

Version of document from 2005-04-01 to 2007-04-19:

## Bank of Canada Act

R.S.C., 1985, c. B-2

An Act respecting the Bank of Canada

### Preamble

WHEREAS it is desirable to establish a central bank in Canada to regulate credit and currency in the best interests of the economic life of the nation, to control and protect the external value of the national monetary unit and to mitigate by its influence fluctuations in the general level of production, trade, prices and employment, so far as may be possible within the scope of monetary action, and generally to promote the economic and financial welfare of Canada;

THEREFORE, His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows:

### SHORT TITLE

#### Marginal note: Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the [Bank of Canada Act](#).

- R.S., c. B-2, s. 1.

### INTERPRETATION

#### Marginal note: Definitions

2. In this Act,

"authorized foreign bank"

« *banque étrangère autorisée* »

"authorized foreign bank" has the meaning assigned to that expression by section 2 of the [Bank Act](#);

"Bank"

« *Banque* »

"Bank" means the Bank of Canada;

"bank"

« *banque* »

"bank" means a bank listed in Schedule I or II to the [Bank Act](#);

"Board" or "Board of Directors"

« *conseil* »

"Board" or "Board of Directors" means the Board of Directors of the Bank;

“Deputy Governor”

« *sous-gouverneur* »

“Deputy Governor” in sections 5, 6, 8, 13, 15, 30 and 31 means the Deputy Governor appointed under section 6;

“director”

« *administrateur* »

“director” means a member of the Board of Directors other than the Governor or the Deputy Governor or the member acting by virtue of subsection 5(2);

“Governor”

« *gouverneur* »

“Governor” means the Governor of the Bank or the person acting for the Governor pursuant to this Act;

“Minister”

« *ministre* »

“Minister” means the Minister of Finance;

“notes”

« *billets* »

“notes” means notes intended for circulation in Canada.

- R.S., 1985, c. B-2, s. 2;
- 1999, c. 28, s. 93;
- 2001, c. 9, s. 185.

## CONSTITUTION OF THE BANK

### Marginal note:Bank constituted

- **3.** (1) There is hereby established a bank to be called the Bank of Canada.
- Marginal note:Body corporate  
(2) The Bank is a body corporate.
- R.S., c. B-2, s. 3.

### Marginal note:Head office

- **4.** (1) The head office of the Bank shall be in the city of Ottawa.
- Marginal note:Branches and agencies  
(2) The Bank may establish branches and agencies and appoint agents or mandataries in Canada and may also, with the approval of the Governor in Council, establish branches and appoint agents or mandataries elsewhere than in Canada.

- R.S., 1985, c. B-2, s. 4;
- 2004, c. 25, s. 5(E).

## **MANAGEMENT**

### **Marginal note:Board of Directors**

• **5.** (1) The Bank shall be under the management of a Board of Directors composed of a Governor, a Deputy Governor and twelve directors appointed in accordance with this Act.

- **Marginal note:Deputy Minister of Finance to be member of Board**

(2) In addition to the members of the Board as constituted by subsection (1), the Deputy Minister of Finance or, if he or she is absent or unable to act or the office is vacant, such other officer of the Department of Finance as the Minister may nominate, is a member of the Board but does not have the right to vote.

- R.S., 1985, c. B-2, s. 5;
- 2001, c. 9, s. 186(E).

### **Marginal note:Governor and Deputy Governor**

• **6.** (1) The Governor and Deputy Governor shall be appointed by the directors with the approval of the Governor in Council.

- **Marginal note:Qualifications**

(2) The Governor and Deputy Governor shall be persons of proven financial experience and shall devote the whole of their time to the duties of their offices under this Act or any other Act of Parliament.

- **Marginal note:Tenure and remuneration**

(3) The Governor and Deputy Governor

- (a) shall each be appointed for a term of seven years during good behaviour;
- (b) are eligible for re-appointment on the expiration of their terms of office; and
- (c) subject to the approval of the Governor in Council, shall be paid such salaries as the directors determine, but no such remuneration shall be in the form of a commission or be computed by reference to the income or profits of the Bank.

- **Marginal note:Disqualifications**

(4) No person is eligible to be appointed or to continue as Governor or Deputy Governor who

- (a) is not a Canadian citizen;
- (b) is a member of the Senate or House of Commons or a member of a provincial legislature;
- (c) is employed in any capacity in the federal public administration or the public service of a province or holds any office or position for which any salary or other remuneration is payable out of public moneys;
- (d) except as authorized by or under any Act of Parliament, is a director, partner, officer, employee or shareholder of
  - (i) a member of the Canadian Payments Association,
  - (ii) a clearing house or participant, as defined in section 2 of the [\*Payment Clearing and Settlement Act\*](#),
  - (iii) an investment dealer that acts as a primary distributor of new Government of Canada securities, or
  - (iv) an institution that controls or is controlled by an institution referred to in any of subparagraphs (i) to (iii); or
- (e) has reached the age of seventy-five years.

- R.S., 1985, c. B-2, s. 6;
- 1997, c. 15, s. 94;
- 2001, c. 9, s. 187;
- 2003, c. 22, s. 93(E).

#### **Marginal note:Additional Deputy Governors**

- **7.** (1) The Board may appoint one or more additional Deputy Governors who shall perform such duties as are assigned to them by the Board.

- **Marginal note:**Not members of Board

(2) A Deputy Governor appointed under this section is not a member of the Board.

- R.S., c. B-2, s. 7.

#### **Marginal note:Powers of Governor**

- **8.** (1) The Governor of the Bank is the chief executive officer of the Bank and on behalf of the Board has the direction and control of the business of the Bank with authority to act in connection with the conduct of the business of the Bank in all matters that are not by this Act or by the by-laws of the Bank specifically reserved to be done by the Board or by the Executive Committee.

- **Marginal note:**Absence, etc., of Governor

(2) If the Governor is absent or unable to act or the office is vacant, the Deputy Governor has all the powers and functions of the Governor.

- **Marginal note:**Absence, etc., of Governor and Deputy

(3) The Board may authorize one of the directors or one of the persons appointed under section 7 to act as the Governor in the event that the Governor and Deputy Governor are absent or unable to act or the offices are vacant, but no such person has authority to act as Governor for a period exceeding one month without the approval of the Governor in Council.

- R.S., 1985, c. B-2, s. 8;
- 2001, c. 9, s. 188.

**Marginal note:**Directors

- **9.** (1) The Minister, with the approval of the Governor in Council, shall appoint directors to hold office, during good behaviour, subject to removal by the Governor in Council at any time for cause, to replace the directors whose terms of office have expired. The term of a director begins on the day he or she is appointed and ends immediately before March 1 of the year that is three years after the year in which the term of office of the director's predecessor expired.

- **Marginal note:**Continuation in office

(1.1) If, on the expiry of a director's term of office, no new director is appointed, the director whose term of office expired may continue in office until a director is appointed under subsection (1).

- **Marginal note:**Vacancy

(2) If a person ceases to be a director during the term for which he or she was appointed, the Minister shall, with the approval of the Governor in Council, appoint a qualified person to hold office for the remainder of the term.

- **Marginal note:**Votes

(3) In the transaction of the business of the Bank, each director has one vote.

- **Marginal note:**Re-appointment

(4) A director on the expiration of the director's term of office is eligible for re-appointment.

- R.S., 1985, c. B-2, s. 9;
- 2001, c. 9, s. 189.

**Marginal note:**Selection of directors

- **10.** (1) The directors shall be selected from various occupations.

- **Marginal note:Ineligible persons**

(2) No person is eligible to be appointed or to continue as a director if the person is a director, a partner, an officer or an employee of any of the following institutions:

- (a) a direct clearer as defined in the by-laws of the Canadian Payments Association;
- (b) a clearing house of a clearing and settlement system designated under subsection 4(1) of the *Payment Clearing and Settlement Act*;
- (c) a participant in the Large Value Transfer System, or its successor, operated by the Canadian Payments Association;
- (d) an investment dealer that acts as a distributor of new Government of Canada securities; or
- (e) an institution that controls, or is controlled by, an institution referred to in any of paragraphs (a) to (d).

- **Marginal note:Control**

(2.1) For the purpose of paragraph (2)(e),

- (a) an institution controls a body corporate if securities of the body corporate to which are attached more than fifty per cent of the votes that may be cast to elect directors of the body corporate are beneficially owned by the institution and the votes attached to those securities are sufficient, if exercised, to elect a majority of the directors of the body corporate;
- (b) an institution controls a trust, fund or partnership (other than a limited partnership) or an unincorporated association or organization, if more than fifty per cent of the ownership interests, however designated, into which the trust, fund, partnership, association or organization is divided are beneficially owned by the institution and the institution is able to direct the business and affairs of the trust, fund, partnership, association or organization; and
- (c) the general partner of a limited partnership controls the limited partnership.

- **Marginal note:Restriction on share ownership**

(3) Any person who beneficially owns a share in an institution referred to in any of paragraphs (2)(a) to (e) at the time of being appointed director of the Bank shall dispose of that beneficial ownership interest within three months after the appointment. A director of the Bank shall not otherwise beneficially own a share of an institution referred to in any of those paragraphs.

- **Marginal note:Disqualifications**

(4) No person is eligible to be appointed or to continue as director who

- (a) is not a Canadian citizen ordinarily resident in Canada;
- (b) is employed, on a full-time basis, in any capacity in the federal public administration or the public service of a province or holds any office or position, other than as a part-time member of any board or advisory body of an agency or department of the government of Canada or a province, for which any salary or other remuneration is payable out of public moneys, except that a director may perform temporary services for the government of Canada or a province for which that director may be reimbursed actual travel and living expenses; or
- (c) has reached the age of seventy-five years.
- (5) [Repealed, 2001, c. 9, s. 190]

- R.S., 1985, c. B-2, s. 10;
- 1992, c. 1, s. 142;
- 1997, c. 15, s. 95;
- 1999, c. 28, s. 94;
- 2001, c. 9, s. 190;
- 2003, c. 22, s. 94(E).

**Marginal note:Disclosure of conflict**

• **10.1** (1) A director shall disclose to the Bank, in writing or by requesting to have it entered in the minutes of a meeting of the Board, the nature and extent of the director's interest if the director

- (a) is a party to a material contract or transaction, or proposed material contract or transaction, with the Bank;
- (b) is a director or an officer of, or has a material interest in, any person who is a party to a material contract or transaction, or proposed material contract or transaction, with the Bank;
- (c) is or is likely to be materially affected by any action taken or proposed to be taken by the Bank or the Governor under the [Payment Clearing and Settlement Act](#); or
- (d) is a director or an officer of, or has a material interest in, any person who is or is likely to be materially affected by any action taken or proposed to be taken by the Bank or the Governor under the [Payment Clearing and Settlement Act](#).

• **Marginal note:Time of disclosure**

(2) The disclosure shall be made as soon as the director becomes aware of the contract, transaction or action.

• **Marginal note:Restriction on voting**

(3) A director who is required to make a disclosure shall not vote on any resolution to approve the contract, transaction or action, unless it relates to directors' fees.

- **Marginal note:Continuing disclosure**

(4) For the purpose of this section, a general notice to the Board by a director, declaring that he or she is a director or officer of or has a material interest in a person, and that he or she is to be regarded as interested in a contract or transaction entered into with that person or an action that affects that person, is a sufficient declaration of interest in relation to a contract or transaction with that person or action that affects that person.

- 2001, c. 9, s. 191.

#### **Marginal note:Directors' fees**

**11.** The directors are entitled to receive for attendance at directors' meetings and Executive Committee meetings such fees as may be fixed by the by-laws of the Bank.

- R.S., c. B-2, s. 11;
- 1980-81-82-83, c. 40, s. 46.

#### **Marginal note:Chair**

**12.** The Governor is Chair of the Board of Directors.

- R.S., 1985, c. B-2, s. 12;
- 2001, c. 9, s. 192(E).

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

#### **Marginal note:Constitution of Executive Committee**

• **13.** (1) There shall be an Executive Committee of the Board consisting of the Governor, the Deputy Governor and not less than two or more than four directors selected by the Board.

- **Marginal note:Deputy Minister of Finance to be member of Executive Committee**

(2) In addition to the members of the Executive Committee as constituted by subsection (1), the person who is a member of the Board by virtue of subsection 5(2) is a member of the Executive Committee, but that person does not have the right to vote.

- **Marginal note:Powers of Executive Committee**

(3) The Executive Committee is competent to deal with any matter within the competence of the Board and shall keep minutes of its proceedings, which shall be submitted to the Board at its next meeting.

- R.S., c. B-2, s. 13;



- 1980-81-82-83, c. 40, s. 47.

## GOVERNMENT DIRECTIVE

### Marginal note: Consultations

- **14.** (1) The Minister and the Governor shall consult regularly on monetary policy and on its relation to general economic policy.

- Marginal note: Minister's directive

(2) If, notwithstanding the consultations provided for in subsection (1), there should emerge a difference of opinion between the Minister and the Bank concerning the monetary policy to be followed, the Minister may, after consultation with the Governor and with the approval of the Governor in Council, give to the Governor a written directive concerning monetary policy, in specific terms and applicable for a specified period, and the Bank shall comply with that directive.

- Marginal note: Publication and report

(3) A directive given under this section shall be published forthwith in the [\*Canada Gazette\*](#) and shall be laid before Parliament within fifteen days after the giving thereof, or, if Parliament is not then sitting, on any of the first fifteen days next thereafter that either House of Parliament is sitting.

- R.S., c. B-2, s. 14.

## BANK STAFF

### Marginal note: Officers and employees

- **15.** (1) Such officers and employees may be employed as in the opinion of the Executive Committee may be necessary.

- Marginal note: Pension fund

(2) The Board may by by-law establish a pension fund for the officers and employees of the Bank and their dependants and may contribute to it out of the funds of the Bank. The pension fund shall be invested in such manner as may be provided by the by-laws of the Bank.

- Marginal note: By-laws respecting Governor and Deputy Governor

(3) A by-law made under subsection (2) that provides for or relates to the payment of a pension in respect of the retirement of the Governor or Deputy Governor otherwise than by reason of age or disability does not take effect unless it is approved by the Governor in Council.

- R.S., 1985, c. B-2, s. 15;

- 1997, c. 15, s. 96(E).

## SECRECY

### Marginal note:Oath of directors and staff

**16.** Before a person starts to act as a director, an officer or an employee of the Bank, he or she shall take an oath, or make a solemn affirmation, of fidelity and secrecy, in the form set out in the schedule, before a commissioner for taking affidavits.

- R.S., 1985, c. B-2, s. 16;
- 1997, c. 15, s. 97;
- 2001, c. 9, s. 193.

## CAPITAL AND SHARES

### Marginal note:Capital

- **17.** (1) The capital of the Bank shall be five million dollars but may be increased from time to time pursuant to a resolution passed by the Board of Directors and approved by the Governor in Council and by Parliament.

- Marginal note:Shares

(2) The capital shall be divided into one hundred thousand shares of the par value of fifty dollars each, which shall be issued to the Minister to be held by the Minister on behalf of Her Majesty in right of Canada.

- Marginal note:Registration

(3) The shares issued to the Minister shall be registered by the Bank in the name of the Minister in the books of the Bank at Ottawa.

- R.S., c. B-2, s. 17.

## BUSINESS AND POWERS OF THE BANK

### Marginal note:Powers and business

**18.** The Bank may

- (a) buy and sell gold, silver, nickel and bronze coin or any other coin and gold and silver bullion;
- (b) buy and sell foreign currencies and maintain deposit accounts with banks or foreign banks, either in or outside Canada, to facilitate such operations;
- (c) buy and sell securities issued or guaranteed by Canada or any province;

- (d) buy and sell securities issued or guaranteed by the Government of the United States of America or Japan or the government of a country in the European Union;
- (e) [Repealed, 2001, c. 9, s. 194]
- (f) buy and sell special drawing rights issued by the International Monetary Fund;
- (g) buy and sell bills of exchange and promissory notes endorsed, accepted or issued by a bank or authorized foreign bank that is not subject to the restrictions and requirements referred to in subsection 524(2) of the [Bank Act](#) and having a maturity not exceeding one hundred and eighty days, excluding days of grace, from the date of acquisition by the Bank;
- (g.1) if the Governor is of the opinion that there is a severe and unusual stress on a financial market or financial system, buy and sell any other securities, treasury bills, obligations, bills of exchange or promissory notes, to the extent determined necessary by the Governor for the purpose of promoting the stability of the Canadian financial system;
- (h) make loans or advances for periods not exceeding six months to members of the Canadian Payments Association on taking security in any property that the institution to which the loan or advance is made is authorized to hold;
- (i) make loans or advances for periods not exceeding six months to the Government of Canada or the government of a province on taking security in readily marketable securities issued or guaranteed by Canada or any province;
- (j) make loans to the Government of Canada or the government of any province, but such loans outstanding at any one time shall not, in the case of the Government of Canada, exceed one-third of the estimated revenue of the Government of Canada for its fiscal year, and shall not, in the case of a provincial government, exceed one-fourth of that government's estimated revenue for its fiscal year, and such loans shall be repaid before the end of the first quarter after the end of the fiscal year of the government that has contracted the loan;
- (k) for the purpose of its open-market operations, buy and sell in the open market from or to any person, either in or outside Canada, securities, bills of exchange and promissory notes of the kinds and maturities and subject to the limitations, if any, referred to in paragraphs (c) to (e) and (g) with or without the endorsement of a bank;
- (l) accept deposits from the Government of Canada and pay interest on those deposits;
- (l.1) accept deposits from any bank, authorized foreign bank that is not subject to the restrictions and requirements referred to in subsection 524(2) of the [Bank Act](#) or other member of the Canadian Payments Association;

- (l.2) pay interest on the deposits referred to in paragraph (l.1) if the money deposited is to be used for the purpose of making loans or advances referred to in paragraph (h);
  - (l.3) accept deposits from the government of any province or from any corporation or agency of the Government of Canada;
  - (m) open accounts in a central bank in any other country or in the Bank for International Settlements, accept deposits from central banks in other countries, the Bank for International Settlements, the International Monetary Fund, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and any other official international financial organization, act as agent or mandatary, or depository or correspondent for any of those banks or organizations, and pay interest on any of those deposits;
  - (n) acquire, hold, lease or dispose of real property or immovables;
  - (o) accept deposits of money that are authorized or required by an Act of Parliament to be transferred to the Bank, and, in accordance with that Act, pay interest on money so deposited and pay out money to any person entitled to it under that Act; and
  - (p) carry on any business activity that is incidental to or consequential on something the Bank is allowed or required to do by this Act.
- R.S., 1985, c. B-2, s. 18;
  - 1992, c. 1, s. 142;
  - 1997, c. 15, s. 98;
  - 1999, c. 28, s. 95;
  - 2001, c. 4, s. 58, c. 9, s. 194;
  - 2004, c. 25, s. 6(E).

#### **Marginal note:Publication**

**19.** If the Bank takes any action under paragraph 18(*g.1*), the Bank shall cause a notice to be published in the [\*Canada Gazette\*](#) that the Governor has formed an opinion that there is a severe and unusual stress on a financial market or financial system. The notice is to be published as soon as the Governor is of the opinion that its publication will not materially contribute to the stress to which the notice relates.

- R.S., 1985, c. B-2, s. 19;
- 1991, c. 46, s. 581;
- 1997, c. 15, s. 99;
- 2001, c. 9, s. 195.

#### **Marginal note:Acquisition of collateral securities**

**20.** The Bank may

- (a) acquire from any bank or authorized foreign bank that is not subject to the restrictions and requirements referred to in subsection 524(2) of the [Bank Act](#) and hold any property held by the bank or authorized foreign bank as security under Part VIII of the [Bank Act](#); and
- (b) exercise every right and remedy in respect of any security acquired under paragraph (a) that could have been exercised by the bank or authorized foreign bank.

- R.S., 1985, c. B-2, s. 20;
- 1992, c. 1, s. 142;
- 1999, c. 28, s. 96;
- 2001, c. 9, s. 195.

**Marginal note: Publication of minimum interest rates on loans**

**21.** The Bank shall at all times make public the minimum rate at which it is prepared to make loans or advances.

- R.S., c. B-2, s. 18.

**Marginal note: Time limit for unpaid debts**

- **22.** (1) The Bank is not liable in respect of any unpaid debt in respect of which a federal financial institution has made a payment to the Bank under the relevant Act in respect of the federal financial institution if
  - (a) the amount paid to the Bank was less than \$500; and
  - (b) at least twenty years have gone by since the later of
    - (i) the last time a transaction took place on the books of the federal financial institution in respect of the unpaid debt, and
    - (ii) the last time a statement of account was requested of or acknowledged to the federal financial institution by the former creditor in respect of the unpaid debt.

- **Marginal note: Time limit for instruments**

(1.1) The Bank is not liable in respect of any instrument in respect of which a federal financial institution has made a payment to the Bank under the relevant Act in respect of the federal financial institution if

- (a) the amount paid to the Bank was less than \$500; and
- (b) no payment has been made in respect of the instrument for at least twenty years after the day the instrument was issued or accepted.

- **Marginal note: Time limit for liquidation claims**

(1.2) The Bank is not liable in respect of any claim against a liquidator in respect of the winding-up of a federal financial institution if

- (a) the amount of the claim has been paid to the Minister and by the Minister to the Bank under the relevant Act in respect of the federal financial institution;
- (b) the amount paid to the Bank was less than \$500; and
- (c) at least twenty years have gone by since the later of
  - (i) the last time a transaction took place on the books of the federal financial institution in respect of the subject-matter of the claim, and
  - (ii) the last time a statement of account was requested of or acknowledged to the federal financial institution by the former creditor in respect of the subject-matter of the claim.

- **Marginal note:**No liability where claims paid

(2) The Bank is not liable in respect of

- (a) any unpaid debt or any instrument in respect of which a federal financial institution has paid an amount to the Bank in accordance with the relevant Act in respect of the federal financial institution, or
- (b) any claim against a liquidator in respect of the winding-up of a federal financial institution the amount of which claim has been paid to the Minister and by the Minister to the Bank under the relevant Act in respect of the federal financial institution,

where an amount equal to the amount so paid has been paid by the Bank to the creditor in accordance with the relevant Act in respect of the federal financial institution or to the Receiver General under subsection (3).

- **Marginal note:**Amounts to be paid to Receiver General

(3) An amount equal to the amount paid to the Bank in respect of a debt, instrument or claim referred to in subsection (1) shall, within two months after the end of the calendar year in which the applicable twenty year period expired, be paid by the Bank without interest to the Receiver General and the Bank may destroy all records relating to the debt, instrument or claim.

- **Marginal note:**Amounts part of C.R.F.

(4) Any amount paid by the Bank to the Receiver General under subsection (3) shall form part of the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

- **Marginal note:**Definitions

(5) For the purposes of this section,

“federal financial institution”

« *institution financière fédérale* »

“federal financial institution” means a bank, an authorized foreign bank, a company to which the [Trust and Loan Companies Act](#) applies or an association to which the [Cooperative Credit Associations Act](#) applies;

“relevant Act”

« *loi pertinente* »

“relevant Act” in respect of a federal financial institution means

- (a) in the case of a bank or authorized foreign bank, the [Bank Act](#),
- (b) [Repealed, 1999, c. 28, s. 97]
- (c) in the case of a company to which the [Trust and Loan Companies Act](#) applies, that Act, and
- (d) in the case of an association to which the [Cooperative Credit Associations Act](#) applies, that Act.

- R.S., 1985, c. B-2, s. 22;
- 1991, c. 46, ss. 582, 583, c. 48, s. 494;
- 1997, c. 15, s. 100;
- 1999, c. 28, s. 97;
- 2001, c. 9, s. 196.

#### Marginal note:Inspection

• **22.1** (1) The Bank may require that the Superintendent of Financial Institutions perform, for a specified purpose, an inspection of any financial institution within the meaning of the [Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions Act](#).

#### • Marginal note:Costs

(2) Where an inspection is made under subsection (1), such costs incurred in relation thereto as in the opinion of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions are extraordinary shall be borne by the Bank.

- R.S., 1985, c. 18 (3rd Supp.), s. 85.

#### Marginal note:Prohibited business

**23.** The Bank shall not, except as authorized by this Act,

- (a) engage or have a direct interest in any trade or business whatever;
- (b) purchase, or make loans on the security of, its own shares or the shares of any bank, except the Bank for International Settlements;

- (c) lend or make advances on the security of any real property or immovable, except that, in the event of any claims of the Bank being in the opinion of the Board endangered, the Bank may secure itself on any real property, or obtain security on any immovable, of the debtor or any other person liable and may acquire that property, which shall be resold as practicable after the acquisition;
  - (d) make loans or advances without security;
  - (e) pay interest on any money deposited with the Bank; or
  - (f) allow the renewal of maturing bills of exchange, promissory notes or other similar documents purchased or discounted by or pledged to the Bank, except that the Board may make regulations authorizing in special circumstances not more than one renewal of any such bill of exchange, promissory note or other document.
- R.S., 1985, c. B-2, s. 23;
  - 1997, c. 15, s. 101(E);
  - 2001, c. 4, s. 59.

**Marginal note:Fiscal agent of Canadian Government**

- **24.** (1) The Bank shall act as fiscal agent of the Government of Canada.

- **Marginal note:Charge for acting**

(1.1) With the consent of the Minister, the Bank may charge for acting as fiscal agent of the Government of Canada.

- **Marginal note:To manage public debt**

(2) The Bank, if and when required by the Minister to do so, shall act as agent for the Government of Canada in the payment of interest and principal and generally in respect of the management of the public debt of Canada.

- **Marginal note:Canadian Government cheques to be paid or negotiated at par**

(3) The Bank shall not make any charge for cashing or negotiating a cheque drawn on the Receiver General or on the account of the Receiver General, or for cashing or negotiating any other instrument issued as authority for the payment of money out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, or on a cheque drawn in favour of the Government of Canada or any of its departments and tendered for deposit in the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

- R.S., 1985, c. B-2, s. 24;
- 1997, c. 15, s. 102;
- 2001, c. 9, s. 197.

Definition of “financial institution”



- **24.1** (1) In this section, “financial institution” has the same meaning as in section 3 of the [Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions Act](#).

- **Marginal note:Information requirement**

(2) A financial institution shall provide the Bank with such information as the Bank may require, at such times and in such form as the Bank may require.

- **Marginal note:Limitation**

(3) A financial institution shall not be required under subsection (2) to provide the Bank with information about the accounts or affairs of any particular person.

- 1997, c. 15, s. 103.

## NOTE ISSUE

### **Marginal note:Sole right of note issue**

- **25.** (1) The Bank has the sole right to issue notes and those notes shall be a first charge on the assets of the Bank.

- **Marginal note:Arrangements for issue**

(2) It is the duty of the Bank to make adequate arrangements for the issue of its notes in Canada and to supply those notes as required for circulation in Canada.

- **Marginal note:Denominations**

(3) Notes of the Bank shall be in such denominations and shall be printed and signed or otherwise executed as the Governor in Council by regulation determines.

- **Marginal note:Form and material**

(4) The form and material of the notes of the Bank shall be subject to approval by the Minister, but each note shall be printed in both the English and French languages.

- **Marginal note:Notes previously printed**

(5) Notwithstanding anything contained in this section, each note of the Bank printed before June 23, 1936, whether issued before, on or after that date, is a valid and binding obligation of the Bank.

- **Marginal note:Distinction**

(6) Notes of the Bank are neither promissory notes nor bills of exchange within the meaning of the [Bills of Exchange Act](#).

- R.S., 1985, c. B-2, s. 25;
- 2001, c. 9, s. 198.

## REDEMPTION OF NOTES OTHER THAN THOSE OF THE BANK

### Marginal note:Liability for notes

- **26.** (1) The Bank is responsible for the redemption of notes payable to bearer on demand that were issued and outstanding on March 11, 1935 and immediately prior to that day constituted a direct liability of Canada, and such notes are and continue to be legal tender.

- Marginal note:Idem

(2) The Bank is responsible for the redemption of notes of the Canadian banks listed in Schedule R of the Bank Act, chapter B-1 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1970, that were issued prior to January 1, 1950 and intended for circulation in Canada.

- R.S., c. B-2, s. 22;
- 1980-81-82-83, c. 40, s. 50.

## REST FUND

### Marginal note:Rest fund

**27.** The Bank shall establish a rest fund and after making such provision as the Board thinks proper for bad and doubtful debts, depreciation in assets, pension funds and all such matters as are properly provided for by banks, the ascertained surplus available from the operations of the Bank during each financial year shall be applied by the Board as follows:

- (a) if the rest fund of the Bank is less than the paid-up capital, one-third of the surplus shall be allocated to the rest fund and the residue shall be paid to the Receiver General and form part of the Consolidated Revenue Fund;
- (b) if the rest fund is not less than the paid-up capital, one-fifth of the surplus shall be allocated to the rest fund until the rest fund reaches an amount five times the paid-up capital and the residue shall be paid to the Receiver General and form part of the Consolidated Revenue Fund; and
- (c) if the rest fund is not less than five times the paid-up capital, the whole of the surplus shall be paid to the Receiver General and form part of the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

- R.S., c. B-2, s. 23.

## AUDIT

### Marginal note:Appointment of auditors

- **28.** (1) The Governor in Council shall, on the recommendation of the Minister, appoint two firms of accountants eligible to be appointed as auditors of a bank to audit the affairs of the Bank.

- **Marginal note:Term of office**

(2) Every firm of accountants appointed after November 30, 1980 shall be appointed to perform annual audits for the five fiscal years following the year of its appointment except that one of the first two firms of accountants appointed after November 30, 1980 shall be appointed to perform annual audits for the three years following the year of its appointment.

- **Marginal note:Vacancies**

(3) Where any vacancy occurs in the office of auditor of the Bank, notice thereof shall forthwith be given by the Bank to the Minister who thereupon shall appoint some other firm of accountants eligible to be appointed under this section to audit the affairs of the Bank for the balance of the term of the firm of accountants so replaced.

- **Marginal note:Persons who may not act**

(4) No firm of accountants of which a director is a member is eligible for appointment as an auditor and no auditor of the Bank is eligible for appointment for a second successive term.

- **Marginal note:Reports to Minister**

(5) The Minister may from time to time require the auditors to report to the Minister on the adequacy of the procedure adopted by the Bank for the protection of its creditors or shareholders and the sufficiency of their own procedure in auditing the affairs of the Bank, and the Minister may, at his discretion, enlarge or extend the scope of the audit or direct that any other procedure be established or that any other examination be made by the auditors as the public interest may seem to require.

- **Marginal note:Copies of reports to be sent to Minister**

(6) A copy of every report made by the auditors to the Bank under this section shall be transmitted to the Minister by the auditors at the same time as that report is transmitted to the Bank.

- R.S., c. B-2, s. 24;
- 1980-81-82-83, c. 40, s. 51.

## **RETURNS**

### **Marginal note:Weekly balance sheet**

- **29.** (1) The Bank shall, as soon as practicable after the close of business on Wednesday of each week, make up and transmit to the Minister its balance sheet as at the close of business on that day.

- **Marginal note:Monthly balance sheet**

(2) The Bank shall, as soon as practicable after the last business day of each month, make up and transmit to the Minister its balance sheet as at the close of business on that day. The balance sheet shall set out information regarding the Bank's investments in securities issued or guaranteed by the Government of Canada.

- **Marginal note:Publication of balance sheets**

(3) A copy of each balance sheet shall be published in the issue of the [Canada Gazette](#) next following its transmission to the Minister.

- R.S., 1985, c. B-2, s. 29;
- 1997, c. 15, s. 104;
- 2001, c. 9, s. 199.

**Marginal note:Fiscal year**

- **30.** (1) The fiscal year of the Bank shall be the calendar year.

- **Marginal note:Financial statements to Minister**

(2) Within two months after the end of each financial year, the Bank shall send to the Minister its audited financial statements for the financial year, in the form prescribed by the by-laws of the Bank.

- **Marginal note:Signing of statements**

(2.1) The financial statements must be signed by the Governor or the Deputy Governor and the Chief Accountant or Acting Chief Accountant of the Bank.

- **Marginal note:Other information**

(2.2) The financial statements must be accompanied by any summary or report by the Governor that the Governor considers desirable or that is required by the Minister. A copy of the signed and audited financial statements must without delay be published in the [Canada Gazette](#).

- **Marginal note:Report to Parliament**

(3) The Minister shall lay the copy of the accounts and Governor's report mentioned in subsection (2) before Parliament on any of the first twenty-one days that either House of Parliament is sitting after the Minister receives it.

- R.S., 1985, c. B-2, s. 30;
- 1997, c. 15, s. 105.

## **LIABILITY**

**Marginal note:No liability if in good faith**

**30.1** No action lies against Her Majesty, the Minister, any officer, employee or director of the Bank or any person acting under the direction of the Governor for anything done or omitted to be done in good faith in the administration or discharge of any powers or duties that under this Act are intended or authorized to be executed or performed.

- 2001, c. 9, s. 200.

## **OFFENCES AND PUNISHMENT**

### **Marginal note:Holding office when ineligible**

**31.** Every person who holds office or continues to hold office as the Governor or as a Deputy Governor or director of the Bank, knowing that he or she is not eligible for that office, is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine of not more than one hundred thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a term of not more than six months or to both.

- R.S., 1985, c. B-2, s. 31;
- 2001, c. 9, s. 201.

### **Marginal note:Verifying false statement, account or list**

**32.** Every director, officer or auditor of the Bank who verifies any statement, account or list required to be furnished to the Minister pursuant to this Act, or who has to do with the delivering or transmitting of that statement, account or list to the Minister, knowing it to be false in any material particular, is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine of not more than one hundred thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a term of not more than six months or to both.

- R.S., 1985, c. B-2, s. 32;
- 2001, c. 9, s. 201.

### **Marginal note:Contravention of Act**

**33.** Any officer of the Bank or any officer of a bank or any other person who fails or omits to comply with any provision of this Act is guilty of an offence and, unless otherwise provided by this Act, liable on summary conviction to a fine of not more than one hundred thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a term of not more than six months or to both.

- R.S., 1985, c. B-2, s. 33;
- 2001, c. 9, s. 201.

## **LIQUIDATION OR WINDING-UP**

### **Marginal note:Insolvency and winding-up**

**34.** No statute relating to the insolvency or winding-up of any corporation applies to the Bank and in no case shall the affairs of the Bank be wound up unless Parliament so provides,

but if provision is made for winding up the Bank the notes of the Bank outstanding are the first charge on the assets.

- R.S., c. B-2, s. 30.

## BY-LAWS

### Marginal note:By-laws

• **35.** (1) The Board, with the approval of the Governor in Council, may make by-laws with respect to

- (a) the calling of meetings of the Board and of the Executive Committee and what number of persons shall constitute a quorum in each case, and how questions considered at those meetings shall be determined;
- (b) the fees of directors;
- (c) the duties and conduct of officers and employees of the Bank;
- (d) the form of the annual statement of accounts; and
- (e) generally, the management and disposition of the stock, property and undertakings of the Bank.

- Marginal note:Publication

(2) Every by-law and every amendment or repeal thereof shall take effect when published in the [\*Canada Gazette\*](#).

- R.S., 1985, c. B-2, s. 35;
- 1997, c. 15, s. 106(E);
- 2001, c. 4, s. 60(F).

## SCHEDULE(Section 16)

### OATH OR SOLEMN AFFIRMATION OF OFFICE

I, , do solemnly swear (*or affirm*) that I will faithfully and to the best of my judgment and ability perform the duties that relate to any office or position in the Bank held by me.

I also solemnly swear (*or affirm*) that I will not

communicate or allow to be communicated, to any person not entitled to it, any confidential information that relates to the business or affairs of the Bank that I may learn in the course of performing those duties;

use any such information for any purpose other than to perform those duties; or

allow any person to inspect or have access to any books and records that belong to or that are in the possession of the Bank and that relate to the business or affairs of the Bank, unless the person is legally entitled to inspect them or to have access to them.

- R.S., 1985, c. B-2, Sch. I;
- 1997, c. 15, s. 107;
- 2001, c. 9, s. 202.

#### **SCHEDULES II AND III**

[Repealed, 2001, c. 9, s. 202]