage Change is positive.

Percentage Change: 5.00%

Payment at Maturity:  $\$1,000 + [\$1,000 \times (5.00\% \times 150\%)] = \$1,000 + \$75.00 = \$1,075.00$

On a \$1,000 investment, a 5% Percentage Change results in a Payment at Maturity of \$1,075.00, a 7.50% return on the Notes.

Example 2—Calculation of the Payment at Maturity where the Percentage Change is positive (and the Payment at Maturity is subject to the Maximum Redemption Amount).

Percentage Change: 20.00%

Payment at Maturity:  $\$1,000 + [\$1,000 \times (20.00\% \times 150\%)] = \$1,000 + \$300.00 = \$1,300.00$

However, the Maximum Redemption Amount is \$1,200.00

On a \$1,000 investment, a 10% Percentage Change results in a Payment at Maturity of \$1,200.00, a 20.00% return on the Notes.

Example 3—Calculation of the Payment at Maturity where the Percentage Change is negative, but the Final Level is greater than the Buffer Level.

Percentage Change: -5.00%

Payment at Maturity: \$1,000

On a \$1,000 investment, a -5% Percentage Change results in a Payment at Maturity of \$1,000, a 0.00% return on the Notes.

Example 4—Calculation of the Payment at Maturity where the Final Level is less than the Buffer Level.

Percentage Change: -30.00%

Payment at Maturity:  $\$1,000 + [\$1,000 \times (-30.00\% + 20.00\%) \times 1.25] = \$1,000 - \$125.00 = \$875.00$

On a \$1,000 investment, a -20% Percentage Change results in a Payment at Maturity of \$875.00, a -12.50% return on the Notes.





Gear­ed Buffer­ed Return Notes  
Link­ed to the S&P 500® Index

**SELECTED RISK CONSIDERATIONS**

An invest­ment in the Notes involves sig­nif­i­cant risks. Invest­ing in the Notes is not equiva­lent to invest­ing direct­ly in the Refer­ence Asset. These risks are explained in more detail in the section “Addi­tional Risk Factors Specific to the Notes,” begin­ning on page PS-4 of the product prospectus supplement. In addi­tion to the risks described in the prospectus supplement and the product prospectus supplement, you should consider the follow­ing:

**Prin­ci­pal at Risk** – Invest­ors in the Notes could lose all or a sub­stan­tial por­tion of their prin­ci­pal amount if there is a decline in the level of the Refer­ence Asset. You will lose 1.25% of the prin­ci­pal amount of the Notes for each 1% that the Final Level is less than the Initial Level by more than the Buffer Per­centage.

**The Notes Do Not Pay Interest and Your Return May Be Lower than the Return on a Con­ven­tion­al Debt Security of Com­par­able Maturity** – There will be no periodic interest pay­ments on the Notes as there would be on a con­ven­tion­al fixed-rate or float­ing-rate debt security having the same maturity. The return that you will receive on the Notes, which could be nega­tive, may be less than the return you could earn on other invest­ments. Even if your return is positive, your return may be less than the return you would earn if you bought a con­ven­tion­al senior interest bearing debt security of Royal Bank.

**Your Potential Payment at Maturity Is Limited** – The Notes will provide less oppor­tunity to partici­pate in the appreciation of the Refer­ence Asset than an invest­ment in a security linked to the Refer­ence Asset providing full partici­pation in the appreciation, because the pay­ment at maturity will not exceed the Maximum Redem­tion Amount. Accord­ingly, your return on the Notes may be less than your return would be if you made an invest­ment in a security direct­ly linked to the positive performance of the Refer­ence Asset.

**Pay­ments on the Notes Are Subject to Our Credit Risk, and Changes in Our Credit Ratings Are Ex­pected to Affect the Market Value of the Notes** – The Notes are Royal Bank’s senior unsecured debt securities. As a result, your receipt of the amount due on the maturity date is dependent upon Royal Bank’s ability to repay its obligations at that time. This will be the case even if the level of the Refer­ence Asset increases after the date that the Initial Level was set. No assur­ance can be given as to what our financial condition will be at the maturity of the Notes.

**There May Not Be an Active Trading Market for the Notes—Sales in the Secondary Market May Result in Sig­nif­i­cant Losses** – There may be little or no secondary market for the Notes. The Notes will not be listed on any securities exchange. RBCCM and other affiliates of Royal Bank may make a market for the Notes; however, they are not required to do so. RBCCM or any other affiliate of Royal Bank may stop any market-making activities at any time. Even if a secondary market for the Notes develops, it may not provide sig­nif­i­cant liquidity or trade at prices advantageous to you. We expect that transaction costs in any secondary market would be high. As a result, the difference between bid and asked prices for your Notes in any secondary market could be sub­stan­tial.

**You Will Not Have Any Rights to the Securities Included in the Refer­ence Asset** – As a holder of the Notes, you will not have voting rights or rights to receive cash dividends or other distributions or other rights that holders of securities included in the Refer­ence Asset would have. The Final Level will not reflect any dividends paid on the securities included in the Refer­ence Asset, and accord­ingly, any positive return on the Notes may be less than the potential positive return on those securities.

**The Initial Estimated Value of the Notes Will Be Less than the Price to the Public** – The initial estimated value set forth on the cover page and that will be set forth in the final pricing supplement for the Notes does not represent a minimum price at which we, RBCCM or any of our affiliates would be willing to purchase the Notes in any secondary market (if any exists) at any time. If you attempt to sell the Notes prior to maturity, their market value may be lower than the price you paid for them and the initial estimated value. This is due to, among other things, changes in the level of the Refer­ence Asset, the borrowing rate we pay to issue securities of this kind, and the inclusion in the

price to the public of the estimated costs relating to our hedging of the Notes. These factors, together with various credit, market and economic factors over the term of the Notes, are expected to reduce the price at which you may be able to sell the Notes in any secondary market and will affect the value of the Notes in

P-7 RBC Capital Markets, LLC

---

Gear­ed Buffered Return Notes  
Linked to the S&P 500® Index

com­plex and un­pre­dic­table ways. Assum­ing no change in mar­ket con­di­tions or any other rel­ev­ant fac­tors, the price, if any, at which you may be able to sell your Notes prior to mat­ur­ity may be less than your orig­inal pur­chase price, as any such sale price would not be ex­pected to in­clude the hedging costs rel­at­ing to the Notes. In ad­di­tion to bid-ask spreads, the value of the Notes de­ter­mined for any sec­ondary mar­ket price is ex­pected to be based on the sec­ondary rate rather than the in­ter­nal fund­ing rate used to price the Notes and de­ter­mine the in­itial es­ti­mated value. As a re­sult, the sec­ondary price will be less than if the in­ter­nal fund­ing rate was used. The Notes are not de­signed to be short-term trad­ing in­stru­ments. Ac­cord­ingly, you should be able and will­ing to hold your Notes to mat­ur­ity.

The In­itial Es­ti­mated Value of the Notes on the Cover Page and that We Will Pro­vide in the Final Pricing Sup­ple­ment Are Es­ti­mates Only, Cal­cu­lated as of the Time the Terms of the Notes Are Set –The in­itial es­ti­mated value of the Notes will be based on the value of our ob­li­ga­tion to make the pay­ments on the Notes, to­gether with the mid-mar­ket value of the de­ri­va­tive em­bed­ded in the terms of the Notes. See “Struc­ture the Notes” be­low. Our es­ti­mates are based on a vari­ety of as­sump­tions, in­clud­ing our credit spreads, ex­pec­ta­tions as to di­vid­ends, in­ter­est rates and vol­at­il­ity, and the ex­pected term of the Notes. These as­sump­tions are based on cer­tain fore­casts about fu­ture events, which may prove to be in­cor­rect. Other en­ti­ties may value the Notes or sim­i­lar se­cu­ri­ties at a price that is sig­nif­i­cantly dif­fer­ent than we do.

The value of the Notes at any time af­ter the Pricing Date will vary based on many fac­tors, in­clud­ing changes in mar­ket con­di­tions, and can­not be pre­dic­ted with ac­cu­racy. As a re­sult, the ac­tual value you would re­ceive if you sold the Notes in any sec­ondary mar­ket, if any, should be ex­pected to dif­fer ma­te­ri­ally from the in­itial es­ti­mated value of your Notes.

In­con­sis­tent Re­search – Royal Bank or its af­fil­i­ates may issue re­search re­ports on se­cu­ri­ties that are, or may be­come, com­pon­ents of the Ref­er­ence Asset. We may also pub­lish re­search from time to time on fi­nan­cial mar­kets and other mat­ters that may in­flu­ence the lev­els of the Ref­er­ence Asset or the value of the Notes, or ex­press op­i­nions or pro­vide re­com­men­da­tions that may be in­con­sis­tent with the pur­chasing or hold­ing the Notes or with the in­vest­ment view im­plic­it in the Notes or the Ref­er­ence Asset. You should make your own in­de­pen­dent in­vest­ig­a­tion of the merits of in­vest­ing in the Notes and the Ref­er­ence Asset.

Mar­ket Dis­rup­tion Events and Ad­just­ments – The pay­ment at mat­ur­ity and the Val­u­a­tion Date are sub­ject to ad­just­ment as de­scribed in the prod­uct pros­pectus sup­ple­ment. For a de­scrip­tion of what con­stitutes a mar­ket dis­rup­tion event as well as the con­se­quences of that mar­ket dis­rup­tion event, see “Gen­eral Terms of the Notes—Mar­ket Dis­rup­tion Events” in the prod­uct pros­pectus sup­ple­ment.

P-8 RBC Capital Markets, LLC

---

Gear­ed Buffer­ed Return Notes  
Link­ed to the S&P 500® Index

**INFORMATION REGARDING THE REFERENCE ASSET**

All disclosures contained in this terms supplement regarding the Reference Asset, including, without limitation, its make-up, method of calculation, and changes in its components, have been derived from publicly available sources. The information reflects the policies of, and is subject to change by, S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC (“S&P”). S&P, which owns the copyright and all other rights to the Reference Asset, has no obligation to continue to publish, and may discontinue publication of, the Reference Asset. The consequences of S&P discontinuing publication of the Reference Asset are discussed in the section of the product prospectus supplement entitled “General Terms of the Notes—Unavailability of the Level of the Reference Asset.” Neither we nor RBCCM accepts any responsibility for the calculation, maintenance or publication of the Reference Asset or any successor index.

The Reference Asset is intended to provide an indication of the pattern of common stock price movement. The calculation of the level of the Reference Asset is based on the relative value of the aggregate market value of the common stocks of 500 companies as of a particular time compared to the aggregate average market value of the common stocks of 500 similar companies during the base period of the years 1941 through 1943.

S&P chooses companies for inclusion in the Reference Asset with the aim of achieving a distribution by broad industry groupings that approximates the distribution of these groupings in the common stock population of its Stock Guide Database of over 10,000 companies, which S&P uses as an assumed model for the composition of the total market. Relevant criteria employed by S&P include the viability of the particular company, the extent to which that company represents the industry group to which it is assigned, the extent to which the market price of that company’s common stock generally is responsive to changes in the affairs of the respective industry, and the market value and trading activity of the common stock of that company. S&P from time to time, in its sole discretion, may add companies to, or delete companies from, the Reference Asset to achieve the objectives stated above.

S&P calculates the Reference Asset by reference to the prices of the constituent stocks of the Reference Asset without taking account of the value of dividends paid on those stocks. As a result, the return on the Notes will not reflect the return you would realize if you actually owned the Reference Asset constituent stocks and received the dividends paid on those stocks.

Effective with the September 2015 rebalance, consolidated share class lines will no longer be included in the Reference Asset. Each share class line will be subject to public float and liquidity criteria individually, but the company’s total market capitalization will be used to evaluate each share class line. This may result in one listed share class line of a company being included in the Reference Asset while a second listed share class line of the same company is excluded.

**Computation of the Reference Asset**

While S&P currently employs the following methodology to calculate the Reference Asset, no assurance can be given that S&P will not modify or change this methodology in a manner that may affect the Payment at Maturity.

Historically, the market value of any component stock of the Reference Asset was calculated as the product of the market price per share and the number of then outstanding shares of such component stock. In March 2005, S&P began shifting the Reference Asset halfway from a market capitalization weighted formula to a float-adjusted formula, before moving the Reference Asset to full float adjustment on September 16, 2005. S&P’s criteria for selecting stocks for the Reference Asset did not change with the shift to float adjustment. However, the adjustment affects each company’s weight in the Reference Asset.

Under float adjustment, the share counts used in calculating the Reference Asset reflect only those shares that are available to investors, not all of a company’s outstanding shares. Float adjustment excludes shares that are closely held by control groups, other publicly traded companies or government agencies.

Edgar Filing: ROYAL BANK OF CANADA - Form FWP

In September 2012, all shareholdings representing more than 5% of a stock's outstanding shares, other than holdings by "block owners," were removed from the float for purposes of calculating the Reference Asset. Generally, these "control holders" will include officers and directors, private equity, venture capital and special equity firms, other publicly traded companies that hold shares for control, strategic partners, holders of restricted shares, ESOPs, employee and family trusts, foundations associated

P-9 RBC Capital Markets, LLC

---

Gear­ed Buffer­ed Return Notes  
Link­ed to the S&P 500® Index

with the company, holders of unlisted share classes of stock, government entities at all levels (other than government retirement/pension funds) and any individual person who controls a 5% or greater stake in a company as reported in regulatory filings. However, holdings by block owners, such as depository banks, pension funds, mutual funds and ETF providers, 401(k) plans of the company, government retirement/pension funds, investment funds of insurance companies, asset managers and investment funds, independent foundations and savings and investment plans, will ordinarily be considered part of the float.

Treasury stock, stock options, equity participation units, warrants, preferred stock, convertible stock, and rights are not part of the float. Shares held in a trust to allow investors in countries outside the country of domicile, such as depository shares and Canadian exchangeable shares are normally part of the float unless those shares form a control block.

For each stock, an investable weight factor (“IWF”) is calculated by dividing the available float shares by the total shares outstanding. As of September 21, 2012, available float shares are defined as the total shares outstanding less shares held by control holders. This calculation is subject to a 5% minimum threshold for control blocks. For example, if a company’s officers and directors hold 3% of the company’s shares, and no other control group holds 5% of the company’s shares, S&P would assign that company an IWF of 1.00, as no control group meets the 5% threshold.

However, if a company’s officers and directors hold 3% of the company’s shares and another control group holds 20% of the company’s shares, S&P would assign an IWF of 0.77, reflecting the fact that 23% of the company’s outstanding shares are considered to be held for control. As of July 31, 2017, companies with multiple share class lines are no longer eligible for inclusion in the Reference Asset. Constituents of the Reference Asset prior to July 31, 2017 with multiple share class lines will be grandfathered in and continue to be included in the Reference Asset. If a constituent company of the Reference Asset reorganizes into a multiple share class line structure, that company will remain in the Reference Asset at the discretion of the S&P Index Committee in order to minimize turnover.

The Reference Asset is calculated using a base-weighted aggregate methodology. The level of the Reference Asset reflects the total market value of all 500 component stocks relative to the base period of the years 1941 through 1943. An indexed number is used to represent the results of this calculation in order to make the level easier to use and track over time. The actual total market value of the component stocks during the base period of the years 1941 through 1943 has been set to an indexed level of 10. This is often indicated by the notation 1941-43 = 10. In practice, the daily calculation of the Reference Asset is computed by dividing the total market value of the component stocks by the “index divisor.” By itself, the index divisor is an arbitrary number. However, in the context of the calculation of the Reference Asset, it serves as a link to the original base period level of the Reference Asset. The index divisor keeps the Reference Asset comparable over time and is the manipulation point for all adjustments to the Reference Asset, which is index maintenance.

#### Index Maintenance

Index maintenance includes monitoring and completing the adjustments for company additions and deletions, share changes, stock splits, stock dividends, and stock price adjustments due to company restructuring or spinoffs. Some corporate actions, such as stock splits and stock dividends, require changes in the common shares outstanding and the stock prices of the companies in the Reference Asset, and do not require index divisor adjustments.

To prevent the level of the Reference Asset from changing due to corporate actions, corporate actions which affect the total market value of the Reference Asset require an index divisor adjustment. By adjusting the index divisor for the change in market value, the level of the Reference Asset remains constant and does not reflect the corporate actions of individual companies in the Reference Asset. Index divisor adjustments are made after the close of trading and after the calculation of the Reference Asset closing level.

## Edgar Filing: ROYAL BANK OF CANADA - Form FWP

Changes in a company's total shares outstanding of 5% or more due to public offerings are made as soon as reasonably possible. Other changes of 5% or more (for example, due to tender offers, Dutch auctions, voluntary exchange offers, company stock repurchases, private placements, acquisitions of private companies or non-index companies that do not trade on a major exchange, redemptions, exercise of options, warrants, conversion of preferred stock, notes, debt, equity participations, at-the-market stock offerings or other recapitalizations) are made weekly, and are generally announced on Fridays for implementation after the close of trading the following Friday (one week later). If a 5% or more share change causes a company's IWF to change by five percentage points or more, the IWF is updated at the same time as the share change. IWF changes resulting from partial tender offers are considered on a case-by-case basis.

P-10 RBC Capital Markets, LLC

---

Gearred Buffered Return Notes  
Linked to the S&P 500® Index

#### License Agreement

S&P® is a registered trademark of Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC and Dow Jones® is a registered trademark of Dow Jones Trademark Holdings LLC ("Dow Jones"). These trademarks have been licensed for use by S&P. "Standard & Poor®s", "S&P 500" and "S&P" are trademarks of Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC. These trademarks have been sublicensed for certain purposes by us. The Reference Asset is a product of S&P and/or its affiliates and has been licensed for use by us.

The Notes are not sponsored, endorsed, sold or promoted by S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC, Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC or any of their respective affiliates (collectively, "S&P Dow Jones Indices"). S&P Dow Jones Indices make no representation or warranty, express or implied, to the holders of the Notes or any member of the public regarding the advisability of investing in securities generally or in the Notes particularly or the ability of the Reference Asset to track general market performance. S&P Dow Jones Indices' only relationship to us with respect to the Reference Asset is the licensing of the Reference Asset and certain trademarks, service marks and/or trade names of S&P Dow Jones Indices and/or its third party licensors. The Reference Asset is determined, composed and calculated by S&P Dow Jones Indices without regard to us or the Notes. S&P Dow Jones Indices have no obligation to take our needs or the needs of holders of the Notes into consideration in determining, composing or calculating the Reference Asset. S&P Dow Jones Indices are not responsible for and have not participated in the determination of the prices, and amount of the Notes or the timing of the issuance or sale of the Notes or in the determination or calculation of the equation by which the Notes are to be converted into cash. S&P Dow Jones Indices have no obligation or liability in connection with the administration, marketing or trading of the Notes. There is no assurance that investment products based on the Reference Asset will accurately track index performance or provide positive investment returns. S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC and its subsidiaries are not investment advisors. Inclusion of a security or futures contract within an index is not a recommendation by S&P Dow Jones Indices to buy, sell, or hold such security or futures contract, nor is it considered to be investment advice. Notwithstanding the foregoing, CME Group Inc. and its affiliates may independently issue and/or sponsor financial products unrelated to the Notes currently being issued by us, but which may be similar to and competitive with the Notes. In addition, CME Group Inc. and its affiliates may trade financial products which are linked to the performance of the Reference Asset. It is possible that this trading activity will affect the value of the Notes.

S&P DOW JONES INDICES DO NOT GUARANTEE THE ADEQUACY, ACCURACY, TIMELINESS AND/OR THE COMPLETENESS OF THE REFERENCE ASSET OR ANY DATA RELATED THERETO OR ANY COMMUNICATION, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ORAL OR WRITTEN COMMUNICATION (INCLUDING ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS) WITH RESPECT THERETO. S&P DOW JONES INDICES SHALL NOT BE SUBJECT TO ANY DAMAGES OR LIABILITY FOR ANY ERRORS, OMISSIONS, OR DELAYS THEREIN. S&P DOW JONES INDICES MAKE NO EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES, AND EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMS ALL WARRANTIES, OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR USE OR AS TO RESULTS TO BE OBTAINED BY US, HOLDERS OF THE NOTES, OR ANY OTHER PERSON OR ENTITY FROM THE USE OF THE REFERENCE ASSET OR WITH RESPECT TO ANY DATA RELATED THERETO. WITHOUT LIMITING ANY OF THE FOREGOING, IN NO EVENT WHATSOEVER SHALL S&P DOW JONES INDICES BE LIABLE FOR ANY INDIRECT, SPECIAL, INCIDENTAL, PUNITIVE, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, LOSS OF PROFITS, TRADING LOSSES, LOST TIME OR GOODWILL, EVEN IF THEY HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES, WHETHER IN CONTRACT, TORT, STRICT LIABILITY, OR OTHERWISE. THERE ARE NO THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARIES OF ANY AGREEMENTS OR ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN S&P DOW JONES INDICES AND US, OTHER THAN THE LICENSORS OF



S&P DOW JONES INDICES.

P-11 RBC Capital Markets, LLC

---

Geared Buffered Return Notes  
Linked to the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index

Historical Information

The graph below sets forth the information relating to the historical performance of the Reference Asset. In addition, below the graph is a table setting forth the intra-day high, intra-day low and period-end closing levels of the Reference Asset. The information provided in this table is for the period from 2008 to 2017, the first calendar quarter of 2018 and for the period from April 1, 2018 through May 24, 2018.

We obtained the information regarding the historical performance of the Reference Asset in the chart below from Bloomberg Financial Markets.

We have not independently verified the accuracy or completeness of the information obtained from Bloomberg Financial Markets. The historical performance of the Reference Asset should not be taken as an indication of its future performance, and no assurance can be given as to the Final Level of the Reference Asset. We cannot give you assurance that the performance of the Reference Asset will result in any positive return on your initial investment. S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index (“SPX”)

P-12 RBC Capital Markets, LLC

---

Geared Buffered Return Notes  
Linked to the S&P 500® Index

Period-Start Date	Period-End Date	High Intra-Day Level of the Reference Asset	Low Intra-Day Level of the Reference Asset	Period-End Closing Level of the Reference Asset
1/1/2008	3/31/2008	1,471.77	1,256.98	1,322.70
4/1/2008	6/30/2008	1,440.24	1,272.00	1,280.00
7/1/2008	9/30/2008	1,313.15	1,106.39	1,166.36
10/1/2008	12/31/2008	1,167.03	741.02	890.64
1/1/2009	3/31/2009	943.85	666.79	797.87
4/1/2009	6/30/2009	956.23	783.32	919.32
7/1/2009	9/30/2009	1,080.15	869.32	1,057.08
10/1/2009	12/31/2009	1,130.38	1,019.95	1,126.42
1/1/2010	3/31/2010	1,180.69	1,044.50	1,169.43
4/1/2010	6/30/2010	1,219.80	1,028.33	1,030.71
7/1/2010	9/30/2010	1,157.16	1,010.91	1,141.20
10/1/2010	12/31/2010	1,262.60	1,131.87	1,257.88
1/1/2011	3/31/2011	1,344.07	1,249.05	1,325.83
4/1/2011	6/30/2011	1,370.58	1,258.07	1,320.64
7/1/2011	9/30/2011	1,356.48	1,101.54	1,131.42
10/1/2011	12/31/2011	1,292.66	1,074.77	1,257.61
1/1/2012	3/30/2012	1,419.15	1,258.86	1,408.47
4/1/2012	6/30/2012	1,422.38	1,266.74	1,362.16
7/1/2012	9/30/2012	1,474.51	1,325.41	1,440.67
10/1/2012	12/31/2012	1,470.96	1,343.35	1,426.19
1/1/2013	3/31/2013	1,570.28	1,426.19	1,569.19
4/1/2013	6/30/2013	1,687.18	1,536.03	1,606.28
7/1/2013	9/30/2013	1,729.86	1,604.57	1,681.55
10/1/2013	12/31/2013	1,849.44	1,646.47	1,848.36
1/1/2014	3/31/2014	1,883.97	1,737.92	1,872.34
4/1/2014	6/30/2014	1,968.17	1,814.36	1,960.23
7/1/2014	9/30/2014	2,019.26	1,904.78	1,972.29
10/1/2014	12/31/2014	2,093.55	1,820.66	2,058.90
1/1/2015	3/31/2015	2,119.59	1,980.90	2,067.89
4/1/2015	6/30/2015	2,134.72	2,048.38	2,063.11
7/1/2015	9/30/2015	2,132.82	1,867.01	1,920.03
10/1/2015	12/31/2015	2,116.48	1,893.70	2,043.94
1/1/2016	3/31/2016	2,072.21	1,810.10	2,059.74
4/1/2016	6/30/2016	2,120.55	1,991.68	2,098.86
7/1/2016	9/30/2016	2,193.81	2,074.02	2,168.27
10/1/2016	12/31/2016	2,277.53	2,083.79	2,238.83
1/1/2017	3/31/2017	2,400.98	2,245.13	2,362.72
4/1/2017	6/30/2017	2,453.82	2,328.95	2,423.41
7/1/2017	9/30/2017	2,519.44	2,407.70	2,519.36
10/1/2017	12/31/2017	2,694.97	2,520.40	2,673.61

Edgar Filing: ROYAL BANK OF CANADA - Form FWP

1/1/2018	3/31/2018	2,872.87	2,532.69	2,640.87
4/1/2018	5/24/2018	2,742.24	2,553.80	2,727.76

PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT INDICATIVE OF FUTURE RESULTS.

P-13 RBC Capital Markets, LLC

---

Gearing Buffered Return Notes  
Linked to the S&P 500® Index

#### SUPPLEMENTAL DISCUSSION OF U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES

The following disclosure supplements, and to the extent inconsistent supersedes, the discussion in the product prospectus supplement dated January 12, 2016 under “Supplemental Discussion of U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences.” The discussions below and in the accompanying product prospectus supplement do not address the tax consequences applicable to holders subject to Section 451(b) of the Code.

Under Section 871(m) of the Code, a “dividend equivalent” payment is treated as a dividend from sources within the United States. Such payments generally would be subject to a 30% U.S. withholding tax if paid to a non-U.S. holder. Under U.S. Treasury Department regulations, payments (including deemed payments) with respect to equity-linked instruments (“ELIs”) that are “specified ELIs” may be treated as dividend equivalents if such specified ELIs reference an interest in an “underlying security,” which is generally any interest in an entity taxable as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes if a payment with respect to such interest could give rise to a U.S. source dividend. However, the IRS has issued guidance that states that the U.S. Treasury Department and the IRS intend to amend the effective dates of the U.S. Treasury Department regulations to provide that withholding on dividend equivalent payments will not apply to specified ELIs that are not delta-one instruments and that are issued before January 1, 2019. Based on our determination that the Notes are not delta-one instruments, non-U.S. holders should not be subject to withholding on dividend equivalent payments, if any, under the Notes. However, it is possible that the Notes could be treated as deemed reissued for U.S. federal income tax purposes upon the occurrence of certain events affecting the Reference Asset or the Notes (for example, upon a Reference Asset rebalancing), and following such occurrence the Notes could be treated as subject to withholding on dividend equivalent payments. Non-U.S. holders that enter, or have entered, into other transactions in respect of the Reference Asset or the Notes should consult their tax advisors as to the application of the dividend equivalent withholding tax in the context of the Notes and their other transactions. If any payments are treated as dividend equivalents subject to withholding, we (or the applicable withholding agent) would be entitled to withhold taxes without being required to pay any additional amounts with respect to amounts so withheld.

#### SUPPLEMENTAL PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION (CONFLICTS OF INTEREST)

We expect that delivery of the Notes will be made against payment for the Notes on or about May 30, 2018, which is the second (2nd) business day following the Pricing Date (this settlement cycle being referred to as “T+2”). See “Plan of Distribution” in the prospectus dated January 8, 2016. For additional information as to the relationship between us and RBCCM, please see the section “Plan of Distribution-Conflicts of Interest” in the prospectus dated January 8, 2016.

The value of the Notes shown on your account statement may be based on RBCCM’s estimate of the value of the Notes if RBCCM or another of our affiliates were to make a market in the Notes (which it is not obligated to do). That estimate will be based upon the price that RBCCM may pay for the Notes in light of then prevailing market conditions, our creditworthiness and transaction costs. For a period of approximately 3 months after the issue date of the Notes, the value of the Notes that may be shown on your account statement may be higher than RBCCM’s estimated value of the Notes at that time. This is because the estimated value of the Notes will not include our hedging costs and profits; however, the value of the Notes shown on your account statement during that period may initially be a higher amount, reflecting the addition of our estimated costs and profits from hedging the Notes. This excess is expected to decrease over time until the end of this period. After this period, if RBCCM repurchases your Notes, it expects to do so at prices that reflect their estimated value.

No Prospectus (as defined in Directive 2003/71/EC (as amended, the “Prospectus Directive”)) will be prepared in connection with the Notes. Accordingly, the Notes may not be offered to the public in any member state of the European Economic Area (the “EEA”), and any purchaser of the Notes who subsequently sells any of the Notes in any

EEA member state must do so only in accordance with the requirements of the Prospectus Directive, as implemented in that member state.

P-14 RBC Capital Markets, LLC

---

Geared Buffered Return Notes  
Linked to the S&P 500® Index

The Notes are not intended to be offered, sold or otherwise made available to, and should not be offered, sold or otherwise made available to, any retail investor in the EEA. For these purposes, the expression “offer” includes the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the Notes to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe the Notes, and a “retail investor” means a person who is one (or more) of: (a) a retail client, as defined in point (11) of Article 4(1) of Directive 2014/65/EU (as amended, “MiFID II”); or (b) a customer, within the meaning of Insurance Distribution Directive 2016/97/EU, as amended, where that customer would not qualify as a professional client as defined in point (10) of Article 4(1) of MiFID II; or (c) not a qualified investor as defined in the Prospectus Directive. Consequently, no key information document required by Regulation (EU) No 1286/2014 (as amended, the “PRIIPs Regulation”) for offering or selling the Notes or otherwise making them available to retail investors in the EEA has been prepared, and therefore, offering or selling the Notes or otherwise making them available to any retail investor in the EEA may be unlawful under the PRIIPs Regulation.

**STRUCTURING THE NOTES**

The Notes are our debt securities, the return on which is linked to the performance of the Reference Asset. As is the case for all of our debt securities, including our structured notes, the economic terms of the Notes reflect our actual or perceived creditworthiness at the time of pricing. In addition, because structured notes result in increased operational, funding and liability management costs to us, we typically borrow the funds under these Notes at a rate that is more favorable to us than the rate that we might pay for a conventional fixed or floating rate debt security of comparable maturity. Using this relatively lower implied borrowing rate rather than the secondary market rate, is a factor that is likely to reduce the initial estimated value of the Notes at the time their terms are set. Unlike the estimated value included in this terms supplement or in the final pricing supplement, any value of the Notes determined for purposes of a secondary market transaction may be based on a different funding rate, which may result in a lower value for the Notes than if our initial internal funding rate were used.

In order to satisfy our payment obligations under the Notes, we may choose to enter into certain hedging arrangements (which may include call options, put options or other derivatives) on the issue date with RBCCM or one of our other subsidiaries. The terms of these hedging arrangements take into account a number of factors, including our creditworthiness, interest rate movements, the volatility of the Reference Asset, and the tenor of the Notes. The economic terms of the Notes and their initial estimated value depend in part on the terms of these hedging arrangements.

The lower implied borrowing rate is a factor that reduces the economic terms of the Notes to you. The initial offering price of the Notes also reflects our estimated hedging costs. These factors result in the initial estimated value for the Notes on the Pricing Date being less than their public offering price. See “Selected Risk Considerations—The Initial Estimated Value of the Notes Will Be Less than the Price to the Public” above.

P-15 RBC Capital Markets, LLC

---