1957
2017

60 YEARS OF GROWTH AND EXPANSION

COGECO COMMUNICATIONS

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

PROFILE

Cogeco Communications Inc. is a communications corporation. It is the 8th largest cable operator in North America, operating in Canada under the Cogeco Connexion name in Québec and Ontario, and in the United States under the Atlantic Broadband name in western Pennsylvania, south Florida, Maryland/Delaware, South Carolina and eastern Connecticut. Cogeco Communications Inc. provides its residential and business customers with Internet, video and telephony services through its two-way broadband fibre networks.

Through its subsidiary Cogeco Peer 1, Cogeco Communications Inc. provides its business customers with a suite of information technology services (colocation, network connectivity, hosting, cloud and managed services), through its 16 data centres, extensive FastFiber Network® and more than 50 points of presence in North America and Europe.

Cogeco Communications Inc.'s subordinate voting shares are listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX: CCA).

POWERFUL CONNECTIONS
FOR OUR CUSTOMERS

GENUINE CONNECTIONS
WITH OUR CUSTOMERS

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SINCE ITS FOUNDING IN 1957, COGECO HAS HAD A FASCINATING HISTORY, MARKED BY SIGNIFICANT GROWTH. EXPLORE SOME OF THE MAJOR MILESTONES OF THIS ONE-OF-A-KIND JOURNEY!

1957
COGECO'S BEGINNINGS
The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) grants Henri Audet a broadcast licence for television station CKTM-TV (Radio-Canada affiliate in Trois-Rivières.)

1972
ACQUISITION OF LA BELLE VISION
Cogeco Cable makes its first cable acquisition with La Belle Vision, serving the cities of Trois-Rivières and Shawinigan.

1985
INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING FOR COGECO
Cogeco becomes a publicly traded company.

1986
ACQUISITION OF CFGL-FM
The Company acquires CFGL-FM, its first Montréal-area radio station, now known as Rythme FM.

1987
ACQUISITION OF CÂBLESTRIE AND TÉLÉ-CÂBLE BSL
Cogeco Cable acquires several regional cable companies (including Câblestrie and Télé-Câble BSL) in Québec, tripling its customer base in the process.

1989
FIRST EXPANSION OUTSIDE QUÉBEC
Cogeco Cable acquires the Burlington and Oakville systems in Ontario, growing from a regional operator into a major national company and doubles its customer base.

1993
INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING FOR COGECO CABLE
Cogeco Cable becomes a publicly traded company.

1994
HIGH-SPEED INTERNET
Cogeco Cable becomes the first cable company in Canada to offer high-speed Internet service over its cable network.

1996
FURTHER EXPANSION INTO ONTARIO
Cogeco Cable acquires 25 cable networks (totalling 300,000 subscribers) in Ontario.

1998-2001
GROWING FOOTPRINT IN QUÉBEC AND ONTARIO
Cogeco Cable acquires more than 19 cable systems.

2008
FIRST ENTRANCE IN THE BUSINESS ICT SECTOR
Cogeco Cable enters the Business ICT sector with the acquisition of the Hydro Telecom fibre network in Ontario.

Henri Audet (second on the left) is congratulated as he stands in front of the CKTM-TV building which, at the time, was located in the basement of the Mont-Carmel church.

60 YEARS OF GROWTH AND EXPANSION

2011

ONE OF QUÉBEC'S LARGEST BROADCASTERS

Cogeco purchases the Québec radio stations of the Corus network, bringing the number of stations it operates to 13, and creates the Cogeco News agency.

2012

EXPANSION INTO THE U.S. MARKET

Cogeco Cable enters the U.S. market by acquiring the cable system operator Atlantic Broadband, active in West Pennsylvania, Miami Beach in Florida, Maryland/Delaware, and Aiken in South Carolina.

2013

ACQUISITION OF PEER 1 HOSTING

Cogeco Cable acquires Peer 1 Hosting, one of the world's leading IT hosting services providers, specialized in managed hosting, dedicated servers, colocation and cloud computing services.

2014

REVENUE OF MORE THAN $2 BILLION

Cogeco reaches a milestone, with more than $2 billion in annual revenue.

LAUNCH OF COGECO TIVO SERVICE IN CANADA

TiVo, the leader in advanced television services, is now offered in Canada by Cogeco Cable.

2015

CREATION OF COGECO PEER 1

Cogeco Cable builds on its position as a leader in the Business ICT sector, creating Cogeco Peer 1 by combining the forces of its Cogeco Data Services and Peer 1 Hosting subsidiaries.

ACQUISITION OF METROCAST CONNECTICUT

Cogeco Cable's U.S. subsidiary, Atlantic Broadband, acquires the Connecticut system owned by MetroCast Communications, expanding its presence in the United States.

2016

COGECO UNVEILS NEW BRAND LOGOS AND NAME

The company and its subsidiaries head into 2016 as one strong and unified entity under a compelling and recognizable brand.

COGECO CELEBRATES 30 YEARS ON THE TORONTO STOCK EXCHANGE (TSX)

On November 29th, Louis Audet was joined by members of the Cogeco teams to open the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX) in celebration of 30 years of being traded on the market.

2017

ACQUISITION OF METROCAST

Cogeco Communications announces that its U.S. subsidiary, Atlantic Broadband entered into a definitive agreement to purchase all of the MetroCast cable systems.

THREE-YEAR FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

REVENUE
(in thousands of dollars)

2017	**2,226,851**
2016	2,176,149
2015	2,043,316

ADJUSTED EBITDA* (in thousands of dollars)
AND OPERATING MARGIN*

2017	45.1%	**1,004,970**
2016	45.2%	983,449
2015	45.5%	930,479

PROFIT (LOSS) FOR THE YEAR
(in thousands of dollars)

2017	**299,225**
2016	(189,628)
2015	257,750

CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES
(in thousands of dollars)

2017	**956,657**
2016	745,168
2015	688,924

ACQUISITIONS OF PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT, INTANGIBLE AND OTHER ASSETS AND CAPITAL INTENSITY*
(in thousands of dollars, except percentages)

2017	19.2%	**428,057**
2016	21.5%	467,510
2015	21.5%	439,220

FREE CASH FLOW*
(in thousands of dollars)

2017	**373,735**
2016	280,998
2015	285,967

* The indicated terms do not have standardized definitions prescribed by International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS") and, therefore, may not be comparable to similar measures presented by other companies. For more details, please consult the "Non-IFRS financial measures" section of the Management's Discussion and Analysis ("MD&A").

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

YEARS ENDED AUGUST 31, (in thousands of dollars, except percentages, per share data and number of shares)	2017 $	2016 $	CHANGE %
OPERATIONS			
Revenue	**2,226,851**	2,176,149	2.3
Adjusted EBITDA	**1,004,970**	983,449	2.2
Operating margin	**45.1%**	45.2%	—
Integration, restructuring and acquisition costs	**3,191**	8,802	(63.7)
Claims and litigations	—	10,791	—
Impairment of goodwill and intangible assets	—	450,000	—
Profit (loss) for the year	**299,225**	(189,628)	—
CASH FLOW			
Cash flow from operating activities	**956,657**	745,168	28.4
Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment, intangible and other assets	**428,057**	467,510	(8.4)
Free cash flow	**373,735**	280,998	33.0
FINANCIAL CONDITION[(1)]			
Cash and cash equivalents	**211,185**	62,286	—
Short-term investments	**54,000**	—	—
Total assets	**5,348,380**	5,333,249	0.3
Indebtedness[(2)]	**2,598,058**	2,929,108	(11.3)
Shareholders' equity	**1,599,267**	1,379,915	15.9
CAPITAL INTENSITY	**19.2%**	21.5%	—
PER SHARE DATA[(3)]			
Earnings (loss) per share			
Basic	**6.08**	(3.87)	—
Diluted	**6.03**	(3.87)	—
Dividends	**1.72**	1.56	10.3
WEIGHTED AVERAGE NUMBER OF MULTIPLE AND SUBORDINATE VOTING SHARES OUTSTANDING	**49,204,213**	49,032,367	0.4

(1) At August 31, 2016, total assets and shareholders' equity were restated as reported in note 3 of the Consolidated Financial Statements.

(2) Indebtedness is defined as the aggregate of bank indebtedness, intercompany note payable, balance due on a business combination, principal on long-term debt and obligations under derivative financial instruments.

(3) Per multiple and subordinate voting shares.

MESSAGE TO SHAREHOLDERS

Dear fellow shareholders,

In fiscal 2017, Cogeco Communications Inc. ("Cogeco Communications" or the "Corporation"), once again achieved continued growth through enhanced sales and marketing efforts combined with rigorous cost control discipline in our spending and remains well-positioned to create value in the years ahead. What's more, we took bold and positive steps towards consolidating our position as a leader in communications in North America.

Consolidated revenue increased by 2.3% in fiscal 2017 to reach $2.23 billion, while adjusted EBITDA reached $1.0 billion, up by 2.2%. Profit for the year reached $299.2 million and the Corporation generated free cash flow of $373.7 million. Dividends paid to our shareholders increased by 10.7% to $84.7 million.

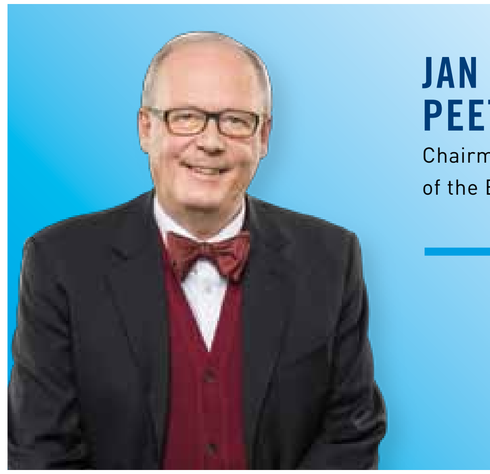
AFTER 60 YEARS, COGECO CONTINUES ON ITS PATH OF GROWTH AND EXPANSION

In 2017, Cogeco, the parent company, and its employees celebrated the company's 60th anniversary. In 1957, Henri Audet founded a television station in the burgeoning city of Trois-Rivières, Québec. Decade after decade, Cogeco has continued to grow as an Internet, video and telephony provider, as well as a global provider of essential business-to-business products and services. Today, Cogeco Communications is an ambitious and diversified communications company with over 4,000 employees in North America and Europe.

Our performance in fiscal 2017 was characterized by steady growth and continued focus on operational efficiency in our three operating segments: Canadian broadband services, American broadband services and Business information and communications technology ("Business ICT") services. Furthermore, this milestone year for Cogeco Communications was punctuated by an important announcement in July 2017 in the American broadband services segment, that is, Atlantic Broadband's acquisition of the MetroCast cable systems, valued at US$1.4 billion.

In addition to this clear commitment to our American broadband footprint, our Canadian and American broadband service segments continued to demonstrate an ability to grow profitably, expanding and enhancing existing services at attractive prices. We improved our networks with state-of-the-art technologies while also improving our customers' experience, building our customer loyalty and retention.

In the Business ICT services segment, we continued to focus on improvements and generating positive cash flows. The leadership team has been committed to building and consolidating its client and partner relationships, positioning themselves as trusted advisors to medium and large customers, bringing more relevant solutions to market and cross-selling services. In addition, our continued focus on controlling and optimizing our capital expenditures has resulted in meaningful free cash flow results.



JAN PEETERS
Chairman
of the Board

"Fiscal 2017 has been a year of further consolidation for Cogeco, as we continue to build on a solid foundation, in all our markets. With a renewed sense of ambition and unity amongst our businesses, we are focused, more than ever, on ensuring sound capital management, which allows us to support future growth and create solid shareholder value."

INITIATIVES

Canadian broadband services segment

Cogeco Connexion started the fiscal year with a new President, Ken Smithard, following the retirement of former President and business unit CEO, Louise St-Pierre. With his over 15 years of experience in increasingly important positions at Cogeco, Ken has since brought to bear his extensive and broad experience, collaborative leadership style, and passion for technology, reinforcing Cogeco Connexion's position as a leading communications and technology company with strong customer relations built on amazing experiences, trust and reliability.

At the heart of Cogeco Connexion's product and service enhancements in fiscal 2017 was the launch of its UltraFibre 1 Gigabit service, allowing its customers in Oakville and Burlington, Ontario and Trois-Rivières, Québec to benefit from speeds of up to 1 gigabit per second. This network optimization is the culmination of a series of investments in infrastructure upgrades carried out over several months and will continue as Cogeco Connexion looks to offer this service and even faster speeds throughout its network.

Enhancements to existing products and services were also made throughout the year as Cogeco Connexion introduced TiVo 4K, launched new high definition ("HD") channels and expanded its fibre optic and telephone services in Québec, while also growing its Québec footprint through small regional acquisitions.

Cogeco Connexion followed through on its commitment to provide amazing employee experiences. During fiscal 2017, Cogeco Connexion was recognized as an Employer of Choices for its offices in Trois-Rivières and Montréal and received an Employment Equity Achievement Award ("EEAA") in the Outstanding Commitment category from Employment and Social Development Canada. Moreover, the Vice President, Human Resources and Communications, Liette Vigneault, made the prestigious list of the Top 25 HR Professionals in Canada for 2016.

Cogeco Connexion distinguished itself in four categories of the Voice of the Customer Excellence program, within the framework of the *Service Quality Measurement Group 2016 edition* of the *North American Contact Center Industry Awards,* whose winners receive the best evaluation in customer satisfaction surveys. This marks the eighth time in ten years that Cogeco Connexion has been rewarded by this recognition program.

American broadband services segment

In early July, Cogeco Communications announced the acquisition of the entire MetroCast cable systems, including close to 236,000 homes and businesses in New Hampshire, Maine, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia. With this acquisition, Atlantic Broadband and its best-in-class management team is in a unique position to increase its customer base in attractive markets adjacent to the ones it currently serves, with a view to growing revenue and profit.

Atlantic Broadband began fiscal 2017 with the launch of 1 Gigabit service in its Connecticut system. The fiscal year ended with another such announcement as Atlantic Broadband made its Gigabit residential and business Internet services widely available in Miami Beach and surrounding areas. This was the culmination of Atlantic Broadband's "FastForward Miami" initiative, bringing network infrastructure and service enhancements to residents and businesses in the area. This also included the addition of 58 standard definition ("SD") and/or HD channels and significantly more international channels to meet the needs of Miami's culturally diverse residents.

Atlantic Broadband's Carrier services segment completed its first full year during fiscal 2017 and contributed significantly to strong commercial services growth. The segment, which delivers reliability to carriers in the East Coast markets, executed over 25 partnerships with major providers.

Business ICT services segment

During fiscal 2017, Cogeco Peer 1 expanded its product portfolio in Canada by bringing to market Microsoft Azure ExpressRoute™ enabling compliant, secure and high performance access to Microsoft's cloud for business. ExpressRoute™ enables customers to overcome the intrinsic security, reliability and performance risks associated with the Internet via secure, dedicated, low latency connectivity to the Microsoft cloud. This service leverages all the benefits of a public cloud without the risk associated with typical Internet connections. Moreover, Cogeco Peer 1 became the official provider of Microsoft cloud services in France and made this product available in Mexico.

LOUIS AUDET
President and
Chief Executive Officer

"Fiscal 2017 has been an inspiring year for the Cogeco team. As we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the founding of Cogeco, we continue to grow the breadth of our products and services, expand our footprint, and intensify our efforts in developing our markets. All the while, we maintain our focus on ensuring we are constantly in tune with the ever-evolving needs of our customers and that we do so efficiently and with an unrelenting emphasis on sound cost management."

During fiscal 2017, teams at Cogeco Peer 1 were hard at work forging important partnerships across its footprint. For example, in the United Kingdom, the team signed two notable partnerships with Jisc and DTP to help ensure that UK universities and higher education institutions remain at the forefront of global education. Also in the UK, Cogeco Peer 1 partnered with Brytlyt, which provides organizations with a graphics processing unit ("GPU") database and analytics platform, driving a joint commitment to innovation for companies looking to harvest business growth from GPU database and analytics software while simultaneously requiring a level of access and support which larger cloud providers do not offer.

Further strengthening its ties with partners, Cogeco Peer 1 launched the Partner Portal and three customized Partner Programs to improve client services and increase sales. Available in English, French, Spanish, and German, the Partner Portal is a centralized and secure place for partner management, deal registration, marketing and sales enablement, product and technical resources, and more.

In June 2017, Cogeco Peer 1 announced the expansion of its multi-protocol label switching ("MPLS") connectivity services to customers in the United States and Europe, providing more businesses around the globe with a holistic solution that can help reduce IT complexity and enable digital transformation.

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY PROGRESS AND RECOGNITION

At Cogeco Communications, our corporate social responsibility ("CSR") program is designed to ensure we are operating responsibly and sustainably, and being a good corporate citizen. Concretely, this means we seek to integrate practices which improve the environmental and social impact of our operations while ensuring the Corporation's continued growth.

During fiscal 2017, key initiatives of the CSR Program were rolled out in all of our subsidiaries, each of which made significant progress in its three-year action plan to integrate CSR principles into their activities and operations. Amongst many ongoing initiatives, we continued to measure and track our Greenhouse Gas Emissions ("GHG") reductions, which now include all of Cogeco Communications' subsidiaries, as well as emissions from refrigerant gases. We implemented a Supplier Code of Conduct to address supply chain risks related to CSR. In fiscal 2017, Cogeco Communications contributed over $3 million to donations and sponsorships, and offered air time for fundraising purposes. Cogeco Communications also participated in the finalization of the Canadian Energy Efficiency Voluntary Agreement ("CEEVA"), effective as of January 2017. This agreement, developed by Canadian telecommunications companies together with Natural Resources Canada, intends to limit the energy consumption of set top-boxes provided to our customers.

For a fourth year in a row, Cogeco Communications was part of the *Jantzi Social Index,* consisting of 60 Canadian companies that passed a set of broadly based environmental, social, and governance rating criteria. According to Jantzi, Cogeco Communications has consistently ranked among the top performers for environmental social governance in the Consumer Discretionary sector.

In January 2018, we will publish our fourth CSR Report, covering our program for 2016 and 2017.

2018 OUTLOOK

Building on our fiscal 2017 results, we are well positioned for continued growth and success. For fiscal 2018, we expect growth in revenue of 3.3% to 4.6% and adjusted EBITDA of 2.0% to 4.5% while free cash flow should remain steady as a result of higher capital expenditures for the American broadband services segment resulting from continued expansion in high growth segments in Florida.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

We extend a warm thank-you to all the members of our Board of Directors for their enduring and wise counsel over the past year. We would also like to take this opportunity to express our boundless gratitude towards our more than 4,000 employees on two continents, who continue to embody Cogeco Communications' core values of commitment to customers, teamwork, innovation, respect and trust.

JAN PEETERS Chairman of the Board

LOUIS AUDET President and Chief Executive Officer

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS ("MD&A")

MD&A

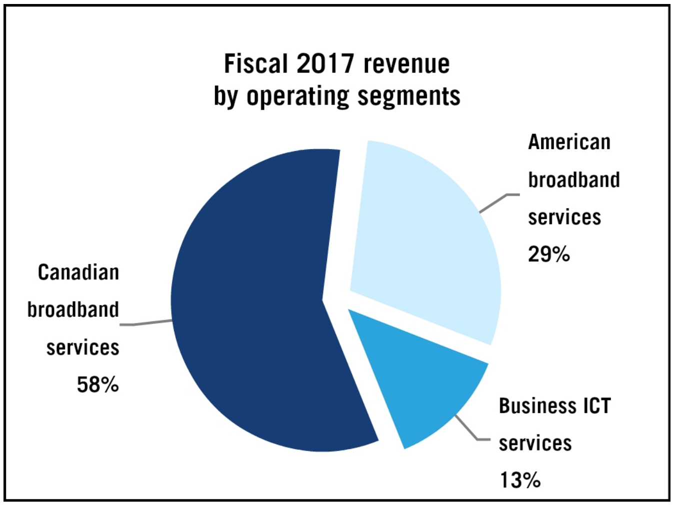
1. FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

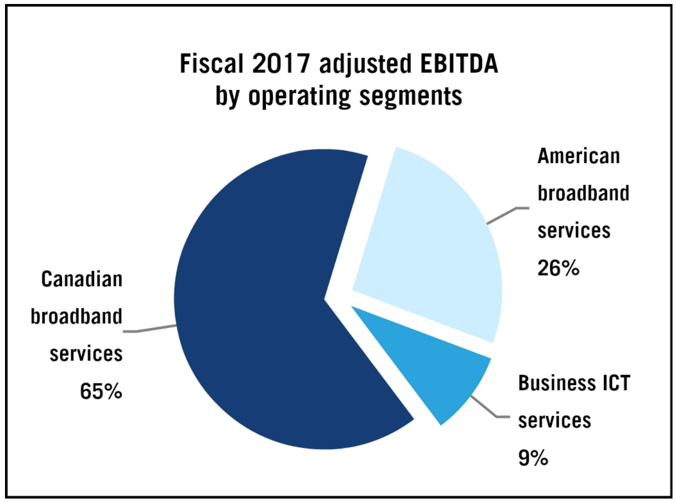
Certain statements contained in this Management's Discussion and Analysis ("MD&A") may constitute forward-looking information within the meaning of securities laws. Forward-looking information may relate to Cogeco Communications Inc.'s ("Cogeco Communications" or the "Corporation") future outlook and anticipated events, business, operations, financial performance, financial condition or results and, in some cases, can be identified by terminology such as "may"; "will"; "should"; "expect"; "plan"; "anticipate"; "believe"; "intend"; "estimate"; "predict"; "potential"; "continue"; "foresee", "ensure" or other similar expressions concerning matters that are not historical facts. Particularly, statements regarding the Corporation's financial guidelines, future operating results and economic performance, objectives and strategies are forward-looking statements. These statements are based on certain factors and assumptions including expected growth, results of operations, performance and business prospects and opportunities, which Cogeco Communications believes are reasonable as of the current date. Refer in particular to the "Corporate Objectives and Strategies" and "Fiscal 2018 Financial Guidelines" sections of the present MD&A for a discussion of certain key economic, market and operational assumptions we have made in preparing forward-looking statements. While Management considers these assumptions to be reasonable based on information currently available to the Corporation, they may prove to be incorrect. Forward-looking information is also subject to certain factors, including risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from what Cogeco Communications currently expects. These factors include risks such as competitive risks, business risks, regulatory risks, technology risks, financial risks, economic conditions, ownership risks, human-caused and natural threats to our network, infrastructure and systems and litigation risks, many of which are beyond the Corporation's control. For more exhaustive information on these risks and uncertainties, the reader should refer to the "Uncertainties and Main Risk Factors" section of the present MD&A. These factors are not intended to represent a complete list of the factors that could affect Cogeco Communications and future events and results may vary significantly from what Management currently foresees. The reader should not place undue importance on forward-looking information contained in this MD&A which represent Cogeco Communications' expectations as of the date of this MD&A (or as of the date they are otherwise stated to be made) and are subject to change after such date. While Management may elect to do so, the Corporation is under no obligation (and expressly disclaims any such obligation) and does not undertake to update or alter this information at any particular time, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as required by law.

All amounts are stated in Canadian dollars unless otherwise indicated. This report should be read in conjunction with the Corporation's consolidated financial statements and the notes thereto prepared in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS") for the year ended August 31, 2017.

2. OVERVIEW OF THE BUSINESS

Cogeco Communications is a communications corporation. It is the 8th largest cable operator in North America. In fiscal 2017, the Corporation reported its operating results in three operating segments: Canadian broadband services, American broadband services and Business information and communications technology ("Business ICT") services. The reporting structure reflects how the Corporation manages its business activities to make decisions about resources to be allocated to the segments and to assess their performance. For the year ended August 31, 2017, the proportion of each segment as a percentage of the Corporation's consolidated revenue and adjusted EBITDA[1] excluding inter-segment eliminations, intercompany transactions and head office activities were as follows:





For further details on the Corporation's segmented operating results, please refer to the “Segmented operating results” section.

2.1 CANADIAN AND AMERICAN BROADBAND SERVICES

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

The Canadian and American broadband services segments provide a wide range of Internet, video and telephony services primarily to residential customers as well as business services to small and medium sized businesses across its coverage areas.

The Canadian broadband services activities are carried out by Cogeco Connexion in the provinces of Québec and Ontario and the American broadband services activities are carried out by Atlantic Broadband in western Pennsylvania, south Florida, Maryland/Delaware, South Carolina and eastern Connecticut.

The customer counts at August 31, 2017 were as follow:

	August 31, 2017			Net additions (losses) Years ended August 31,		% of penetration[3] August 31,	
	Consolidated	Canada	United States	2017 [2]	2016	2017	2016
Primary service units[1]	2,527,882	1,916,861	611,021	17,885	10,048		
Internet service customers	1,042,996	769,869	273,127	54,823	52,895	44.9	43.0
Video service customers	956,775	720,636	236,139	(27,619)	(31,706)	41.2	42.8
Telephony service customers	528,111	426,356	101,755	(9,319)	(11,141)	22.7	23.4

(1) Represents the sum of Internet, video and telephony service customers.

(2) Excludes 2,247 primary service units (808 Internet and 1,439 video services) from a business combination completed by the Canadian broadband services segment in the first quarter of fiscal 2017.

(3) As a percentage of homes passed.

(1) The indicated terms do not have standardized definitions prescribed by IFRS and, therefore, may not be comparable to similar measures presented by other companies. For more details, please consult the “Non-IFRS financial measures” section of the MD&A.

The following four services represent our core suite of offerings:

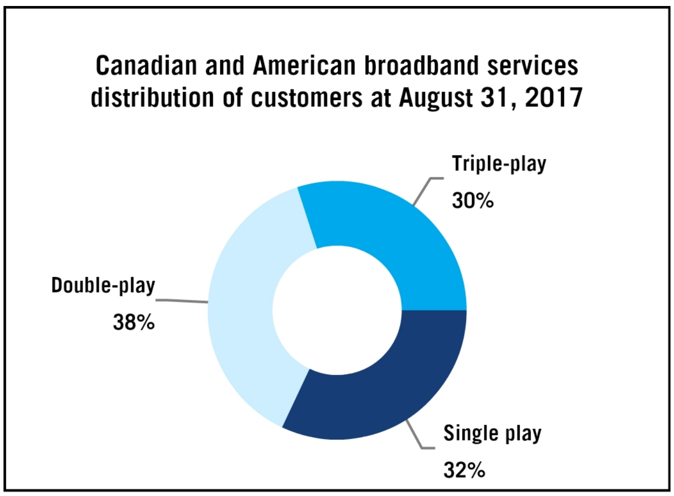
Internet services: In virtually all of our territories (where DOCSIS 3.0 and DOCSIS 3.1 technologies are deployed), we offer a range of Internet packages with download speeds of up to 120 Mbps. In Canada, we offer in certain areas up to 1 Gbps on the downstream and upstream and in the United States, we offer in certain areas up to 1Gbps on the downstream and up to 50 Mbps on the upstream. Simple and complete security suite and email solutions are available to our Internet customers with automatic updates to protect their devices. As an added benefit, Internet customers can connect wirelessly to the Internet at no extra cost from close to 1,550 designated WiFi Internet hotspots in our Canadian footprint.

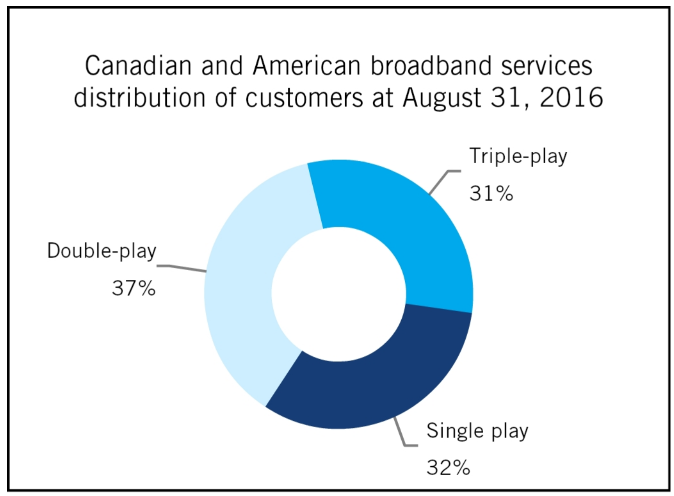
Video services: We offer our customers a full array of digital video services and programming offerings. Our customers have access to a basic service, digital tier packages, discretionary services, pay-per-view channels, video-on-demand ("VOD") services, high definition ("HD") television , 4K television and advanced video services such as TiVo.

Telephony services: Telephony services use internet protocol ("IP") to transport digitised voice signals over the same private network that brings video and Internet services to customers. Residential customers can subscribe to different packages. All residential telephony service customers have access to direct international calling and can subscribe to various international long distance plans, voicemail and other popular custom calling features.

Business services: We offer to our business customers, depending on the area, a wide range of Internet packages, video services, telephony services, managed cloud services and other advanced network connectivity services, such as session initiation protocol ("SIP"), primary rate interface ("PRI") trunk solutions, hosted private branch exchange ("HPBX") solutions and Business and Software efficiency services.

Furthermore, we actively bundle our services into ''double-play'' and ''triple-play'' offerings at competitive prices to encourage cross-selling within our customer base and to attract new customers. At August 31, 2017, 68% (68% in 2016) of our Canadian and American broadband services customers subscribed to two or more services. The distribution of customers by number of services for the Canadian and American broadband services were as follow:





NETWORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Cogeco Connexion and Atlantic Broadband provide residential Internet, video and telephony services and business services through advanced fibre optic and two-way broadband distribution networks. Cogeco Connexion and Atlantic Broadband deliver these services through long distance fibre optic systems, advanced hybrid fibre-coaxial ("HFC") broadband distribution networks, point-to-point fibre networks and fibre-to-the-home ("FTTH") network technologies.

Cogeco Connexion's distribution network extends over 39,000 kilometres while Atlantic Broadband's distribution network extends over 15,000 kilometres. The broad reach of Cogeco Connexion and Atlantic Broadband's core transport network is designed to easily interconnect, at very high speed, its many local distribution systems to video content providers, other public telephony networks, software application providers and to the world-wide Internet.

For residential services, Cogeco Connexion and Atlantic Broadband are deploying optical fibres to nodes serving clusters of typically 326 homes passed and 355 homes passed, respectively, with multiple fibres per node in most cases to rapidly extend the capacity of the system with smaller clusters when necessary. This just in time process, known as “node splitting”, leads to further improvement in quality and reliability while increasing the capacity of two-way services such as Internet, VOD and telephony and maximizing investments. The HFC distribution infrastructure is designed with radio frequency ("RF") capacity of up to 1 GHz of bandwidth capacity, depending on the market served and customer needs.

In each market, the signals are transferred from the optical network to the coaxial cable network at the node for delivery to our customers. Cogeco Communications believes that active use of fibre optic technology in combination with coaxial cable plays a major role in expanding channel capacity and improving the performance of the systems. Fibre optic strands are capable of carrying hundreds of video, data and voice channels over extended distances without signal amplification. Cogeco Communications will continue to deploy fibre optic cable as warranted to further reduce amplifier cascades, which improves system reliability and reduces system maintenance cost. This hybrid combination of fibre optic and coaxial cable is the most efficient choice when it comes to delivering high quality networks with judicious capital investments.

In order to increase distribution system capacity further, Cogeco Connexion undertook the following network enhancement programs:

(a) conversion of video services from analogue to digital. The deployment of digital to analogue ("DTA") converters to its customers having older analogue equipment was completed in all its systems in fiscal 2016. This significant capacity enhancement replaces each analogue channel by up to four HD channels or sixteen SD channels; and

(b) conversion to switched digital video ("SDV") technology. This technology allows Cogeco Connexion to selectively broadcast the channels that are currently being viewed by customers, effectively allowing it to offer a greater selection of digital channels over the same network infrastructure. The conversion was completed in all Cogeco Connexion's systems in fiscal 2017.

In order to recover bandwidth necessary for Internet growth as well as additional HD channels, Atlantic Broadband is continuing with a multi-point strategy to enhance the network and increase overall network performance:

(a) in markets where overall bandwidth is below 750 MHz, Atlantic Broadband has completed the conversion of video services from analogue to digital with the deployment of DTA converters to its customers having older analogue equipment;

(b) in 750 MHz markets where Atlantic Broadband has a larger customer base, it has begun the conversion to all digital, which it anticipates will be completed in 2018.

Cogeco Connexion and Atlantic Broadband use the DOCSIS technology to deliver Internet and business services over HFC networks. DOCSIS has numerous advanced features to ensure a continuous transmission and high quality of service delivery. This technology provides a flexible and expandable platform to further increase IP transmission speeds and to provide other products such as symmetrical services, which are particularly well suited for commercial customer applications. Today, Cogeco Connexion and Atlantic Broadband offer top Internet speeds of 120 Mbps in most of their territories and in certain areas up to 1 Gbps. Cogeco Connexion and Atlantic Broadband intend to continue deploying 1 Gbps progressively in the coming years through several technologies depending on the location, with DOCSIS 3.1 being the most cost effective. Atlantic Broadband has started the deployment in fiscal 2017 of the DOCSIS 3.1 technology in some areas while Cogeco Connexion is planning to begin the roll out of this technology in fiscal 2018.

Finally, Cogeco Connexion and Atlantic Broadband are deploying FTTH technology in all new residential developments which meet specific criteria of size, proximity to the existing plant and service penetration rate. Cogeco Connexion and Atlantic Broadband use a FTTH technology called radio frequency over glass ("RFoG"). The primary benefit of RFoG is its compatibility backward and forward with existing cable modem termination system ("CMTS") investments and back-office systems.

The following table shows the percentage of homes passed in Canada and in the United States where digital video, VOD, Internet and telephony services were available at August 31, 2017:

	% of homes passed where service is available	
Service	**Canada**	**United States**
Digital video	99%	99%
VOD	98%	97%
Internet (DOCSIS 3.0)	98%	99%
Telephony	97%	99%

2.2 BUSINESS ICT SERVICES

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

The Business ICT services segment provides colocation, network connectivity, hosting, cloud and an extensive portfolio of managed services primarily in Canada, the United States and Europe to small, medium and large enterprises around the globe. Cogeco Peer 1 provides these services in the following key vertical markets: online retail, financial services, technology, public sector, education, health care, business services, manufacturing, media and online gaming.

The primary activities of the Business ICT services segment are carried out by Cogeco Peer 1 across Canada (British Columbia, Ontario and Québec), the United States (California, Texas, Virginia, Florida and Georgia) and Europe (London and Southampton, United Kingdom and France). Cogeco Peer 1 has more than 50 points of presence, including in Germany, the Netherlands and Mexico.

The following five services represent our core suite of offerings:

Colocation: Colocation services allow customers to host "customer-owned" IT infrastructure within a Cogeco Peer 1 data centre where they benefit from a superior data centre environment, uninterruptible power sources and our FastFiber Network® connectivity infrastructure. These services include cabinets, cage space, redundant power supply, physical security and operational support. This type of solution also enables customers to further leverage other Cogeco Peer 1 services including cloud, backup and disaster recovery, and managed services.

Network Connectivity: Cogeco Peer 1 operates an advanced high speed transport fibre optic network to serve its customers, primarily in Canada, the United States and in Europe. This core backbone is equipped with state of the art, carrier grade infrastructure connecting its global data centres and facilities. The network has multiple interconnections with Tier 1 peering partners, carriers and extended geographic reach via leased facilities with third party carriers. Cogeco Peer 1 also owns and operates an all‑optical fibre access network in Montréal and Toronto. These combined transport and access facilities enable Cogeco Peer 1 to provide an extensive suite of high performance network connectivity options including wavelength, Ethernet, IP virtual private network and Internet services.

Hosting: Cogeco Peer 1's hosting solution provides customers with access to servers, storage, security and content distribution network infrastructure that are managed by Cogeco Peer 1's support teams.

Cloud: Cogeco Peer 1 provides customers with access to a suite of secure, high performance and scalable cloud platforms, for their compute and storage requirements. The cloud portfolio is comprised of public cloud platforms (multi-tenant infrastructure to support multiple customers), managed private cloud platforms (single tenant infrastructure dedicated to a single customer) and hybrid cloud platforms (integrated combination of public and private virtual machines and servers). Cogeco Peer 1's cloud platforms consist of a wholly owned and managed computing infrastructure housed within company operated data centres located in Canada, the United States and Europe, as well as third party computing infrastructures. Cogeco Peer 1 also offers Microsoft's scalable Azure™ and Office 365™ cloud services.

Managed services: Cogeco Peer 1 provides customers with value-added managed services to maximize the productivity of their IT environment. These services include:

- backup/disaster recovery, which provides customers with access to disk storage, tape archival and data replication services to protect customers' data and applications in the event of a disaster. Cogeco Peer 1 works closely with customers to design solutions to meet customers' recovery time objectives and data residency/compliance requirements;
- e-commerce, which provides customers with access to fully managed hosted services including servers, storage, software, load-balancers, networking, security, in addition to support experts to help manage e-commerce online applications. The solution may also provide certain customers with access to payment card industry data security standard ("PCI-DSS") compliant environments for their online applications and their web hosting in select geographies; and
- security services, which provide customers with access to a suite of security services to help protect a customer environment from malwares, cyber-attacks or viruses. The AppArmor portfolio includes firewall, anti virus/spam, content filtering, intrusion detection services, load-balancer, secure virtual private network, hardened operating systems and distributed denial of service mitigation services and are supported around the clock by a team of security experts.

NETWORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

At August 31, 2017, Cogeco Peer 1 provided its services through 16 data centres in Canada, the United States and Europe, covering approximately 475,000 gross square feet and more than 50 points of presence, including in Germany, the Netherlands and Mexico.

Cogeco Peer 1's data centres include highly secure and redundant IT infrastructure, including 24/7/365 monitoring, regulated climate control, power redundancy, support, and biometric security access. In addition, Cogeco Peer 1's data centres are designed, built, and operated to data centre industry standards in order to meet both service and compliance requirements of its enterprise customers.

2.3 BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER

On July 10, 2017, Cogeco Communications announced that its subsidiary, Atlantic Broadband, entered into an agreement with Harron Communications, L.P. to acquire substantially all of the assets of its cable systems operating under the MetroCast brand name ("MetroCast") which serves about 120,000 Internet, 76,000 video and 37,000 telephony customers. The transaction valued at US$1.4 billion includes the expected present value of future tax benefits of US$310 million and is subject to customary closing adjustments. This acquisition is expected to be financed through a combination of US$1.7 billion under a new Senior Secured Term Loan B, whereby US$585 million is expected to be used to refinance the existing First Lien Credit Facilities, and US$150 million under a new Senior Secured Revolving Credit facility combined with a US$315 million equity investment by Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec ("CDPQ") in Atlantic Broadband's holding company, representing 21% of Atlantic Broadband. The transaction is subject to usual closing conditions, regulatory approvals and other customary conditions, which are proceeding as expected. The Corporation expects the transaction to close in early January 2018.

In October 2017, a US subsidiary of Cogeco Communications has entered into four forward starting interest rate swap agreements on a notional amount totalling US$500 million. These agreements will have the effect of converting the floating US LIBOR base rate at an average fixed rate of 2.07% starting on January 31, 2018, under the US$1.7 billion Senior Secured Term Loan B to be issued to finance the MetroCast acquisition and refinance the existing Atlantic Broadband's First Lien Credit Facilities. The MetroCast acquisition is expected to close in early January 2018.

2.4 CORPORATE OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

Our mission is to create powerful connections for our customers and foster genuine connections with our customers. As our customers are at the core of everything we do, we continuously seek to innovate our processes, operations, services and products while efficiently managing capital utilization to secure future growth. We are also dedicated to optimizing profitability and consequently increasing shareholder value. To achieve these objectives, we are pursuing the following strategies:

Canadian broadband services	American broadband services	Business ICT services
Delivering organic growth	Leveraging Internet superiority and bundle sales	Focusing on sustainable revenue growth
Optimizing the return on investments	Accelerating business services growth by moving upmarket	Optimizing the use of current assets in order to optimize cash flows
Investing in our people	Strategically extending the network to new service areas	Strengthening internal processes and systems to improve operational efficiency and optimize infrastructure
	Acquiring assets with identifiable growth opportunities	Promoting our brand supported by a people centric culture

ANTICIPATED RESULTS OF THE CORPORATION'S STRATEGIES

The following sections contain forward-looking statements concerning the business outlook of our Canadian and American broadband services and Business ICT services segments. These sections also describe certain key economic, market and operational assumptions we have made in preparing such forward-looking statements and other forward-looking statements contained in this MD&A. For a description of risk factors that could cause actual results or events to differ materially from our expectations expressed in this Annual Report, please refer in particular to the "Uncertainties and main risk factors" section of this report.

The successful implementation of the strategies described below should result in increased revenue and adjusted EBITDA which combined, should lead to heightened profitability that will be measured based on the criteria described in greater details in the “Fiscal 2018 financial guidelines” section. Please refer to the "Key performance indicators and performance highlights" section for further details on the fiscal 2017 results and achievements.

CANADIAN BROADBAND SERVICES SEGMENT

DELIVERING ORGANIC GROWTH

We focus on leveraging our superior Internet speeds and video services by improving our offerings and constantly investing in technology.

We continue concentrating on growing our business customer base in our footprint in Canada. We remain focused on increasing our market share of addressable business customers by strategically investing in network expansion programs, by launching enhanced products and by improving the effectiveness of our sales and marketing initiatives in conjunction with a stronger focus on digital strategies.

We continue to build a powerful brand identity inspired by our ability to innovate and deliver outstanding customer experiences and further strengthen our leadership in communities we serve.

Progress in fiscal 2017

As part as our efforts to continuously improve our Internet offerings, we continued to roll out our 120 Mbps Internet package which is now available in virtually all of our territories. We also enhanced our Internet packages in Burlington and Oakville through the launch of a new 360 Mbps Internet package. In addition, we launched in fiscal 2017 our UltraFibre 1 Gigabit service in Burlington, Oakville and Trois-Rivières. The Gigabit service meets the needs of today’s data-hungry customers by allowing them to benefit from speeds of up to 1 gigabit per second, meaning that they can download movies and TV shows and play online games faster than ever before. With this fastest and most powerful Internet package, customers are able to download HD movies in less than 30 seconds or HDTV shows in 10 seconds.

During fiscal 2017, Cogeco Connexion continued the deployment of FTTH using the RFoG technology in all new residential developments which meet specific criteria of size, proximity to the existing plant and service penetration rate.

We also upgraded our security solutions with the introduction of two new packages, Cogeco Security and Cogeco Security Go. With the increase of Internet for online commerce and entertainment, the risk of intrusion and fraud is higher. Our new Internet security offering reflects our desire to meet our customers’ ever-changing needs and our commitment to offering the best Internet experience.

In order to offer the most advanced video capabilities to our customers, earlier this year we introduced the TiVo 4K personal video recorder ("PVR") entertainment experience. Our customers can now enjoy an ultra-high-definition image with four times the resolution of a standard HD TV, enhancing both the picture and sound quality of programs, making them crisper and more detailed than ever before.

Furthermore, as part as our commitment to offering more and even better Business Services, we enhanced our offerings by launching new bundles consisting of Internet packages and selected Online Productivity Tools. Our small and medium business customers can thus benefit from enterprise-grade collaboration, productivity and security tools, delivered through cloud-based solutions, giving them access to best in class applications such as Microsoft Office 365, Google G-Suite, F-Secure Protection for Small Business and Mozy online backup.

We recently launched two enhancements to our business HPBX and SIP trunking services. First, we repackaged HPBX into two new offers, Basic and Extra, to better cater to customers who already owned their IP phones or do not require the full suite of features. We also improved our cost structure allowing us to offer the HPBX product to all customers including those requiring as little as a single phone line. Second, we enhanced our SIP service, a complete voice solution that combines voice and data systems to simplify and save business communications, to make it available, to business customers served by our DOCSIS cable network, thereby significantly expanding the addressable market.

To further improve our competitive stance, we continued to offer high value to our business Internet customers through price protection guarantee on contracted rates. We also expanded our DOCSIS and fibre-to-the-building ("FTTB") networks in order to reach more businesses across Ontario and Québec.

We continued to leverage our unique brand identity to support our product and service innovation and foster stronger customer relationships through impactful communications campaigns. We also deployed and harmonized our communications across all channels and in every community we serve in order to generate a greater impact through a unified voice in the marketplace. Moreover, we recently unveiled the new image of our community television stations “Cogeco TV” which became “YourTV”.

Focus in fiscal 2018

We intend to invest to increase network capacity and reach a pace consistent with rising customer demand and expectations. We will enhance our DOCSIS network capacity throughout the year including the introduction of DOCSIS 3.1 technology in certain markets which will significantly extend the capacity of our network.

We intend to grow our residential video services by investing in additional capabilities such as IPTV and cloud services as well as by enhancing our OTT services. In addition, we will continue to extend our Gigabit services in our footprint while also promoting “triple play” offers given customers' interest for bundled products.

We also intend to grow our business services by bringing additional rich features and capabilities including unified communications to our HPBX and SIP Trunking portfolio and enhancements to the fibre-based data services to appeal to a larger number of market segments. Another significant growth opportunity will be fulfilled through the continued investment in advanced managed business WiFi solutions. In addition, we will optimize our Business video services for small and medium businesses and bulk account customers to improve this portfolio's alignment with the market. We will do this by introducing business specific packages of channels tailored to this market's needs.

We will continue to leverage our unique brand promise as the best customer service in our industry and a technological pioneer with a powerful fibre optic network.

OPTIMIZING RETURN ON INVESTMENTS

We focus on achieving the best in-class operating efficiencies by optimizing our cost structure in order to improve our ability to manage our capital utilization to support future growth.

Progress in fiscal 2017

For the eighth time in ten years, Cogeco Connexion was recognized by the Service Quality Measurement Group (“SQM”) for our customer service reflecting our continued focus and the very high standard we set in our commitment to superior customer service. Cogeco Connexion distinguished itself in the four following categories: *“Highest Customer Service - Telecommunications/TV”*, *“Highest Field Services Customer Service”*, *“Highest Customer Service - Retail/Service (storefront)”* and the *“First Call Resolution Improvement Award - Technical support”*. These awards reflect our enduring commitment over these past years to differentiate our customer experience through our retail locations.

Cogeco Connexion is also proud to have received the "AMR-CROP Voice of the Consumer" award in the telecommunications sector, at the 2017 edition of the *Association du Marketing relationnel du Québec's* (“AMR”) *Flèches d'Or gala*. The "AMR-CROP Voice of the Consumer" award is a new recognition introduced by the AMR. It recognizes the service provider most appreciated by consumers for its prices as well as the quality of its products and customer service, the user-friendliness of its commercial environment and website, and the excellence of its client experience.

During fiscal 2017, we continued to focus on improving our customer experience by reducing customer contact volumes with a focus on first-time-right installations and service calls as well as a First Call Resolution program in our call centres. We continued to work towards providing increased convenience to our customers through a better online support experience and ongoing improvements to our self-installation option. Finally, the implementation of a strong Management Operating System within Ontario and Québec field and call center operations has created an increased focus on individual performance management to drive increased productivity, enhanced quality and ultimately exceed our customers' expectations.

We also improved the reliability of our services by further analyzing the root causes of the problems experienced by our customers and implemented corrective actions. As a result, we significantly reduced technical support costs.

In the past year, a new web content management platform has been introduced which provides mobile friendly responsive interaction and lays the foundation to implement a self-serve and self-care customer experience. This new platform is already improving our online conversion rate and will allow an improved scalability, faster go-to-market and increased operational efficiencies. In the process, we replaced our identity and access management platform to drive product innovation and support usage growth of connected experiences in the future.

Moreover, we also introduced digital marketing automation for our business sector and launched a new website framework, creating a modern customer experience with mobile friendly navigation and ordering process.

Focus in fiscal 2018

Building on the progress made in fiscal 2017, we will continue to enrich residential and commercial customer experience to strengthen loyalty, engagement and brand advocacy through continuous process improvements and value-added products, services and support.

We will launch our new customer management system ("CMS") and back-office operations systems which will increase our efficiency by providing more flexibility to cater to our customers' needs and enabling new innovative packages and pricing models. This new CMS will further reduce operational costs by replacing several legacy systems and by introducing meaningful self-serve features.

We will also complete the implementation of our new web content platform and begin the first phase towards customer self-serve and self-care by supporting a personalized content experience on-line.

INVESTING IN OUR PEOPLE

At Cogeco Connexion, our employees are at the heart of our success. We constantly invest in and develop our employees by improving our training, development programs and tools in order to ensure they are highly engaged to deliver on our customer promises. We recognize that creating an engaging employee experience will lead to an amazing experience for our customers.

Progress in fiscal 2017

In our pursuit of offering an amazing employee experience, we focus on continuous listening through regular employee engagement surveys and have addressed several employee suggestions such as implementing flexible working arrangements, enhancing our discounted services program for employees and increasing internal communication.

Above and beyond the continuous investment in our people, Cogeco Connexion has been ranked among Montréal's Top 35 Employers for 2017 by Mediacorp Canada. This ranking showcases employers in the Greater Montréal area who have distinguished themselves through the excellence of their human resources management and the quality of their work environment.

In addition, Cogeco Connexion is honoured to have received the prestigious "Employer of Choice" award at this year's edition of the Trois-Rivières Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Gala Radisson. This distinction is awarded annually to the company that has distinguished itself in the area of human resources and inspired its sector with the quality of its working environment and its team's feeling of belonging.

Focus in fiscal 2018

We will continue to build on delivering an amazing employee experience by identifying the areas of focus in order to make Cogeco Connexion one of the best places to work. For instance we will invest in training and change management to support the development of our people in the evolving skill set of our industry. In addition, we will focus on our global wellness approach, continue to elevate our health and safety practices and invest in preventing psychological distress. We will also adapt our customer brand into a strong employer branding and employee value proposition to promote our amazing employee experience and attract the best talent. Lastly, we will build the first steps to move towards a digital employee experience by evolving our human resources and communication technology.

AMERICAN BROADBAND SERVICES SEGMENT

LEVERAGING INTERNET SUPERIORITY AND BUNDLE SALES

We believe that the key to increasing our customer base is to leverage both our Internet service speed offerings as well as providing customers bundle options which provide the flexibility to tailor product options to meet their individual needs.

Progress in fiscal 2017

Maintaining Internet superiority across markets, on September 16, 2016, Atlantic Broadband became the first to offer Gigabit Internet service in Connecticut. Both GigaEdge (residential) and Pro GigaEdge (business) Internet services are available to more than 37,000 homes and businesses passed in eastern Connecticut communities. The Gigabit service marks the arrival of revolutionary Internet speeds to enable an entirely new level of customer experience by allowing them to benefit from Internet speeds that are more than 100 times faster than the average residential digital subscriber line ("DSL") speed and 20 times faster than the fastest DSL download speeds available to businesses today in eastern Connecticut. With GigaEdge's significantly faster and more powerful Internet speeds, our customers are able to surf, stream, download, work, and game online at the same time, like never before.

Similarly, the "FastForward Miami" initiative, is bringing network infrastructure and service enhancements to our residents and businesses in Miami Beach and surrounding areas. Our residential and business customers now have access to increased Internet speeds of up to 250 Mbps. In addition, all existing Internet customers received an increase in speeds as part of their service over the course of several months. As the project progressed, "FastForward Miami" delivered even faster Internet speeds, including the launch of Gigabit speeds on August 29, 2017, the addition of 58 channels for a total channel count of over 400, including 145 HD channels, significantly more Spanish and international channels, enhanced digital picture quality and sound, and the availability of a simple yet powerful on-screen guide on all TV sets.

In support of the fastest Internet speeds available, we launched a powerful new home and small business WiFi service in May 2017. Both offerings utilize cutting-edge technologies to deliver the best possible WiFi coverage, the fastest possible speeds, and significantly improved wireless video streaming capability. Whereas traditional WiFi networks rely on a single access point, these new enhanced home and business WiFi services are enabled by state-of-the art wireless mesh access points (APs) from a leading international provider of premium wireless solutions. This new offering provides a seamlessly extendable wireless mesh network that provides complete WiFi coverage, no matter the size or shape of a home, video stream prioritization that eliminates buffering, allowing customers to experience the ultimate wireless streaming experience, advanced capabilities like

WiFi noise cancelling and connection steering, as well as an easy to use app for customers to monitor and manage their own home network.

Additionally, in keeping with the commitment to continued diversification and evolution of its video offering, on May 16, 2017, we launched Choice Bundles, a new suite of Internet, video and telephony package options for residential customers. The new offerings are designed to allow customers the flexibility to choose the Internet, video, and telephony bundle service options that best fit their individual entertainment needs and budget. Choice Bundles were created by Atlantic Broadband based on the rapidly shifting entertainment and communication demands of today's households. To ensure it best meets these needs, customers can choose to tailor their Choice Bundle to their unique programming, Internet and equipment needs.

Finally, in January 2017, through key industry partnerships with EPIX and TiVo, Atlantic Broadband launched a new EPIX set-top box application, available to Atlantic Broadband customers with a TiVo device and EPIX premium channel access. Atlantic Broadband is the first cable company to offer the new EPIX application, which provides customers with nearly 6 times more content from premium entertainment network EPIX than previously available.

Focus in fiscal 2018

The DTA bandwidth recovery projects will continue in fiscal 2018 with Cumberland, Maryland and Aiken, South Carolina to reclaim spectrum for broadband capabilities. A major initiative to encrypt all video channels in Connecticut is underway. In addition, the DOCSIS 3.1 investment will continue to increase bandwidth and roll out higher speeds to customers in our Aiken, South Carolina market. Also planned for fiscal 2018 is the continuation of system upgrades.

As we gain more experience with our new generation bundles, we will continue to monitor customer trends and feedback to further refine the bundle offerings as required.

ACCELERATING BUSINESS SERVICES GROWTH BY MOVING UPMARKET

We believe the business sector has and will continue to be a key component of our overall revenue growth. Our initial focus in this area has been more aimed at the small and medium-sized businesses within our footprint. However, we believe that we must continue to expand our product offerings to be able to also access larger scale enterprise opportunities.

Progress in fiscal 2017

Fiscal 2017 was the first full year we offered Hosted Voice Service for businesses across all operating regions. The service offers a more flexible, modern alternative to traditional on-premises PBX systems utilizing smart software and cloud technology to provide businesses with a wholly managed service. The state-of-the-art features help businesses drive efficiencies, enhance revenue growth and improve customer service with unprecedented levels of flexibility and capability to support businesses from 5 to 500 employees. Benefits such as advanced routing tools, multi-site and mobile integration, combined with reliability and security enable businesses to upgrade or replace their old phone systems with an immensely more flexible communications solution that is better suited to their needs.

During fiscal 2017, we standardized and streamlined the process of quoting and selling our metro-ethernet services, enabling us to be more responsive to our customer needs and accelerate the growth of our enterprise sales efforts. Fiscal 2017 also saw the launch of our wholesale carrier services initiative that aims to develop partnerships with national carriers such as Level3, CenturyLink, Windstream, and others. Through these partnerships, Atlantic Broadband is able to provide high-capacity, last mile network access solutions to these larger regional carriers or national clients.

Most businesses use WiFi in their offices today and are dissatisfied with some aspect of the capability. Atlantic Broadband is capitalizing on this need by providing small and medium businesses with robust and highly reliable WiFi connectivity in every corner of their offices, enabling secure and easy guest network access and eliminating management headaches that are a common problem for small businesses.

Focus in fiscal 2018

Investments in the Miami, Florida market will continue in fiscal 2018 with expansion into new technical facilities via IP video transport to capture various bulk properties and commercial activity. We will also continue to invest in extending our network reach to business parks, industrial parks and other facilities that have potential to provide a strong return on investment. Lastly, we will focus on adapting the Atlantic Broadband product portfolio and building a strong outside sales executive team as part of the integration of the MetroCast systems when the acquisition closes which is targeted for January 2018.

STRATEGICALLY EXTENDING THE NETWORK TO NEW SERVICE AREAS

We constantly evaluate opportunities within our existing markets where we can potentially expand our footprint to reach underserved service areas. Using strict return on investment discipline, the critical variables in each possible expansion include potential revenue opportunities on both the residential and business side, offset by the capital required to fund such expansions.

Progress in fiscal 2017

In our Florida market, we have begun to expand our commercial and bulk services to surrounding areas beyond the Miami Beach and South Miami footprint. In the Maryland/Delaware system, we began delivering new FTTH services in certain communities. In Pennsylvania, investments in adjacent municipalities brought significant upgrades and enhancements to residents and businesses, which gave them access to high-speed Internet for the first time, along with significant channel lineup enhancements and unlimited telephony service.

Focus in fiscal 2018

We will continue to expand our footprint to reach underserved service areas in addition to the Miami expansion.

ACQUIRING ASSETS WITH IDENTIFIABLE GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

We will continue to seek value added acquisitions. The selection of acquisition targets depends on a number of factors such as their size, price, profitability, growth potential, geographic positioning, tax position and synergy potential.

Progress in fiscal 2017

On July 10, 2017, Atlantic Broadband entered into a definitive agreement with Harron Communications, L.P. to purchase all of its cable systems operating under the MetroCast brand name. MetroCast's networks pass close to 236,000 homes and businesses in New Hampshire, Maine, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia and serve approximately 120,000 Internet, 76,000 video and 37,000 telephony customers. The acquisition is expected to be completed in January 2018.

Focus in fiscal 2018

Our main area of focus in fiscal 2018 will be the integration of the MetroCast acquisition.

BUSINESS ICT SERVICES SEGMENT

FOCUSING ON SUSTAINABLE REVENUE GROWTH

We remain focused on delivering sustainable revenue growth by expanding our product suite to bring relevant solutions to market and by growing our customer base through an enhanced go-to-market strategy. We believe that our enhanced go-to-market strategy will enable our sales organization to deliver exceptional solutions to our customers leading to loyalty, profits and growth.

Progress in fiscal 2017

During fiscal 2017, Cogeco Peer 1 expanded its products portfolio in Canada by bringing to market Microsoft Azure ExpressRoute™ enabling compliant, secure and high performance access to Microsoft's cloud for business. ExpressRoute™ enables customers to overcome the intrinsic security, reliability and performance risks associated with the Internet via secure, dedicated, low latency connectivity to the Microsoft cloud. This service leverages all the benefits of a public cloud, including reduced cost, burst and hyper-scale capabilities without the risk associated with typical Internet connections. Moreover, Cogeco Peer 1 became the official provider of Microsoft cloud services in France and made this product available in Mexico.

Cogeco Peer 1 expanded its multi-protocol label switching ("MLPS") networking offerings in the United States and Europe, providing more businesses around the globe with a solution that can help reduce IT complexity and enable digital transformation. The MLPS connectivity services enable businesses globally to leverage the best in cloud, hosting, colocation, managed IT security and connectivity services together, through a single service provider, on one scalable, easy-to-manage network.

Moreover, we launched, AppArmor, a new web application protection product providing our customers with access to a complete suite of distributed denial of service ("DDoS") security products. Today's computing environments are bombarded by DDoS attacks that overload critical systems and networks, causing them to become unresponsive and unproductive. Our suite of DDoS mitigation and prevention services are a trusted comprehensive set of safeguards, ensuring network protection from DDoS attacks.

During fiscal 2017, Cogeco Peer 1 concluded three partnerships in the UK with Jisc, DTP and Brytlyt. With Jisc, Cogeco Peer 1 can provide a direct connection to flexible and high-performance managed IT infrastructure solutions including colocation, hosting and cloud services to the UK research and education community via the Janet network. With DTP, Cogeco Peer 1 can supply hydrid IT services to colleges, public libraries and universities in the UK. Finally, with Brytlyt, which provides organizations with graphics processing unit ("GPU") database and analytics platform, Cogeco Peer 1 is able to offer innovation to companies looking to harvest business growth from the latest development in GPU database and analytics software while requiring simultaneously a level of access and support, which is not offered by bigger cloud providers.

Finally, we successfully launched our Partner Portal as well as three new Partner Programs in order to improve client service and increase sales. Partner Portal is a centralized and secure place for partner management, deal registration, marketing and sales enablement and product and technical resources.

Focus in fiscal 2018

In fiscal 2018, we will continue to build on our brand assets, complete the consolidation of our product catalogue, and enhance our portfolio with secured IT Hybrid managed services. The team will continue to position solutions for the industry verticals to develop thought leadership within the market place and focus on the continued development of managed solutions of multi-cloud technologies and SD-WAN solutions and capability.

We will continue to shift our go to market approach to solutions via direct and indirect channels and enhance our professional services portfolio to enable the desired business outcomes of our customers. In conjunction we will work to maximise our opportunity for gaining market share through value added reseller programs and relationships.

OPTIMIZING THE USE OF CURRENT ASSETS IN ORDER TO OPTIMIZE CASH FLOWS

Cost containment is a core element of our financial performance and remains a key factor to maintain operating margins. We intend to continue executing our strategy of tight operating and capital cost controls and rigorous customer-related processes, including customer credit controls, which generate increased free cash flow.

Progress in fiscal 2017

We significantly improved our cash flows through a concerted effort to optimize capital spend. For the first time in many years, we have generated significant unleveraged free cash flow.

We have been able to reduce operating expenses in fiscal 2017 as a result of efficient management and continued integration through organizational design and global customer and enterprise relationship management systems being implemented at Cogeco Peer 1.

Focus in fiscal 2018

We will continue our focus on operational efficiencies and drive improved cash flow. We expect further opportunities to increase revenue through the continued execution of our cloud based quotation and billing systems that will be adopted for all new product introduction and integration activities to be completed.

STRENGTHENING INTERNAL PROCESSES AND SYSTEMS TO IMPROVE OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND OPTIMIZE INFRASTRUCTURE

Focus remains on tactical operational projects to eliminate duplicates and optimize systems and processes.

Progress in fiscal 2017

In fiscal 2017, we unified our digital assets to increase discoverability and drive engagements, refined and implemented a New Product Introduction program and have enabled cloud based technologies to streamline our customer experience from quotation to billing for all new product launches.

We also began investment on aligning and consolidating internal systems and management controls with a plan to complete the majority of the systems by end of fiscal 2018.

Focus in fiscal 2018

We will continue to operationalize our systems to improve the speed for provisioning for our customers and partners and improve our partner toolkit. We will improve visibility and reporting of our management controls creating opportunity for efficiencies.

PROMOTING OUR BRAND SUPPORTED BY A PEOPLE CENTRIC CULTURE

As we continue to focus increasingly on providing value that is relevant to specific vertical markets, our brand will reflect the specialist capabilities we have. We will continue to build and strengthen our ability to attract, retain and grow customers in our targeted market segments that truly value the solutions and services we offer.

Progress in fiscal 2017

In fiscal 2017, we launched our first global brand campaign “Technology takes people too!” supported by refreshed digital assets and expanded globalized product portfolio with the introduction of Microsoft Azure, ExpressRoute™, Global MPLS and Security suite of products. In addition to this, we adopted a regional marketing and public relations approach for demand generation to support market driven business development and brand recognition.

Finally, Cogeco Peer 1 was recognized by IDC MarketScape as a leader in Canadian data centre operations and management. More specifically, Cogeco Peer 1’s data centres, FastFiber Network® and hybrid IT solutions were acknowledged as helping Canadian organizations migrate from on-premise facilities to third-party data centres and hybrid environments in order to meet their strategic needs in terms of innovation and operational effectiveness.

Focus in fiscal 2018

We will continue to focus on the quality of service and customer experience, taking great care to secure new talent into the organization whilst continuing to grow and develop our people to create best in class service.

2.5 KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

The following key performance indicators are closely monitored to ensure that business strategies and objectives are closely aligned with shareholder value creation. The key performance indicators are not measurements in accordance with IFRS and should not be considered an alternative to other measures of performance in accordance with IFRS. The Corporation's method of calculating key performance indicators may differ from other companies and, accordingly, these key performance indicators may not be comparable to similar measures presented by other companies. The Corporation measures its performance, with regard to these objectives by monitoring revenue, adjusted EBITDA[1], operating margin[1], free cash flow[1] and capital intensity[1].

(in millions of dollars, except percentages)	Projections November 2, 2016 [(1)] Fiscal 2017 $	Actual [(1)] Fiscal 2017 $	Achievement of the projections Fiscal 2017
Financial guidelines			
Revenue	2,200 to 2,230	**2,227**	**Achieved**
Adjusted EBITDA	980 to 1,005	**1,005**	**Achieved**
Operating margin	44.5% to 45.1%	**45.1%**	**Achieved**
Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment, intangible and other assets	430 to 445	**428**	**Surpassed**
Free cash flow	345 to 375	**374**	**Achieved**
Capital intensity	19.5% to 20.0%	**19.2%**	**Surpassed**

(1) Fiscal 2017 projections were based on an USD/CDN exchange rate of 1.32 and a GBP/CDN exchange rate of 1.65 compared to actual exchange rates for fiscal 2017 of 1.32 and 1.67, respectively.

For fiscal 2017, Cogeco Communications achieved or surpassed all of its key performance indicators compared to its projections issued on November 2, 2016. For further details on the Corporation's operating results, please refer to the “Operating and financial results”, the "Segmented operating and financial results" and the "Cash flow analysis" sections.

REVENUE

Fiscal 2017 revenue amounted to $2.23 billion, achieving the Corporation's projections mainly as a result of the new pricing strategy combined with bundled offers, partly offset by lower than expected primary service units as a result of competitive offers in the industry as well as the continuing competitive pricing pressures on the hosting and network connectivity services.

ADJUSTED EBITDA AND OPERATING MARGIN

Fiscal 2017 adjusted EBITDA amounted to $1.0 billion, achieving the Corporation's projections mostly as a result of revenue progression, partly offset by additional costs to support the business sector development combined with the continued expansion in Florida.

The operating margin reached 45.1% in fiscal 2017, achieving the Corporation's projections.

FREE CASH FLOW

Fiscal 2017 free cash flow amounted to $374 million, achieving the Corporation's projections mainly as a result of lower than expected capital expenditures in the Business ICT services segment combined with the adjusted EBITDA in line with the projections.

CAPITAL INTENSITY AND ACQUISITIONS OF PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT, INTANGIBLE AND OTHER ASSETS

For fiscal 2017, the Corporation invested $428 million in acquisitions of property, plant and equipment, intangible and other assets and generated revenue of $2.23 billion for a capital intensity of 19.2%, thus surpassing the Corporation's projections as a result of lower than expected acquisitions of property, plant and equipment, intangible and other assets due to a greater focus on capital expenditures optimization.

(1) The indicated terms do not have standardized definitions prescribed by IFRS and, therefore, may not be comparable to similar measures presented by other companies. For more details, please consult the “Non-IFRS financial measures” section of the MD&A.

2.6 THREE-YEAR ANNUAL FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Years ended August 31,	2017	2016	2015
(in thousands of dollars, except percentages and per share data)	$	$	$
Operations			
Revenue	2,226,851	2,176,149	2,043,316
Adjusted EBITDA	1,004,970	983,449	930,479
Operating margin	45.1%	45.2%	45.5%
Integration, restructuring and acquisition costs	3,191	8,802	13,950
Claims and litigations	—	10,791	(27.431)
Impairment of goodwill and intangible assets	—	450,000	—
Profit (loss) for the year	299,225	(189,628)	257,750
Cash Flow			
Cash flow from operating activities	956,657	745,168	688,924
Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment, intangible and other assets	428,057	467,510	439,220
Free cash flow	373,735	280,998	285,967
Capital intensity	19.2%	21.5%	21.5%
Financial Condition[1]			
Cash and cash equivalents	211,185	62,286	163,166
Short-term investments	54,000	—	—
Total assets	5,348,380	5,333,249	6,009,945
Indebtedness	2,598,058	2,929,108	3,261,908
Shareholder's equity	1,599,267	1,379,915	1,642,745
Per Share Data[2]			
Earnings (loss) per share			
Basic	6.08	(3.87)	5.27
Diluted	6.03	(3.87)	5.22
Dividends	1.72	1.56	1.40
Weighted average number of multiple and subordinate voting shares outstanding	49,204,213	49,032,367	48,887,765

(1) At August 31, 2016 and August 31, 2015, total assets and shareholders' equity were restated as reported in note 3 of the Consolidated Financial Statements.
(2) Per multiple and subordinate voting shares.

3. OPERATING AND FINANCIAL RESULTS

3.1 OPERATING RESULTS

Years ended August 31,	2017	2016	Change
(in thousands of dollars, except percentages)	$	$	%
Revenue	2,226,851	2,176,149	2.3
Operating expenses	1,202,942	1,174,232	2.4
Management fees – Cogeco Inc.	18,939	18,468	2.6
Adjusted EBITDA	1,004,970	983,449	2.2
Operating margin	45.1%	45.2%	—

REVENUE

Fiscal 2017 revenue amounted to $2.23 billion, an increase of $50.7 million, or 2.3%, compared to the prior year driven by growths of 5.5% in the American broadband services segment and of 2.2% in the Canadian broadband services segment, partly offset by a decrease of 3.6% in the Business ICT services segment.

For further details on the Corporation’s revenue, please refer to the “Segmented operating results” section.

OPERATING EXPENSES AND MANAGEMENT FEES

Fiscal 2017 operating expenses amounted to $1.20 billion, an increase of $28.7 million, or 2.4%, compared to the prior year. Operating expenses increased mainly due to higher costs in the Canadian and American broadband services segments, partly offset by the decrease in the Business ICT services segment. For further details on the Corporation’s operating expenses, please refer to the “Segmented operating results” section.

Fiscal 2017 management fees paid to Cogeco Inc. amounted to $18.9 million compared to $18.5 million for fiscal 2016. For further details on the Corporation's management fees, please refer to the “Related party transactions” section.

ADJUSTED EBITDA AND OPERATING MARGIN

Fiscal 2017 adjusted EBITDA increased by $21.5 million, or 2.2%, to reach $1.0 billion mainly as a result of the improvement in the Canadian and American broadband services segments, partly offset by a decline in the Business ICT service segment.

Fiscal 2017 operating margin decreased slightly to 45.1% from 45.2% compared to fiscal 2016 as a result of a slightly lower margin in the American broadband services and lower margin in the Business ICT services segment, partly offset by a higher margin in the Canadian broadband services segment.

For further details on the Corporation’s adjusted EBITDA and operating margin, please refer to the “Segmented operating results” section.

3.2 FIXED CHARGES

Years ended August 31,	2017	2016	Change
(in thousands of dollars, except percentages)	$	$	%
Depreciation and amortization	475,068	497,963	(4.6)
Financial expense	129,424	136,378	(5.1)

Fiscal 2017 depreciation and amortization expense decreased by $22.9 million, or 4.6%, to reach $475.1 million compared to the prior year mainly due to lower acquisitions of property, plant and equipment, the depreciation of the British Pound dollar against the Canadian dollar, certain assets being fully amortized and the impairment of intangible assets recognized in the third quarter of fiscal 2016.

Fiscal 2017 financial expense decreased by $7.0 million, or 5.1%, to reach $129.4 million compared to the prior year mainly due to a lower level of Indebtedness as a result of generated free cash flow, partly offset by a higher average cost of Indebtedness due to short-term US LIBOR rate increases.

3.3 IMPAIRMENT OF GOODWILL AND INTANGIBLE ASSETS

As part of a process initiated in fiscal 2015, the Corporation performed a thorough review of its Business ICT services segment operations, organizational structure and portfolio of products and services. The review resulted in several initiatives primarily focused on profitable sales generation, the streamlining of the product offering, the simplification of operational processes and the announcement, on May 5, 2015, of the combination of its two business units Cogeco Data Services and Peer 1 Hosting to form Cogeco Peer 1 with a structure and capacity in place to serve its various customers across its cloud and hosting, colocation and network connectivity services.

Despite continuous efforts to align Cogeco Peer 1’s sales structure on its streamlined product offering, the sales performance did not achieve expected growth in the United States, Europe and Canada.

Although management was confident that it had in place the management team and the operating structure to succeed, the situation was expected to persist past fiscal 2016. Consequently, management had reviewed downwards its future financial projections, resulting in a decrease in the value of the Corporation’s investment in Cogeco Peer 1. As a result, at May 31, 2016, the Corporation tested goodwill and all long-lived assets of Cogeco Peer 1 for impairment.

Based on lower expectations for future revenue, profitability and cash flow growth, the Corporation recorded a non-cash impairment loss of $428.5 million on goodwill and $21.5 million on intangible assets during the third quarter of fiscal 2016.

The impairment of goodwill and intangible assets that affected the Corporation's financial results for the year ended August 31, 2016 were as follows :

(in thousands of dollars)	$
Impairment of goodwill	428,500
Impairment of intangible assets	21,500
Impairment of goodwill and intangible assets	450,000
Income taxes	(16,048)
Impairment of goodwill and intangible assets net of income taxes	433,952

3.4 CLAIMS AND LITIGATIONS

During fiscal 2016, the Corporation's subsidiary, Cogeco Peer 1, recognized an amount of $10.8 million related to the settlement of claims and litigation costs.

3.5 INCOME TAXES

Fiscal 2017 income taxes increased by $28.9 million, or 41.8%, to reach $98.1 million compared to the prior year. The increase is mainly attributable to a profit before income taxes compared to a loss before income taxes in the prior year resulting from the recognition of a non-cash pre-tax impairment of goodwill and intangible assets of $450 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2016, of which a portion was non-deductible. In addition, the increase is also attributable to a higher effective tax rate related to investments in foreign operations combined with a revaluation of deferred tax assets in the third quarter of fiscal 2016, partly offset by the impact on deferred income taxes as a result of changes in substantively enacted tax rates.

On March 26, 2015, in its 2015 budget, the Quebec government announced that the corporate tax rate would be gradually reduced by 0.1% per year from 11.9% in 2017 to 11.5% in 2020. These rate reductions were substantively enacted on November 15, 2016 and have reduced the deferred tax liabilities and the deferred income taxes by approximately $1.7 million for the year ended August 31, 2017. In addition, on July 8, 2015, the United Kingdom government announced corporate tax rate reductions from 20% to 19% on April 1, 2017 and to 18% on April 1, 2020. These rate reductions were substantively enacted on October 26, 2015 and have reduced the deferred tax assets and increased the deferred income taxes by $1.2 million for fiscal 2016.

3.6 PROFIT (LOSS) FOR THE YEAR

Fiscal 2017 profit for the year amounted to $299.2 million, or $6.08 per share compared to a loss for the year of $189.6 million, or $3.87 per share for fiscal 2016. The increase for the year resulted from last year's non-cash pre-tax impairment of goodwill and intangible assets of $450 million and the claims and litigations of $10.8 million which both occurred in the Business ICT services segment. The remaining variation is explained by the improvement of adjusted EBITDA combined with the decrease in depreciation and amortization, partly offset by an increase in income taxes.

The Corporation obtained a positive return on equity[1] of 20.1% for the year ended August 31, 2017, compared to a negative return on equity of 12.5% for the prior year. The variation is mainly attributable to the prior year's impairment of goodwill and intangible assets.

4. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Cogeco Communications is a subsidiary of Cogeco Inc. ("Cogeco"), which holds 31.7% of the Corporation's equity shares, representing 82.3% of the Corporation's voting shares.

Cogeco provides executive, administrative, financial and strategic planning services and other services to the Corporation under a Management Services Agreement. Under the Agreement, management fees are payable on a monthly basis, representing 0.85% of the consolidated revenue of the Corporation. In addition, the Corporation reimburses Cogeco's out-of-pocket expenses incurred with respect to services provided to the Corporation under the Agreement. Provision is made for future adjustment upon the request of either Cogeco or the Corporation should the level of management fees no longer align with the costs, time and resources committed by Cogeco.

No direct remuneration is payable to Cogeco's executive officers by the Corporation. However, during fiscal 2017, the Corporation granted 81,350 (74,750 in 2016) stock options, did not grant any (nil in 2016) incentive share units ("ISUs") and granted 12,150 (11,950 in 2016) performance share units ("PSUs") to these executive officers as executive officers of Cogeco Communications. During fiscal 2017, the Corporation charged Cogeco $652,000 ($616,000 in 2016), $39,000 ($330,000 in 2016) and $660,000 ($501,000 in 2016), respectively, with regards to the Corporation's stock options, ISUs and PSUs granted to these executive officers.

(1) Return on equity is defined as profit (loss) for the year divided by average shareholders' equity (computed on the basis of the beginning and ending balance for a given fiscal year).

On August 2, 2016 an intercompany loan agreement was concluded between the Corporation and Cogeco, by which a revolving credit facility of $40 million was established in favour of the Corporation. The intercompany loan was fully repaid by the Corporation during the third quarter of fiscal 2017.

There were no other material related party transactions during the periods covered.

5. CASH FLOW ANALYSIS

Years ended August 31,	2017	2016	Change
(in thousands of dollars, except percentages)	$	$	%
Cash flow from operating activities	956,657	745,168	28.4
Cash flow from investing activities	(473,213)	(464,719)	1.8
Cash flow from financing activities	(333,040)	(381,255)	(12.6)
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents denominated in foreign currencies	(1,505)	(74)	—
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	148,899	(100,880)	—
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of the year	62,286	163,166	(61.8)
Cash and cash equivalents, end of the year	211,185	62,286	—

5.1 OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Fiscal 2017 cash flow from operating activities reached $956.7 million, representing an increase of $211.5 million, or 28.4%, compared to the prior year mainly as a result of the following:

- the decrease of $120.0 million in income taxes paid mainly as a result of the timing of payments related to the deferral in the first quarter of fiscal 2018 of income tax installments pursuant to a corporate structure reorganization of the Canadian broadband services segment's subsidiaries;
- the increase of $36.5 million in changes in non-cash operating activities primarily due to changes in working capital;
- the improvement of $21.5 million in adjusted EBITDA;
- the decrease of $14.1 million in financial expense paid; and
- last year's claims and litigations of $10.8 million.

5.2 INVESTING ACTIVITIES

Fiscal 2017 investing activities increased by $8.5 million, or 1.8%, to reach $473.2 million compared to fiscal 2016. The increase is mainly explained by the $54.0 million acquisition of short-term investment instruments during the fourth quarter of fiscal 2017, partly offset by lower acquisitions of property, plant and equipment, intangible and other assets compared to the prior year as explained below.

ACQUISITIONS OF PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT, INTANGIBLE AND OTHER ASSETS

The acquisitions of property, plant and equipment, intangible and other assets as well as the capital intensity per operating segment are as follows:

Years ended August 31,	2017	2016	Change
(in thousands of dollars, except percentages)	$	$	%
Canadian broadband services	240,130	233,825	2.7
Capital intensity	18.5%	18.4 %	—
American broadband services	134,950	119,153	13.3
Capital intensity	21.0%	19.5 %	—
Business ICT services	52,977	114,515	(53.7)
Capital intensity	18.2%	38.0 %	—
Head office	—	17	—
Consolidated	428,057	467,510	(8.4)
Capital intensity	19.2%	21.5 %	—

For the year ended August 31, 2017, acquisitions of property, plant and equipment, intangible and other assets amounted to $428.1 million, representing a decrease of $39.5 million, or 8.4%, compared to $467.5 million for fiscal 2016. The decrease is due to lower capital expenditures in the Business ICT services segment, partly offset by a higher level of capital expenditures in the Canadian and American broadband services segments.

Fiscal 2017 capital intensity reached 19.2% compared to 21.5% for the prior year as a result of lower acquisitions of property, plant and equipment, intangible and other assets combined with higher revenue compared to fiscal 2016.
For further details on the Corporation's acquisitions of property, plant and equipment, intangible and other assets, please refer to the "Segmented operating and financial results" section.

BUSINESS COMBINATION IN FISCAL 2017

On September 1, 2016, Cogeco Connexion completed the acquisition of all the shares of Briand et Moreau Câble Inc., a regional cable company operating in Gaspésie (Québec), which served 808 Internet service and 1,439 video service customers at September 1, 2016.

5.3 FREE CASH FLOW AND FINANCING ACTIVITIES

FREE CASH FLOW

Fiscal 2017 free cash flow amounted to $373.7 million, an increase of $92.7 million, or 33.0%, compared to $281.0 million for the prior year mainly due to the following:

- the decrease of $39.5 million in acquisitions of property, plant and equipment, intangible and other assets resulting from higher capital expenditures in fiscal 2016 due to strategic investments at the Kirkland data centre facility and a greater focus on capital expenditure optimization in the Business ICT services segment;
- the improvement of $21.5 million in adjusted EBITDA;
- last year's claims and litigations of $10.8 million; and
- the decrease of $7.0 million in financial expense.

FINANCING ACTIVITIES

For fiscal 2017, a lower Indebtedness level resulting from debt repayments led to a cash decrease of $251.5 million compared to $304.3 million for fiscal 2016. The variation is explained as follows:

Years ended August 31,	2017	2016	Change	Explanations
(in thousands of dollars)	$	$	$	
Increase (decrease) in bank indebtedness	(314)	4,115	(4,429)	Related to the timing of payments made to suppliers.
Proceeds (repayment) of intercompany note payable - Cogeco Inc.	(40,000)	40,000	(80,000)	Repayment of the short-term intercompany Revolving Credit Facility during the third quarter of fiscal 2017.
Net decreases under the revolving facilities	(187,286)	(107,755)	(79,531)	Repayments of the revolving facilities in fiscal 2017 as a result of generated free cash flow.
Repayments of long-term debt and settlement of derivative financial instruments	(23,078)	(240,629)	217,551	Repayments on the First Lien Credit Facilities during fiscal 2017. Repayment of the US$190 million Senior Secured Notes series A maturing in October 2015 and settlement of the related derivative financial instruments.
Repayment of balance due on a business combination	(837)	—	(837)	Repayment of balance due on a business combination during the third quarter of fiscal 2017.
	(251,515)	(304,269)	52,754	

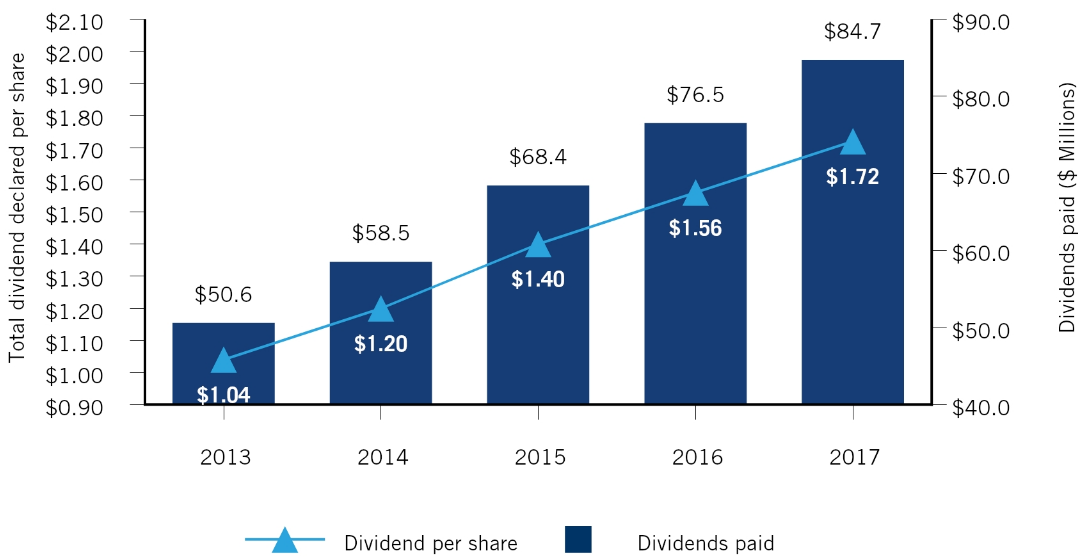
DIVIDENDS

The dividends declaration dates and payments for multiple and subordinate voting shares are as follows:

Declaration date	Record date	Payment date	Dividend per share (in dollars)
November 2, 2016	**November 16, 2016**	**November 30, 2016**	**0.43**
January 11, 2017	**January 25, 2017**	**February 8, 2017**	**0.43**
April 6, 2017	**April 20, 2017**	**May 4, 2017**	**0.43**
July 13, 2017	**July 27, 2017**	**August 10, 2017**	**0.43**
October 28, 2015	November 11, 2015	November 25, 2015	0.39
January 12, 2016	January 26, 2016	February 9, 2016	0.39
April 13, 2016	April 27, 2016	May 11, 2016	0.39
July 6, 2016	July 20, 2016	August 3, 2016	0.39

During fiscal 2017, quarterly eligible dividends of $0.43 per share, totalling $1.72 per share, were paid to the holders of multiple and subordinate voting shares, for a total paid of $84.7 million. In fiscal 2016, quarterly eligible dividends of $0.39 per share, totalling $1.56 per share were paid to the holders of multiple and subordinate voting shares, for a total paid of $76.5 million. During the last five years, total dividends paid per share increased by 13.4% on a compound annual basis.

Total dividends and dividends per share over the last five years are as follow:



6. SEGMENTED OPERATING AND FINANCIAL RESULTS

The Corporation reports its operating results in three operating segments: Canadian broadband services, American broadband services and Business ICT services. The reporting structure reflects how the Corporation manages its business activities to make decisions about resources to be allocated to the segment and to assess its performance.

6.1 CANADIAN BROADBAND SERVICES

OPERATING AND FINANCIAL RESULTS

Years ended August 31,	2017	2016	Change
(in thousands of dollars, except percentages)	$	$	%
Revenue	1,296,455	1,268,515	2.2
Operating expenses	618,223	608,452	1.6
Adjusted EBITDA	678,232	660,063	2.8
Operating margin	52.3%	52.0%	—
Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment, intangible and other assets	240,130	233,825	2.7
Capital intensity	18.5%	18.4%	—

REVENUE

Fiscal 2017 revenue increased by $27.9 million, or 2.2%, to reach $1.30 billion. Revenue progression is mainly attributable to the impact of rate increases implemented in December 2016 compared to rate increases implemented in February 2016 in the prior year, the continued growth in Internet services customers combined with the movement of customers to higher value packages. The increase was partly offset by a decline in video and telephony customers and the impact of the interim decision of the CRTC, on October 6, 2016, to reduce significantly TPIA capacity rates.

OPERATING EXPENSES

Fiscal 2017 operating expenses increased by $9.8 million, or 1.6%, to reach $618.2 million compared to the prior year. The increase resulted mainly from programming rate increases and additional costs related to the deployment of a new customer relations management system, partly offset by a shift in product mix to higher margin Internet services from traditional video services.

ADJUSTED EBITDA AND OPERATING MARGIN

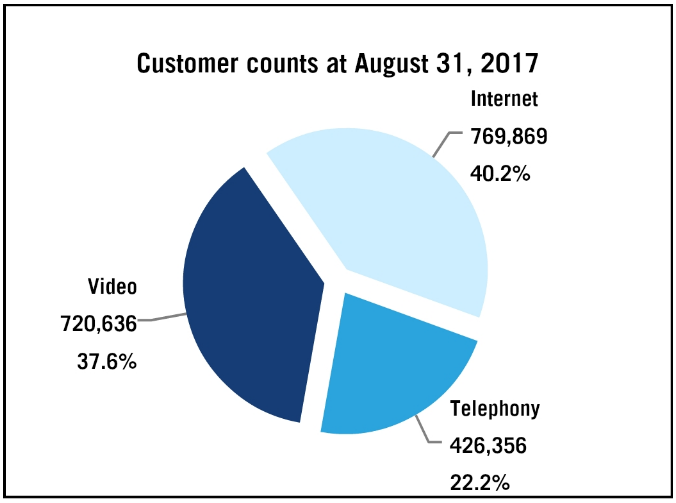
Fiscal 2017 adjusted EBITDA increased by $18.2 million, or 2.8% to reach $678.2 million compared to the prior year mainly as a result of revenue growth exceeding operating expenses growth. Consequently, operating margin increased from 52.0% to 52.3% compared to fiscal 2016.

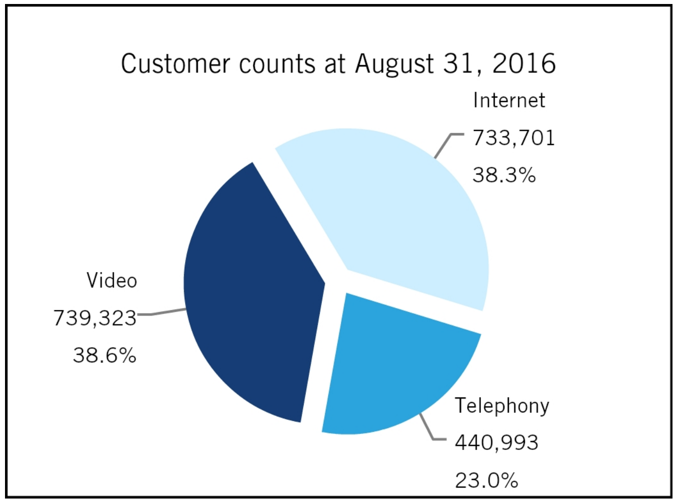
CAPITAL INTENSITY AND ACQUISITIONS OF PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT, INTANGIBLE AND OTHER ASSETS

Fiscal 2017 acquisitions of property, plant and equipment, intangible and other assets amounted to $240.1 million, representing an increase of $6.3 million, or 2.7%, compared to the prior year. The variation resulted mainly from investments in network infrastructure as well as additional equipments to improve the capacity of the Internet platform in order to expand the Gigabit service in some of the areas we serve, partly offset by lower purchases of customer premise equipment ("CPE") due to the timing of certain initiatives.

Fiscal 2017 capital intensity remained essentially the same at 18.5% compared to 18.4% for fiscal 2016.

CUSTOMER STATISTICS





		Net additions (losses) Years ended		% of penetration[(2)]	
	August 31, 2017	August 31, 2017 [(1)]	August 31, 2016	August 31, 2017	August 31, 2016
Primary service units	1,916,861	597	(12,525)		
Internet service customers	769,869	35,360	29,146	44.5	43.0
Video service customers	720,636	(20,126)	(26,035)	41.6	43.4
Telephony service customers	426,356	(14,637)	(15,636)	24.6	25.9

(1) Excludes 2,247 primary service units (808 Internet services and 1,439 video services) from a business combination completed in the first quarter of fiscal 2017.
(2) As a percentage of homes passed.

INTERNET

Fiscal 2017 Internet service customers net additions stood at 35,360 compared to 29,146 for the prior year as a result of customers' ongoing interest in high speed offerings and in TiVo's digital advanced video services which requires an Internet subscription, the continued growth of customers from Internet resellers and from the business sector as well as the sustained interest in bundle offers.

VIDEO

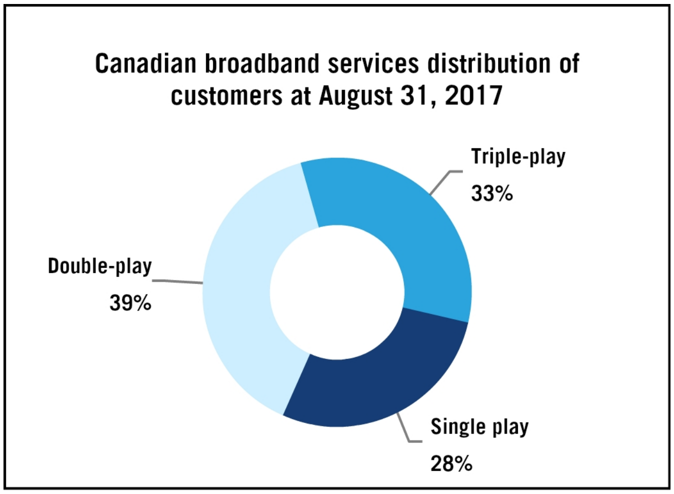
Fiscal 2017 video service customers net losses stood at 20,126 compared to 26,035 for the prior year. The lower decrease is mainly due to our customers' ongoing interest in video product offering, including TiVo's digital advanced video services, as well as bundles with fast Internet offerings, in spite of competitive offers in the industry, service category maturity and a changing video consumption environment.

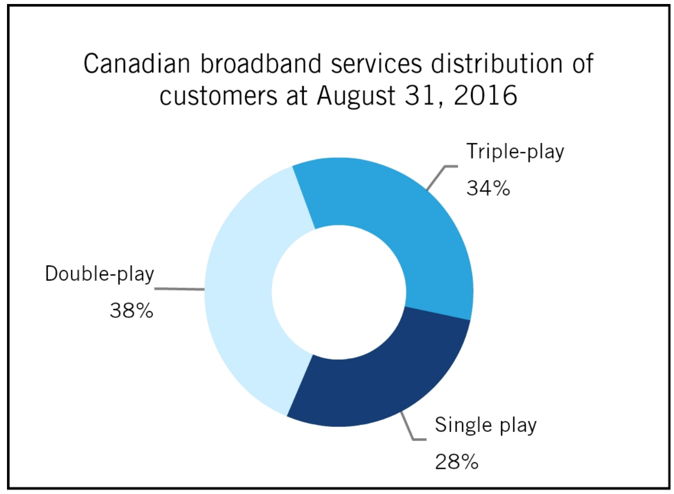
TELEPHONY

Fiscal 2017 telephony service customers net losses amounted to 14,637 compared to 15,636 for the prior year. The telephony service customer losses are mainly due to the increasing mobile penetration in North America and various unlimited offers launched by mobile operators causing customers to cancel their landline telephony services for mobile telephony services only.

DISTRIBUTION OF CUSTOMERS

At August 31, 2017, 72% (72% in 2016) of the Canadian broadband services customers subscribed to two or more services. The distribution of customers by number of services for the Canadian broadband services were: 28% who subscribe to the single play (28% in 2016), 39% to the double-play (38% in 2016) and 33% to the triple-play (34% in 2016).





6.2 AMERICAN BROADBAND SERVICES

OPERATING AND FINANCIAL RESULTS

Years ended August 31,	2017	2016	Change
(in thousands of dollars, except percentages)	$	$	%
Revenue	643,135	609,753	5.5
Operating expenses	371,947	349,497	6.4
Adjusted EBITDA	271,188	260,256	4.2
Operating margin	42.2%	42.7%	—
Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment, intangible and other assets	134,950	119,153	13.3
Capital intensity	21.0%	19.5%	—

REVENUE

Fiscal 2017 revenue increased by $33.4 million, or 5.5%, to reach $643.1 million compared to the prior year. Revenue increased primarily as a result of the continued growth in Internet and telephony services customers in both the residential and business sectors combined with rate increases implemented in September 2016, partly offset by the depreciation of the US dollar against the Canadian dollar compared to the prior year.

Fiscal 2017 revenue in local currency amounted to US$487.1 million compared to US$459.5 million for fiscal 2016, representing an increase of US$27.6 million, or 6.0%.

OPERATING EXPENSES

Fiscal 2017 operating expenses increased by $22.5 million, or 6.4%, to reach $371.9 million compared to the prior year. The increase is mainly due to programming rate increases, higher employee compensation costs, costs to serve additional primary service units and to support the business sector development combined with additional costs to support the continued expansion in Florida, partly offset by the depreciation of the US dollar against the Canadian dollar compared to the prior year.

Fiscal 2017 operating expenses in local currency amounted to US$281.7 million compared to US$263.4 million for fiscal 2016, representing an increase of US$18.3 million, or 6.9%.

ADJUSTED EBITDA AND OPERATING MARGIN

Fiscal 2017 adjusted EBITDA increased by $10.9 million, or 4.2%, to reach $271.2 million compared to the prior year. As a result of operating expenses growth exceeding revenue growth, operating margin slightly decreased to 42.2% from 42.7% compared to fiscal 2016.

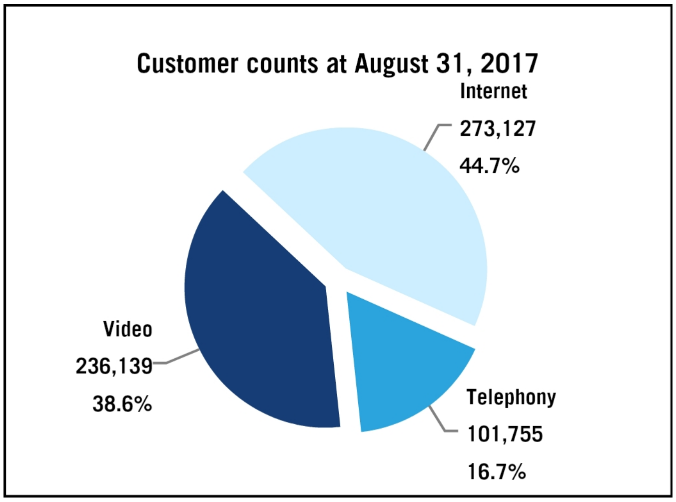
Fiscal 2017 adjusted EBITDA in local currency amounted to US$205.4 million compared to US$196.1 million for the prior year, representing an increase of US$9.3 million, or 4.7%.

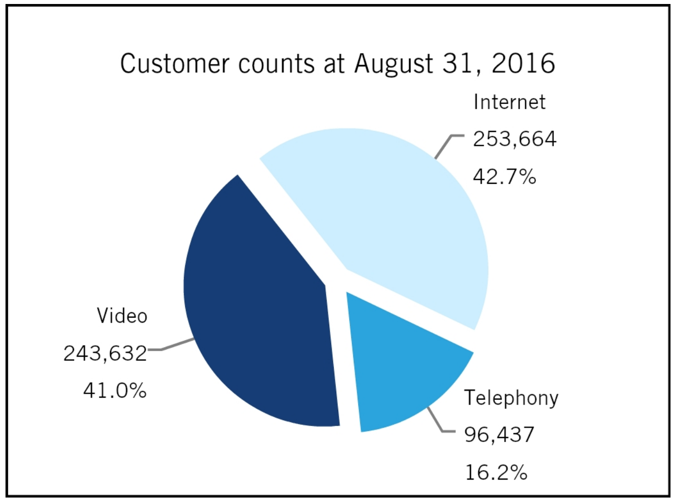
CAPITAL INTENSITY AND ACQUISITIONS OF PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT, INTANGIBLE AND OTHER ASSETS

Fiscal 2017 acquisitions of property, plant and equipment, intangible and other assets amounted to $135.0 million, representing an increase of $15.8 million, or 13.3%, compared to the prior year. The increase is mainly due to greater investment in network infrastructure to improve the capacity of the Internet platform in order to deliver a Gigabit service and to extend the network in some of the areas we serve, including the Florida expansion. Additional CPE resulting from primary service units growth also contributed to the increase.

Fiscal 2017 capital intensity reached 21.0% compared to 19.5% for the prior year as a result of capital expenditures growth exceeding revenue growth.

CUSTOMER STATISTICS





		Net additions (losses) Years ended		% of penetration[1]	
	August 31, 2017	August 31, 2017	August 31, 2016	August 31, 2017	August 31, 2016
Primary service units	611,021	17,288	22,573		
Internet service customers	273,127	19,463	23,749	45.9	42.9
Video service customers	236,139	(7,493)	(5,671)	39.7	41.2
Telephony service customers	101,755	5,318	4,495	17.1	16.3

(1) As a percentage of homes passed.

INTERNET

Fiscal 2017 Internet service customers net additions stood at 19,463 compared to 23,749 for the prior year. The net additions stemmed from our customers' ongoing interest in high speed offerings and the continued growth of TiVo's digital advanced video services which requires an Internet subscription, growth in the business sector and the sustained interest in bundle offers.

VIDEO

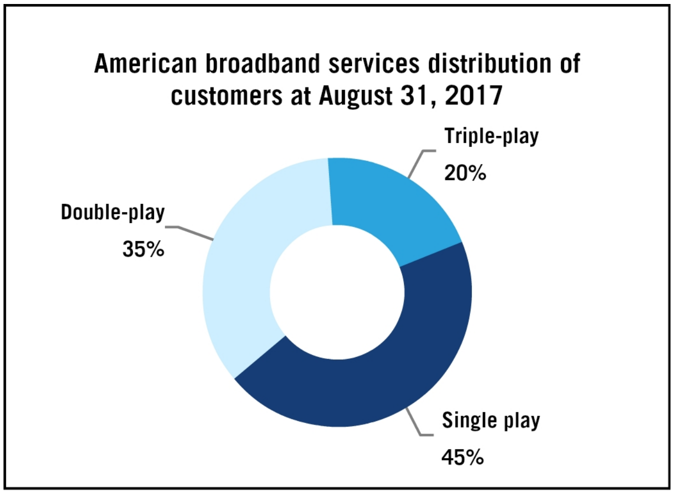
Fiscal 2017 video service customers net losses stood at 7,493 compared to 5,671 for the prior year. The net loss resulted mainly from higher churn driven by competitive offers in the industry and the implementation of rate increases in September 2016 combined with the changing video consumption environment. In addition, the net loss was partly offset by our customers' ongoing interest in TiVo's digital advanced video services.

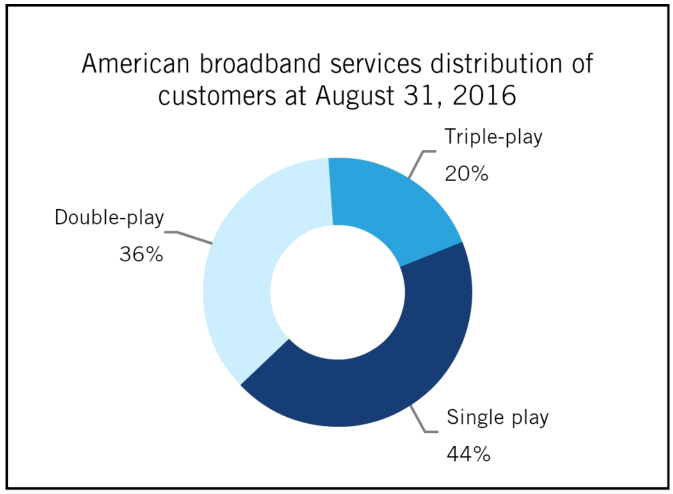
TELEPHONY

Fiscal 2017 telephony service customers net additions stood at 5,318 compared to 4,495 for the prior year mainly as a result of the continued growth in the residential and business sectors.

DISTRIBUTION OF CUSTOMERS

At August 31, 2017, 55% (56% in 2016) of the American broadband services customers subscribed to two or more services. The distribution of customers by number of services for the American broadband services were: 45% (44% in 2016) who subscribe to the single play, 35% (36% in 2016) to the double-play and 20% (20% in 2016) to the triple-play.





6.3 BUSINESS ICT SERVICES

OPERATING AND FINANCIAL RESULTS

Years ended August 31,	2017	2016	Change
(in thousands of dollars, except percentages)	$	$	%
Revenue	290,799	301,523	(3.6)
Operating expenses	199,748	203,189	(1.7)
Adjusted EBITDA	91,051	98,334	(7.4)
Operating margin	31.3%	32.6%	—
Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment, intangible and other assets	52,977	114,515	(53.7)
Capital intensity	18.2%	38.0%	—

REVENUE

Fiscal 2017 revenue decreased by $10.7 million, or 3.6%, to reach $290.8 million compared to fiscal 2016. The decrease is primarily due to competitive pricing pressures on the hosting and network connectivity services and the depreciation of the British Pound currency against the Canadian dollar compared to the prior year, partly offset by colocation revenue growth and the recognition of $2 million in non-recurring revenue related to an Indefeasible Right of Use ("IRU") agreement concluded in the second quarter of fiscal 2017. Fiscal 2017 revenue, excluding the $2 million non-recurring revenue, decreased by $12.7 million, or 4.2%.

OPERATING EXPENSES

Fiscal 2017 operating expenses decreased by $3.4 million, or 1.7%, to reach $199.7 million compared to $203.2 million for the prior year. The decrease is mainly due to lower fees paid to third parties as a result of a decline in revenue, a $1.8 million gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment recognized in the first quarter of fiscal 2017 combined with lower employee compensation costs due to lower headcount and the depreciation of the British Pound currency against the Canadian dollar compared to the prior year. The decrease was partly offset by additional marketing initiatives and IT expenses.

ADJUSTED EBITDA AND OPERATING MARGIN

Fiscal 2017 adjusted EBITDA decreased by $7.3 million, or 7.4%, to reach $91.1 million due to declining revenue. Consequently, operating margins decreased to 31.3% from 32.6% compared to fiscal 2016. Fiscal 2017 adjusted EBITDA, excluding non-recurring items of $3.8 million, decreased by $11.1 million, or 11.3%.

CAPITAL INTENSITY AND ACQUISITIONS OF PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT, INTANGIBLE AND OTHER ASSETS

Fiscal 2017 acquisitions of property, plant and equipment, intangible and other assets amounted to $53.0 million, representing a decrease of $61.5 million, or 53.7%, compared to the prior year. The decrease is due to a greater focus on capital expenditure optimization combined with the timing of certain initiatives. In addition, capital expenditures were higher in fiscal 2016 due to strategic investments at the Kirkland data centre facility.

Fiscal 2017 capital intensity reached 18.2% compared to 38.0% for the prior year mainly as a result of a decrease in acquisitions of property, plant and equipment, intangible and other assets.

7. FINANCIAL POSITION

7.1 WORKING CAPITAL

As part of the usual conduct of its business, Cogeco Communications maintains a working capital deficiency due to a low level of trade and other receivables since a large proportion of the Corporation's customers pay before their services are rendered, while trade and other payables are usually paid after products are delivered or services are rendered, enabling the Corporation to use the resulting cash and cash equivalents to reduce Indebtedness.

The variations are as follows:

At August 31,	2017	2016	Change	Explanations
(in thousands of dollars)	$	$	$	
Current assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	211,185	62,286	148,899	Please refer to the "Cash flow and analysis" section.
Short-term investments	54,000	—	54,000	Short-term investments of $54.0 million made in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2017.
Trade and other receivables	90,387	115,435	(25,048)	Receipt of the amount from the claims and litigations receivable recognized in fiscal 2015, a change in the billing cycle of a portion of Canadian broadband customers combined with the depreciation of the US dollar against the Canadian dollar, partly offset by revenue growth.
Income taxes receivable	4,210	12,701	(8,491)	Related to a corporate structure reorganization of the Canadian broadband services segment subsidiaries combined with a refund received.
Prepaid expenses and other	20,763	16,208	4,555	Non significant.
Derivative financial instrument	98	1,040	(942)	Non significant.
	380,643	207,670	172,973	
Current liabilities				
Bank indebtedness	3,801	4,115	(314)	Non significant.
Trade and other payables	316,762	289,668	27,094	Timing of payments made to suppliers.
Provisions	23,010	30,688	(7,678)	Mostly related to the settlement of claims and litigations recognized in fiscal 2016 in the Business ICT services segment during the third quarter of fiscal 2017.
Income tax liabilities	103,649	26,680	76,969	Timing of payments of income taxes related to the deferral in the first quarter of fiscal 2018 of income tax installments pursuant to a corporate structure reorganization of the Canadian broadband services segment subsidiaries.
Deferred and prepaid revenue	85,005	61,316	23,689	Mostly related to an advance payment for a large colocation contract in the Business ICT segment combined with a change in the billing cycle of a portion of Canadian broadband customers.
Balance due on a business combination	118	—	118	Non significant.
Derivative financial instruments	192	—	192	Non significant.
Intercompany note payable - Cogeco Inc.	—	40,000	(40,000)	Repayment of the short-term intercompany Revolving Credit Facility during the third quarter of fiscal 2017.
Current portion of long-term debt	131,915	22,516	109,399	Mostly related to the $100 million Senior Unsecured Debenture maturing in March 2018.
	664,452	474,983	189,469	
Working capital deficiency	(283,809)	(267,313)	(16,496)	

7.2 OTHER SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

At August 31, *(in thousands of dollars)*	2017 $	2016 $	Change $	Explanations
Non-current assets				
Property, plant and equipment	**1,947,239**	1,989,720	(42,481)	Depreciation expense exceeding capital expenditures combined with the depreciation of the US dollar and the British Pound against the Canadian dollar.
Intangible assets	**1,978,302**	2,059,548	(81,246)	Amortization expense exceeding acquisitions of intangible assets combined with the depreciation of the US dollar and the British Pound against the Canadian dollar.
Goodwill	**1,023,424**	1,060,780	(37,356)	Depreciation of the US dollar and the British Pound against the Canadian dollar.
Non-current liabilities				
Long-term debt	**2,444,518**	2,838,130	(393,612)	Repayments on the Term Revolving Facility and First Lien Credit Facilities combined with the reclassification to current portion of the $100 million Senior Unsecured Debenture maturing in March 2018 and with the depreciation of the US dollar against the Canadian dollar.

8. CAPITAL RESOURCES AND LIQUIDITY

8.1 CAPITAL STRUCTURE

The table below summarizes debt-related financial ratios over the last two fiscal years and the fiscal 2018 guidelines:

Years ended August 31,	2018 Guidelines (1)	2017	2016
Average cost of indebtedness(2)	4.0%	**4.4%**	4.1%
Fixed rate indebtedness(3)	100%	**78%**	73%
Average term: long-term debt (in years)	2.8	**4.0**	4.8
Net secured indebtedness(4) / adjusted EBITDA	1.8	**1.7**	2.3
Net indebtedness(5) / adjusted EBITDA	2.1	**2.3**	2.9
Adjusted EBITDA / financial expense	N/A (6)	**7.8**	7.2

(1) Based on mid-range guidelines.

(2) Excludes amortization of financing fees and commitment fees but includes the impact of interest rate swaps. 2018 guidelines include the impact of forward starting interest rate swaps executed in October 2017.

(3) Taking into consideration the interest rate swaps in effect at the end of each fiscal year. 2018 guidelines include the impact of forward starting interest rate swaps executed in October 2017.

(4) Net secured indebtedness is defined as the aggregate of bank indebtedness, balance due on a business combination, intercompany note payable, principal on long-term debt and obligations under derivative financial instruments, less cash and cash equivalents, short-term investments and principal on Senior Unsecured Debenture and Senior Unsecured Notes.

(5) Net indebtedness is defined as the aggregate of bank indebtedness, intercompany note payable, principal on long-term debt and obligations under derivative financial instruments, less cash and cash equivalents and short-term investments.

(6) Specific guidance on interest coverage cannot be provided given that financial expense guidance is not provided.

In fiscal 2018, excluding the impact of the announced acquisition of MetroCast which is expected to close in early January 2018, the financial leverage ratio relating to net indebtedness over adjusted EBITDA should decline as a result of growing adjusted EBITDA and a projected reduction in Indebtedness from generated free cash flow. The net secured leverage is expected to slightly increase as excess cash should be used to redeem unsecured indebtedness.

8.2 OUTSTANDING SHARE DATA

A description of Cogeco Communications' share data at September 30, 2017 is presented in the table below. Additional details are provided in note 18 of the consolidated financial statements.

(in thousands of dollars, except number of shares/options)	Number of shares/options	Amount $
Common shares		
Multiple voting shares	15,691,100	98,346
Subordinate voting shares	33,813,777	933,149
Options to purchase subordinate voting shares		
Outstanding options	652,385	
Exercisable options	200,526	

8.3 FINANCING

On December 9, 2016, the Corporation extended its Term Revolving Facility maturity date by an additional year until January 24, 2022.

At August 31, 2017, the Corporation had used $6.1 million of its $800 million Term Revolving Facility for a remaining availability of $793.9 million. In addition, two subsidiaries related to Atlantic Broadband benefit from a Revolving Facility of $188.0 million (US$150 million), of which $38.6 million (US$30.8 million) was used at August 31, 2017 for a remaining availability of $149.4 million (US$119.2 million).

8.4 CREDIT RATINGS

The table below shows Cogeco Communications' and Atlantic Broadband's credit ratings:

At August 31, 2017	S&P	DBRS	Fitch	Moody's
Cogeco Communications				
Senior Secured Notes and Debentures	BBB	BBB (low)	BBB-	NR
Senior Unsecured Notes	BB-	BB	BB+	NR
Atlantic Broadband				
First Liens Credit Facilities	BB	NR	NR	Ba3

NR : Not rated

Pursuant to the announcement of the MetroCast acquisition, all credit ratings for Cogeco Communications and Atlantic Broadband were confirmed. However, the credit rating on Atlantic Broadband's First Lien Credit Facilities to be issued at the closing of the MetroCast acquisition will be downgraded to B1 and BB- by Moody's and S&P, respectively, due to the additional financial leverage at Atlantic Broadband resulting from the acquisition.

Our ability to access debt capital markets and bank credit markets and the cost and amount of funding available partly depends on the quality of our credit ratings. Obligations rated in the "BBB" category are considered investment grade and their cost of funding is typically lower relative to the "BB/B" rating category. In addition, obligations with BBB ratings generally have greater access to funding than those with "BB/B" ratings.

8.5 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Interest rate risk

The Corporation is exposed to interest rate risks on its floating interest rate instruments. Interest rate fluctuations will have an effect on the repayment of these instruments. At August 31, 2017, all of the Corporation's long-term debt was at fixed rate, except for the amounts drawn under the First Lien Credit Facilities.

To reduce such risk, the Corporations' US subsidiary entered into interest rate swap agreements. The following table shows the interest rate swaps outstanding at August 31, 2017:

Type of hedge	Notional amount	Receive interest rate	Pay interest rate	Maturity	Hedged item
Cash flow	US$75 million	US Libor base rate	0.6120%	October 30, 2017	Term Loan A-3 Facility
Cash flow	US$75 million	US Libor base rate	0.9870%	July 31, 2019	Term Loan A-2 Facility

The sensitivity of the Corporation's annual financial expense to an increase of 1% in the interest rate applicable to the unhedged portion of these facilities would represent an increase of approximately $5.6 million based on the outstanding debt at August 31, 2017.

Foreign exchange risk

The Corporation is exposed to foreign exchange risk with respect to the interest associated with its long-term debt denominated in US dollars. The impact of a 10% increase in the exchange rate of the US dollar into Canadian dollars would increase financial expense by approximately $7.1 million based on the outstanding debt at August 31, 2017.

The Corporation faces exposure to foreign exchange risk related to its forecasted purchase commitments of property, plant and equipment denominated in US dollars. In order to mitigate such risk, the Corporation enters into foreign currency forward contracts and designates them as cash-flow hedges for accounting purposes. The following table shows the forward contracts outstanding at August 31, 2017:

Type of hedge	Notional amount	Maturity	Exchange rate	Hedged item
Cash flow	US$9.9 million	October - November 2017	1.2653 - 1.2672	Purchase commitments of property, plant and equipment

Furthermore, the Corporation's net investments in foreign operations are exposed to market risk attributable to fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates, primarily changes in the values of the Canadian dollar versus the US dollar and British Pound. This risk related to the US dollar is mitigated since the major part of the purchase prices for Atlantic Broadband and Cogeco Peer 1 were borrowed directly in US dollars.

The following table shows the net investments in foreign operations outstanding at August 31, 2017:

Type of hedge	Notional amount of debt	Aggregate investments	Hedged item
Net investment	US$790 million	US$905.9 million	Net investments in foreign operations in US dollar
N/A	£—	£27.4 million	N/A

The exchange rates used to convert the US dollar currency and British Pound currency into Canadian dollar for the consolidated statement of financial position accounts at August 31, 2017 was $1.2536 ($1.3116 in 2016) per US dollar and $1.6161 ($1.7223 in 2016) per British Pound. A 10% decrease in the exchange rates of the US dollar and British Pound into Canadian dollars would decrease other comprehensive income by approximately $18.9 million.

For the year ended August 31, 2017, the average rates prevailing used to convert the operating results of the American broadband services and a portion of the Business ICT services segments were as follows:

Years ended August 31,	2017	2016	Change
	$	$	%
US dollar vs Canadian dollar	1.3205	1.3273	(0.5)
British Pound vs Canadian dollar	1.6711	1.9146	(12.7)

The following table highlights in Canadian dollars, the impact of a 10% increase in the US dollar and British Pound against the Canadian dollar on Cogeco Communications' segmented and consolidated operating results for the year ended August 31, 2017:

	Canadian broadband services		American broadband services		Business ICT services		Consolidated	
	As reported	Exchange rate impact	As reported	Exchange rate impact	As reported	Exchange rate impact	As reported (1)	Exchange rate impact
(in thousands of dollars)	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Revenue	1,296,455	—	643,135	64,318	290,799	15,035	2,226,851	79,353
Operating expenses	618,223	3,256	371,947	37,195	199,748	9,234	1,202,942	49,685
Management fees - Cogeco Inc.	—	—	—	—	—	—	18,939	—
Adjusted EBITDA	678,232	(3,256)	271,188	27,123	91,051	5,801	1,004,970	29,668
Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment, intangible and other assets	240,130	6,476	134,950	13,510	52,977	2,880	428,057	22,866
Free cash flow	—	—	—	—	—	—	373,735	(523)

(1) The consolidated results do not correspond to the addition of the operating segment's results as inter-segment eliminations and other are not presented.

8.6 COMMITMENTS AND GUARANTEES

Cogeco Communications' contractual obligations at August 31, 2017 are shown in the table below:

Years ended August 31,	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Thereafter	Total
(in thousands of dollars)	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Long-term debt[1]	131,936	93,837	1,179,270	200,000	200,000	788,904	2,593,947
Balance due on business combination	118	—	—	—	—	—	118
Derivatives financial instruments	192	—	—	—	—	—	192
Operating lease agreements[2]	29,901	27,729	26,839	24,466	21,818	25,841	156,594
Other long-term contracts[3]	25,320	8,092	8,404	4,550	4,548	29,077	79,991
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets[4]	10,347	16,989	—	—	—	—	27,336
Pension plan liabilities and accrued employees benefits [5]	—	—	—	—	—	4,934	4,934
Total contractual obligations[6]	197,814	146,647	1,214,513	229,016	226,366	848,756	2,863,112

(1) Includes principal.

(2) Include operating lease agreements for rent of premises and support structures.

(3) Include long-term commitments with suppliers to provide services including minimum spend commitments.

(4) Include minimum spend commitments under acquisitions of home terminal devices and software licenses.

(5) The nature of these obligations prevents the Corporation from estimating an annual breakdown.

(6) Annual breakdown excludes pension plan liabilities and accrued employees benefits.

In the normal course of business, the Corporation provides indemnification in conjunction with certain transactions. While many of the agreements specify a maximum potential exposure, some do not specify a maximum amount. The overall maximum amount of an indemnification obligation will depend on future events and conditions and therefore cannot be reasonably estimated. As a result, we cannot determine how they could affect our future liquidity, capital resources or credit risk profile. At August 31, 2017 and 2016, no liability has been recorded with respect to these indemnifications, except for those disclosed in Note 16 of the consolidated financial statements.

BUSINESS COMBINATIONS AND ASSET DISPOSALS

In connection with the acquisition or sale of a business or assets, in addition to possible indemnifications relating to failure to perform covenants and breach of representations and warranties, the Corporation has agreed to indemnify the seller or the purchaser against claims related to events that occurred prior to the date of acquisition or sale.

LONG-TERM DEBT

Under the terms of the Senior Secured Notes and Senior Unsecured Notes, the Corporation has agreed to indemnify the lenders against changes in regulations relative to withholding taxes and costs incurred due to changes in laws.

SALE OF SERVICES

As part of transactions involving the sale of services, the Corporation and its subsidiaries may be required to make payments to counterparties as a result of breaches of representations and warranties made into the service agreements.

PURCHASE AND DEVELOPMENT OF ASSETS

As part of transactions involving the purchase and development of assets, the Corporation and its subsidiaries may be required to pay counterparties for costs and losses incurred as a result of breaches of representations and warranties contained in the purchase agreements.

9. QUARTERLY OPERATING RESULTS

9.1 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

				Fiscal 2017				Fiscal 2016
Quarters ended	Nov. 30	Feb. 28	May 31	Aug. 31	Nov. 30	Feb. 29	May 31	Aug. 31
(in thousands of dollars, except percentages, per share data and number of shares)	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Revenue	549,090	560,875	565,158	551,728	540,313	551,523	540,257	544,056
Adjusted EBITDA	249,703	253,939	254,233	247,195	244,142	248,382	243,115	247,810
Operating margin	45.5%	45.3%	45.0%	44.8%	45.2%	45.0%	45.0%	45.5%
Integration, restructuring and acquisition costs	—	—	—	3,191	2,030	4,320	1,126	1,326
Claims and litigations	—	—	—	—	—	—	10,499	292
Impairment of goodwill and intangible assets	—	—	—	—	—	—	450,000	—
Profit (loss) for the period	75,024	76,663	76,203	71,335	61,106	62,042	(387,357)	74,581
Cash flow from operating activities	123,461	245,550	241,689	345,957	96,093	205,954	181,498	261,623
Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment, intangible and other assets	96,494	86,199	100,202	145,162	146,319	116,732	94,442	110,017
Free cash flow	101,379	116,787	104,728	50,841	40,042	74,698	84,664	81,594
Capital intensity	17.6%	15.4%	17.7%	26.3%	27.1%	21.2%	17.5%	20.2%
Earnings (loss) per share(1)(2)								
Basic	1.53	1.56	1.55	1.45	1.25	1.27	(7.89)	1.52
Diluted	1.52	1.55	1.54	1.44	1.24	1.26	(7.89)	1.52
Dividend per share	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39
Weighted average number of multiple and subordinate voting shares outstanding	49,144,311	49,190,249	49,230,481	49,250,857	48,949,816	48,969,487	49,096,586	49,111,998

(1) The addition of quarterly information may not correspond to the annual total due to rounding.
(2) Per multiple and subordinate voting share.

9.2 SEASONAL VARIATIONS

Cogeco Communications' operating results are not generally subject to material seasonal fluctuations except as follows. In the Canadian and American broadband services segments, the number of Internet and video services customers are generally lower in the second half of the fiscal year as a result of a decrease in economic activity due to the beginning of the vacation period, the end of the television season, and students leaving their campuses at the end of the school year. Cogeco Communications offers its services in several university and college towns such as Kingston, Windsor, St.Catharines, Hamilton, Peterborough, Trois-Rivières and Rimouski in Canada and in Pennsylvania, and to a lesser extent in South Carolina, eastern Connecticut, Maryland and Delaware in the United States. In the American broadband services segment, the Miami area is also subject to seasonal fluctuations due to the winter season residents returning home from late spring through the fall.

9.3 FOURTH-QUARTER OPERATIONAL AND FINANCIAL RESULTS

CONSOLIDATED

OPERATING AND FINANCIAL RESULTS

Quarters ended August 31,	2017	2016	Change
(in thousands of dollars, except percentages)	$	$	%
Revenue	551,728	544,056	1.4
Operating expenses	299,880	291,666	2.8
Management fees – Cogeco Inc.	4,653	4,580	1.6
Adjusted EBITDA	247,195	247,810	(0.2)
Operating margin	44.8%	45.5%	—

Fiscal 2017 fourth-quarter revenue improved by $7.7 million, or 1.4%, to reach $551.7 million compared to the same period of the prior year. For the fourth quarter ended August 31, 2017, operating expenses increased by $8.2 million, or 2.8%, to reach $299.9 million and management fees paid to Cogeco remained essentially the same at $4.7 million compared to $4.6 million for the same period of the prior year. As a result of comparable revenue growth and comparable combined growth in operating expenses and management fees in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2017, adjusted EBITDA remained essentially the same at $247.2 million compared to the same period of the prior year. Operating margin decreased to 44.8% from 45.5% compared to the fourth quarter of fiscal 2016.

CANADIAN BROADBAND SERVICES

OPERATING AND FINANCIAL RESULTS

Quarters ended August 31,	2017	2016	Change
(in thousands of dollars, except percentages)	$	$	%
Revenue	324,854	320,495	1.4
Operating expenses	155,499	151,268	2.8
Adjusted EBITDA	169,355	169,227	0.1
Operating margin	52.1%	52.8%	—
Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment, intangible and other assets	85,549	46,317	84.7%
Capital intensity	26.3%	14.5%	—

REVENUE

Fiscal 2017 fourth-quarter revenue increased by $4.4 million, or 1.4%, to reach $324.9 million. The increase for the quarter is mainly due to the impact of rate increases implemented in December 2016, the continued growth in Internet services customers combined with the movement of customers to higher value packages. The increase was partly offset by a decline in video and telephony customers, the impact of the interim decision of the CRTC to reduce significantly TPIA capacity rates as well as last year's non-recurring revenue of $1.7 million. Fiscal 2017 fourth-quarter revenue, excluding the non-recurring revenue of last year, increased by $6.1 million, or 1.9%.

OPERATING EXPENSES

Fiscal 2017 fourth-quarter operating expenses increased by $4.2 million, or 2.8%, to reach $155.5 million. The increase resulted mainly from additional costs related to the deployment of a new customer relations management system as well as from last year's $1.3 million gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment, partly offset by a shift in product mix to higher margin Internet services from traditional video services.

ADJUSTED EBITDA AND OPERATING MARGIN

Fiscal 2017 fourth-quarter adjusted EBITDA remained essentially the same at $169.4 million compared to $169.2 million for the same period of the prior year mainly as a result of last year's favorable impact of $3.0 million in non-recurring items. Consequently, operating margin decreased to 52.1% from 52.8% compared to fiscal 2016 fourth-quarter. Fiscal 2017 fourth-quarter adjusted EBITDA, excluding last year's non-recurring items of $3.0 million, increased by $3.1 million, or 1.9%.

ACQUISITIONS OF PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT, INTANGIBLE AND OTHER ASSETS

Fiscal 2017 fourth-quarter acquisitions of property, plant and equipment, intangible and other assets amounted to $85.5 million, representing an increase of $39.2 million, or 84.7%, compared to the same period of the prior year. The variation resulted mainly from additional equipment purchases to improve the capacity of the Internet platform in order to expand the Gigabit service in some of the areas we serve as well as higher purchases of CPE.

Fiscal 2017 fourth-quarter capital intensity reached 26.3% compared to 14.5% for the same period of the prior year as a result of capital expenditures growth exceeding revenue growth.

CUSTOMER STATISTICS

		Quarters ended August 31, Net additions (losses)	
	August 31, 2017	**2017**	2016
Primary service units	**1,916,861**	**(9,676)**	(7,782)
Internet service customers	**769,869**	**5,519**	5,615
Video service customers	**720,636**	**(9,065)**	(7,934)
Telephony service customers	**426,356**	**(6,130)**	(5,463)

INTERNET

Fiscal 2017 fourth-quarter Internet service customers net additions stood at 5,519 compared to 5,615 in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2016. Internet net additions continue to stem from customers' ongoing interest in high speed offerings and in TiVo's digital advanced video services which require an Internet subscription, the continued growth of customers from Internet resellers as well as the sustained interest in bundle offers.

VIDEO

Fiscal 2017 fourth-quarter video service customers net losses stood at 9,065 compared to 7,934 for the same period of the prior year. The loss for the quarter resulted mainly from service category maturity and a changing video consumption environment, partly offset by the customers' ongoing interest in TiVo's digital advanced video services, as well as bundles with fast Internet offerings, in spite of competitive offers in the industry.

TELEPHONY

Fiscal 2017 fourth-quarter telephony service customers net losses stood at 6,130 compared to 5,463 for the same period of the prior year. The telephony service customer losses are mainly due to the increasing mobile penetration in North America and various unlimited offers launched by mobile operators causing customers to cancel their landline telephony services for mobile telephony services only.

AMERICAN BROADBAND SERVICES

OPERATING AND FINANCIAL RESULTS

Quarters ended August 31,	**2017**	2016	Change
(in thousands of dollars, except percentages)	**$**	$	%
Revenue	**158,124**	150,980	4.7
Operating expenses	**92,237**	86,983	6.0
Adjusted EBITDA	**65,887**	63,997	3.0
Operating margin	**41.7%**	42.4%	—
Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment, intangible and other assets	**35,581**	32,986	7.9
Capital intensity	**22.5%**	21.8%	—

REVENUE

Fiscal 2017 fourth-quarter revenue increased by $7.1 million, or 4.7%, to reach $158.1 million. Revenue increased primarily as a result of the continued growth in Internet and telephony services customers in both the residential and business sectors combined with rate increases implemented in September 2016, partly offset by lower video customers and the depreciation of the US dollar against the Canadian dollar compared to the same period of the prior year.

Fiscal 2017 fourth-quarter revenue in local currency amounted to US$122.9 million, an increase of US$6.6 million, or 5.7%, compared to US $116.3 million for the same period of fiscal 2016.

OPERATING EXPENSES

Fiscal 2017 fourth-quarter operating expenses increased by $5.3 million, or 6.0%, to reach $92.2 million. The increase is mainly due to programming rate increases, costs to serve additional primary service units and to support the business sector development as well as the continued expansion in Florida, partly offset by the depreciation of the US dollar against the Canadian dollar compared to the same period of the prior year.

Fiscal 2017 fourth-quarter operating expenses in local currency amounted to US$71.7 million, an increase of US$4.7 million, or 7.0%, compared to US$67.0 million for the same period of fiscal 2016.

ADJUSTED EBITDA AND OPERATING MARGIN

Fiscal 2017 fourth-quarter adjusted EBITDA increased by $1.9 million, or 3.0%, to reach $65.9 million compared to $64.0 million for the same period of the prior year. As a result of operating expense growth exceeding revenue growth, fiscal 2017 fourth-quarter operating margin decreased to 41.7% from 42.4% compared to the same period of the prior year.

Fiscal 2017 fourth-quarter adjusted EBITDA in local currency amounted to US$51.2 million, an increase of US$1.9 million, or 3.9%, compared to US$49.3 million for the same period the prior year.

ACQUISITIONS OF PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT, INTANGIBLE AND OTHER ASSETS

Fiscal 2017 fourth-quarter acquisitions of property, plant and equipment, intangible and other assets amounted to $35.6 million, representing an increase of $2.6 million, or 7.9%, compared to the same period of the prior year. The increase is mainly due to greater investment in network infrastructure to improve the capacity of the Internet platform in order to deliver a Gigabit service combined with the ongoing growth in the business sector and network expansion in some of the areas we serve.

Fiscal 2017 fourth-quarter capital intensity reached 22.5% compared to 21.8% for the same period of the prior year as a result of capital expenditures growth exceeding revenue growth.

CUSTOMER STATISTICS

		Quarters ended August 31, Net additions (losses)	
	August 31, 2017	2017	2016
Primary service units	611,021	2,633	3,733
Internet service customers	273,127	2,791	4,212
Video service customers	236,139	(1,180)	(1,520)
Telephony service customers	101,755	1,022	1,041

INTERNET

Fiscal 2017 fourth-quarter Internet service customers net additions amounted to 2,791 compared to 4,212 in fiscal 2016. The net additions stemmed from the customers' ongoing interest in high speed offerings and the continued growth of TiVo's digital advanced video services which requires an Internet subscription, growth in the business sector and the sustained interest in bundle offers.

VIDEO

Fiscal 2017 fourth-quarter video service customers net losses stood at 1,180 compared to 1,520 in fiscal 2016. The lower loss resulted mainly from the customers' ongoing interest in TiVo's digital advanced video services, partly offset by competitive offers in the industry combined with the changing video consumption environment.

TELEPHONY

Fiscal 2017 fourth-quarter telephony service customers net additions stood at 1,022 compared to 1,041 in fiscal 2016 mainly as a result of the continued growth in the residential and business sectors.

BUSINESS ICT SERVICES

OPERATING AND FINANCIAL RESULTS

Quarters ended August 31,	2017	2016	Change
(in thousands of dollars, except percentages)	$	$	%
Revenue	69,622	73,539	(5.3)
Operating expenses	48,152	51,679	(6.8)
Adjusted EBITDA	21,470	21,860	(1.8)
Operating margin	30.8%	29.7%	—
Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment, intangible and other assets	24,032	30,723	(21.8)
Capital intensity	34.5%	41.8%	—

REVENUE

Fiscal 2017 fourth-quarter revenue decreased by $3.9 million, or 5.3%, to reach $69.6 million compared to $73.5 million for the same period the prior year. Revenue decreased for the quarter as a result of competitive pricing pressures on the hosting and network connectivity services.

OPERATING EXPENSES

Fiscal 2016 fourth-quarter operating expenses decreased by $3.5 million, or 6.8% to reach $48.2 million mainly due to lower fees paid to third parties as a result of a decline in revenue combined with lower employee compensation costs due to lower headcount.

ADJUSTED EBITDA AND OPERATING MARGIN

Fiscal 2017 fourth-quarter adjusted EBITDA slightly decreased by $0.4 million, or 1.8% to reach $21.5 million compared to the same period of the prior year. Excluding the impact of foreign exchange rates, the adjusted EBITDA was essentially the same. Operating margin increased from 29.7% to 30.8% in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2017 compared to the same period of the prior year.

ACQUISITIONS OF PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT, INTANGIBLE AND OTHER ASSETS

Fiscal 2017 acquisitions of property, plant and equipment, intangible and other assets amounted to $24.0 million, representing a decrease of $6.7 million, or 21.8%, compared to the prior year. The decrease is due to a greater focus on capital expenditure optimization, partly offset by additional servers to support future growth. In addition, capital expenditures were higher in the comparable period of fiscal 2016 due to strategic investments at the Kirkland data centre facility.

Fiscal 2017 fourth-quarter capital intensity reached 34.5% compared to 41.8% for the same period of the prior year mainly as a result of lower capital expenditures.

CASH FLOW ANALYSIS

Quarters ended August 31,	2017	2016	Variation
(in thousands of dollars, except percentages)	$	$	%
Cash flow from operating activities	345,957	261,623	32.2
Cash flow from investing activities	(197,971)	(107,967)	83.4
Cash flow from financing activities	(36,440)	(146,114)	(75.1)
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents denominated in foreign currencies	(2,428)	(14)	—
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	109,118	7,528	—
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	102,067	54,758	86.4
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	211,185	62,286	—

Fiscal 2017 fourth-quarter cash flow from operating activities reached $346.0 million, representing an increase of $84.3 million, or 32.2%, compared to the same period of the prior year mainly as a result of the following:

- the increase of $58.1 million in changes in non-cash operating activities primarily due to changes in working capital; and
- the decrease of $21.1 million in income taxes paid mainly as a result of the timing of payments related to the deferral in the first quarter of fiscal 2018 of income tax installments pursuant to a corporate structure reorganization of the Canadian broadband services segment subsidiaries.

INVESTING ACTIVITIES

Fiscal 2017 fourth-quarter investing activities increased by $90.0 million, or 83.4%, to reach $198.0 million compared to the same period of fiscal 2016 mainly as a result of the $54.0 million acquisition of short-term instruments during the fourth quarter of fiscal 2017 as well as additional acquisitions of property, plant and equipment, intangible and other assets as explained below.

ACQUISITIONS OF PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT, INTANGIBLE AND OTHER ASSETS

The acquisitions of property, plant and equipment, intangible and other assets as well as the capital intensity per operating segment are as follows:

Quarters ended August 31,	2017	2016	Change
(in thousands of dollars, except percentages)	$	$	%
Canadian broadband services	**85,549**	46,317	84.7
Capital intensity	**26.3%**	14.5%	—
American broadband services	**35,581**	32,986	7.9
Capital intensity	**22.5%**	21.8%	—
Business ICT services	**24,032**	30,723	(21.8)
Capital intensity	**34.5%**	41.8%	—
Head office	**—**	(9)	—
Consolidated	**145,162**	110,017	31.9
Capital intensity	**26.3%**	20.2%	—

Fiscal 2017 fourth-quarter acquisitions of property, plant and equipment, intangible and other assets amounted to $145.2 million, representing an increase of $35.1 million, or 31.9%, compared to $110.0 million for fiscal 2016. The increase is mainly due to higher capital expenditures in the Canadian broadband services segment.

Fiscal 2017 fourth-quarter capital intensity reached 26.3% compared to 20.2% for the same period of the prior year mainly as a result of higher capital expenditures compared to the same period of fiscal 2016.

FREE CASH FLOW FINANCING ACTIVITIES

Fiscal 2017 fourth-quarter free cash flow amounted to $50.8 million, a decrease of $30.8 million, or 37.7%, compared to $81.6 million for the same period of the prior year mainly due to the increase of $35.1 million in acquisitions of property, plant and equipment, intangible and other assets resulting from the increase in capital expenditures as explained above.

FINANCING ACTIVITIES

For the fourth quarter of fiscal 2017, a lower Indebtedness level resulting from debt repayments led to a cash decrease of $17.2 million compared to $127.0 million for the same period of the prior year. The variation is explained as follows:

Quarters ended August 31,	2017	2016	Change	Explanations
(in thousands of dollars)	$	$	$	
Increase (decrease) in bank indebtedness	**434**	(22,748)	23,182	Related to the timing of payments made to suppliers.
Proceeds of intercompany note payable - Cogeco Inc.	**—**	40,000	(40,000)	Repayment of the short-term intercompany Revolving Credit Facility during the third quarter of fiscal 2017.
Net decreases under the revolving facilities	**(13,963)**	(144,214)	130,251	Repayments of the revolving facilities during the fourth quarter of fiscal 2017 and 2016 as a result of generated free cash flow.
Repayments of long-term debt and settlement of derivative financial instruments	**(3,634)**	—	(3,634)	Repayments on the First Lien Credit Facilities during the fourth quarter of fiscal 2017.
	(17,163)	(126,962)	109,799	

DIVIDENDS

During the fourth quarter of fiscal 2017, a quarterly eligible dividend of $0.43 per share was paid to the holders of subordinate and multiple voting shares, totalling $21.2 million, compared to an eligible dividend paid of $0.39 per share, or $19.2 million in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2016.

10. FISCAL 2018 FINANCIAL GUIDELINES

Cogeco Communications maintains its fiscal 2018 preliminary financial guidelines as issued on July 13, 2017. Fiscal 2018 financial guidelines will be revised in the first quarter of fiscal 2018 to take into consideration the completion of the MetroCast acquisition which is expected in January 2018.

Cogeco Communications expects fiscal 2018 revenue to reach between $2.30 billion and $2.33 billion. In the Canadian broadband services segment, revenue growth should stem primarily from the residential and business sectors as well as from the impact of rate increases in most services. Residential revenue should also increase from the ongoing interest in Internet services, partly offset by a decline in video and telephony services as a result of service category maturity, competitive offers in the industry and a changing video consumption environment. In addition, we expect the penetration of digital video and Internet services to continue to benefit from customers' ongoing interest in TiVo's digital advanced video services. Growth in the business sector should come from the increasing demand in Internet and telephony services as well as from Internet resellers' customers. In the American broadband services segment, revenue growth should stem primarily from primary service units growth in both the residential and business sectors combined with the impact of rate increases in most services. Revenue in the residential sector should continue to benefit from customers' ongoing interest in all its services, including TiVo's digital advanced video services as well as from the continued expansion in Florida. In addition, revenue growth in the business sector should be driven by new offerings in both the Internet and telephony services. In the Business ICT services segment, revenue growth should stem primarily from cloud services due to new partnership programs and additional services offered, partly offset by a decline in network connectivity services as a result of competitive pricing pressures.

Adjusted EBITDA should increase to reach between $1,025 million and $1,050 million resulting from revenue growth exceeding operating expenses as a result of cost reduction initiatives from improved systems and processes, partly offset by marketing initiatives, additional costs to support the revenue growth and annual increases in programming costs. Operating margin should remain essentially the same compared to fiscal 2017.

Free cash flow should reach between $345 million and $375 million as a result of the improvement of the adjusted EBITDA, partly offset by increases in capital expenditures and in current income taxes. As a result, generated free cash flow should reduce Indebtedness, net of cash and cash equivalents, thus improving the Corporation's net leverage ratios.

The capital intensity ratio should increase compared to fiscal 2017 mainly as a result of significantly higher capital expenditures for the American broadband services segment as a result of a continued expansion in high growth segments in Florida.

The following table outlines fiscal 2018 financial guidelines ranges on a consolidated basis:

(in millions of dollars)	Projections Fiscal 2018 [(1)] $	Actuals Fiscal 2017 [(1)] $
Financial guidelines		
Revenue	2,300 to 2,330	2,227
Adjusted EBITDA	1,025 to 1,050	1,005
Operating margin	44.6% to 45.1%	45.1%
Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment, intangible and other assets	470 to 485	428
Free cash flow	345 to 375	374
Capital intensity	20.5% to 21.0%	19.2%

(1) Fiscal 2018 financial guidelines are based on an estimated USD/CDN exchange rate of 1.33 and a GBP/CDN exchange rate of 1.65 compared to 1.32 and 1.67, respectively, for fiscal 2017. The assumed current income tax effective rate is approximately 23%.

The USD/CDN foreign exchange rate has been volatile over the past months. The volatility could persist during fiscal 2018, which makes the exchange rate difficult to predict. The impact of a 10% increase in the US dollar and British Pound against the Canadian dollar on Cogeco Communications' consolidated revenue and adjusted EBITDA was $79 million and $30 million, respectively, in fiscal 2017 - refer to "Capital resources and liquidity" section. We expect foreign exchange variations to have relatively similar effects on fiscal 2018 results. Consequently, a USD/CDN exchange rate of 1.28 as opposed to the 1.33 exchange rate used in the fiscal 2018 financial guidelines, would reduce fiscal 2018 revenue and adjusted EBITDA by approximately $30 million and $12 million, respectively, excluding the MetroCast acquisition which is expected to be completed in January 2018. However, variations in foreign exchange rates have a negligible effect on consolidated free cash flows since variations in the value of Indebtedness and related interest costs serve as a natural hedge to variations in the other elements contained in free cash flows. At August 31, 2017, 67% of Indebtedness was denominated in US dollar.

11. UNCERTAINTIES AND MAIN RISK FACTORS

This section outlines the principal risks and uncertainties which Cogeco Communications and its subsidiaries currently believe to be material. It does not purport to cover all contingencies, or to describe all possible factors that might have an influence on the Corporation or its activities at any point in time. Furthermore, the risks and uncertainties outlined in this section may or may not materialize in the end, may evolve differently than expected or may have different consequences than those that are currently anticipated. If any of the following risks, or any other risks and uncertainties that the Corporation and its subsidiaries have not yet identified or that they currently consider not to be material, actually occur or become material risks, the Corporation and its subsidiaries' businesses, guidance, prospects, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows and consequently the price of the subordinate voting shares could be materially and adversely affected.

ENTERPRISE RISK MANAGEMENT

Cogeco implemented a formal enterprise-wide risk management ("ERM") program in fiscal 2015 which incorporates all business units of the Cogeco group of companies. The ERM program is structured and governed based on the widely adopted Committee of Sponsoring Organisations of the Treadway Commission ("COSO") ERM integrated framework. As part of this program, Management identifies on an annual basis the principal business risks facing the Corporation in the context of its global business and affairs that are liable to have a material adverse impact on the Corporation’s financial situation, revenue or activities. Management also identifies appropriate risk mitigation measures to proactively manage these risks as may be reasonable and appropriate in the circumstances. Such risks and mitigation measures are presented to the Board and fully considered in the annual strategic planning process. They are also monitored by the Audit Committee which oversees the implementation by Management of appropriate risk mitigation measures.

11.1 COMPETITIVE RISKS

The industries in which we operate are very competitive, and we expect competition to increase and intensify from a number of sources in the future. Some of our competitors have longer operating histories, significantly greater financial, technical, marketing and other resources, greater brand recognition and a larger base of customers. These competitors may be able to adapt more quickly to new or emerging technologies, changes in customer requirements, and may also be able to develop services comparable or superior to those offered by us at more competitive prices. Aggressive pricing and market offers of these competitors could result in pricing pressures and increased customer acquisition and retention costs and could put pressure and adversely affect our businesses and results of operations. Our ability to compete successfully within one or more of our market segments may thus decline in the future due to increased competition from current competitors or from new entrants taking bold actions to establish, sustain or increase their position in the market. Our businesses and results of operations could be materially adversely affected to the extent that we are unable to retain our existing customers and grow our customer base while maintaining our operating margins and desired capital intensity.

We face intense competition in our Canadian broadband services segment from several large integrated electronic communications service providers.

In Canada, there are several terrestrial and satellite transmission technologies available to deliver a wide range of electronic communications services to residential homes and to commercial establishments with varying degrees of flexibility and efficiencies, which compete with our Internet, video and telephony services. BCE Inc. (“Bell”), our largest competitor, offers through its various operating entities a full range of competitive voice, Internet and video services to residential as well as to business customers in the provinces of Québec and Ontario through a combination of wireline, mobile wireless and satellite platforms throughout our network footprint. TELUS Communications Company (“Telus”) offers through its various operating entities a full range of competitive voice, Internet and video services to residential as well as to business customers in Eastern Québec and through its mobile telecommunications throughout our network footprint.

Bell and Telus are pursuing the construction of fibre-to-the-home ("FTTH") networks to deploy IP television services in their service areas. The fibre optic technologies they are using are capable of carrying two-way video, Internet with substantial bandwidth and telephony services, each of which is comparable to the services Cogeco Connexion offers.

We also compete within our network footprint in Canada with several other telecommunications service providers. Shaw Direct, the direct-to-home satellite service of Shaw Communications Inc. (“Shaw”) competes for video customers throughout our footprint. Bell, Telus, Rogers, Vidéotron and Shaw are actively marketing their mobile telecommunications services within our network footprint. Furthermore, the deployment of 5G mobile network technology may lead in the future to more competition for Internet and video services in our territories.

Cogeco Connexion also faces competition from several independent Internet service providers ("ISP") who have subscribed to the wholesale third party Internet access ("TPIA") service mandated by the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission's ("CRTC") in order to provide Internet, telephony and to a lesser extent, video services to their customers. Satellite-based access Internet services have also improved the performance and speed of their services.

Certain Canadian municipalities also plan to build and operate their own broadband networks through public/private partnership arrangements in competition with the Corporation in some of its serving areas.

Some of the large integrated electronic communications service providers we compete with in Canada also own broadcast content assets.

Some of the large integrated electronic communications service providers we compete with in Canada such as Bell, also own broadcast content assets. This vertical integration could result in content being withheld from us or being made available to us at inflated prices or unattractive terms. The CRTC adopted in September 2015 a new Wholesale Code to address potential anti-competitive practices in dealings between programming content owners and distributors. The Wholesale Code is currently being appealed by Bell before the Federal Court of Appeal. In the absence of negotiation safeguards, such as the ones contained in the Wholesale Code or other appropriate safeguards, there is a risk that vertically integrated competitors may abuse their market power and impose anticompetitive terms for the distribution of their programming services or attempt to withhold content from us. Please refer to the “Regulatory Risks” section below for more details.

Competition in the American Broadband services segment has intensified in the last fiscal year.

Our principal competitors in the United States for video services are direct broadcast satellite ("DBS") providers, DirecTV, Inc. (owned by AT&T) and Dish Network. We also face increasing competition for our video services from phone companies with fibre networks, such as AT&T U-verse, Verizon FiOs and Frontier Communications Corporation, as well as other cable companies, such as Comcast. As a condition to the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") approval of the AT&T/DirectTV acquisition, AT&T is required to deploy FTTH to 12.5 million customer locations by mid-2019. AT&T is also seeking regulatory approval to acquire Time Warner, Inc. If approved, AT&T will have access to various programming and studio assets that could enhance its video service offering. It is also uncertain whether any such regulatory approval would include conditions preventing AT&T from restricting access to such programming.

The proliferation of other subscription video on demand services, such as Netflix, Amazon Prime and Hulu Plus, has also gained traction with consumers. Additionally, some providers, such as Google and YouTube, offer advertising-supported free video programming, some of which we incur costs to acquire. The increase in alternative video service solutions could negatively impact the growth of our video business.

Our competitors for Internet services primarily offer direct subscriber line ("DSL"), and, to a lower extent FTTH. We also face competition from wireless Internet service providers offering 3G, 4G and eventually 5G wireless broadband services and Wi-Fi networks. Wireless carriers, such as T-Mobile, have also started promoting unlimited Internet data plans which could appeal to lower intensity Internet users. AT&T is also aggressively promoting its DirecTV service with its wireless products.

Our telephony services face competition from the incumbent local exchange carriers ("ILEC"), as well as other providers such as cellular and VoIP providers. We also face competition from other forms of communication, such as text messaging and social media. Our business services face competition from a variety of service providers, in addition to cloud, hosting and various applications.

We face competition in both the Canadian and American Broadband services segments from over-the-top ("OTT") content providers.

The market for video services in Canada and in the United States has changed significantly over recent years. Although TV remains the leading platform by which most people view video, more customers are switching from cable services to programming content available on OTT platforms over the Internet. The OTT trend is expected to continue and we could be materially adversely impacted if, as a result, our video customers disconnect their services or reduce their video spending and we may not be able to make up for the loss of revenue associated with this migration.

Some of our main video competitors, such as Bell in Canada or AT&T/DirecTV and Dish Network in the United States, have entered the OTT sphere with their own OTT services. Additionally, several programming networks distributed by the Corporation offer direct-to-consumer products, such as Sportsnet in Canada or HBO Now, CBS All Access and Showtime Anytime in the United States. The Corporation enables the delivery of certain OTT services on its set top boxes, but does not own any OTT platform.

An increased number of consumers are switching from landline telephony to wireless and IP based phone services.

An increased number of fixed phone customers are moving away from fixed lines to wireless and IP based phone services. This trend is largely the result of the increasing mobile penetration rate in North America and the various unlimited offers launched by mobile operators. We do not currently offer mobile services and, therefore, further erosion of fixed phone customers moving away from fixed lines mobile towards mobile phones could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, prospects and results of operations.

We do not offer "quadruple-play" service bundles that include mobile communications, since we do not offer mobile services.

Although we provide "double-play" and "triple-play" service bundles in Canada and the United States, with various combinations of Internet, video and landline telephony services being offered at bundled prices, we do not offer "quadruple-play" service bundles which include mobile communications, since we do not offer mobile telephony or mobile Internet services.

As markets evolve and mobility becomes a more cost-effective substitute to wireline communications, we may need to add mobility components to our service offerings, through suitable mobile virtual network ("MVNO") arrangements with existing or future mobile operators, or otherwise through facilities-based alternatives. We may not be able to secure on a timely basis the appropriate arrangements that may be required for competitive reasons in the future. Also, the capital and operating expenses eventually required to offer quadruple-play service bundles and mobile services may not be offset by the incremental revenue that such new bundles or mobile services would generate, thus resulting in downward pressure on operating margins.

The markets in which our Business ICT services segment operates are highly competitive, constantly changing and fragmented.

Competition in the Business ICT services segment includes local and regional, in addition to national and international competitors. We face competition in relation to colocation, network connectivity, hosting, cloud and managed services from Canadian network service providers (e.g. Bell, Telus, Rogers), international managed services providers (e.g. Rackspace, Softlayer), large cloud services providers (e.g. Amazon and Microsoft), small regional and local specialized firms (e.g. Beanfield, Cogent) and in some cases from large system integrators (e.g. IBM, CGI).

Competition in the Business ICT services segment is intense, particularly among providers of cloud services, and we may not be successful in meeting demand or differentiating ourselves from our competitors in this market segment. Large-scale cloud providers benefit from highly efficient operations and increased purchasing power, allowing them to offer low prices. Increased supply for these services in excess of demand could also exert downward pressure on prices which could harm our operating margins.

11.2 BUSINESS RISKS

STRATEGIC PLAN AND BUSINESS STRATEGIES

Our ability to successfully implement our business strategies described above in section "Corporate objectives and strategies" of this report in a timely and coordinated manner and to realize their anticipated benefits could be adversely affected by a number of factors beyond our control, including operating difficulties, increased ongoing operating expenses, regulatory developments, general economic conditions, increased competition, technological changes and the other factors described in this “Uncertainties and Main Risk Factors” section. Failure to successfully implement and execute our strategic plan and business strategies in a timely and coordinated manner could have a material adverse effect on our reputation, business, financial condition, prospects and results of operations and on our ability to meet our obligations, including our ability to service our Indebtedness.

PROGRAMMING COSTS

The financial performance of our businesses depends in large part on our ability to sustain operating margins by tightly controlling operating expenses. The largest driver of such operating expenses is the programming license fees we pay to television programming service suppliers. The programming license fees of certain television programming services have increased significantly in Canada and in the United States in recent years, particularly sports programming license fees. Future increases in programming license fees could have a material adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

In Canada, the market for video content services is characterized by high levels of supplier concentration and vertical integration. Our largest programming supplier is Bell, with 37% of our overall programming costs. Bell is vertically integrated and is also our largest competitor. While we have generally been able to obtain satisfactory distribution agreements with programming service suppliers in Canada to date, we may not be able to maintain our current arrangements, or conclude new arrangements that are economically favorable to us, and programming license fees may thus increase by larger increments in future years.

Certain affiliation agreements with some of our major programming suppliers have expired and the terms and conditions for their renewal have not yet been concluded. We may be subject in upcoming Canadian programming services renewals to regulatory dispute resolution proceedings which could either help us obtain reasonable affiliation terms or compel us to pay increased programming license fees or otherwise subject us to adverse competitive conditions.

In the United States, the cable industry has also experienced a rapid escalation in the cost of programming in recent years, particularly sports programming and the retransmission of local broadcast programming. Most of our programming agreements require us to meet certain penetration thresholds, which limit our ability to offer smaller tiers and packages. Also, in order to obtain the most popular programming services, programmers require us to carry a number of the programmers’ less popular services, further increasing our costs.

We are also subject in the United States to increasing financial and other demands by broadcasters to obtain the required consent for the transmission of local broadcast programming to our customers. We obtain most local broadcast programming through retransmission consent agreements. Most agreements require payment of a flat fee per customer for retransmission of the broadcaster’s primary signal. In most cases these agreements also involve the exchange of other types of considerations, such as limited grants of advertising time and carriage of multicast signals.

The inability to acquire and provide content to our customers that meets their requirements in terms of quality, format, variety of programming choices, packages and platforms at competitive rates which customers can afford to pay, could have a material adverse effect on our businesses as well as on our operating margins should we fail to pass on the incremental increase in costs of programming to our customers.

CUSTOMER LOYALTY AND RETENTION

The loyalty of our customers and their retention depend on our ability to provide a service experience that meets or exceeds their expectations. We strive to provide an industry leading customer experience and are proud for having been recognized again in Canada in 2016 with four “highest customer satisfaction” awards of excellence for field services, retail/contact centre, first call resolution and telecommunications/TV by Service Quality Measurement Group (“SQM"). The failure to sustain and expand customer relationships through quality customer service could have a material adverse effect on our businesses, financial condition and results of operations.

MEETING CUSTOMER DEMANDS

Failure to anticipate and respond in a timely manner to emerging customer demands, changes in consumer behavior, technology trends and new market conditions may result in an outdated product/services portfolio, thus impairing our ability to retain current customers and attract new ones. The inability to adapt and evolve our services offerings to respond to changing customer expectations in an increasingly digitized world, new market conditions or disruptive technologies could have a material adverse effect on our businesses, financial condition and results of operations.

MARKETING AND SALES

The failure to achieve sales growth targets in our Broadband or Business ICT segments as a result of inadequate marketing and/or sales strategies or a deficient execution of said strategies could have a materially adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

RELIANCE ON THIRD PARTIES

We depend on certain third-party suppliers for the provision of our broadband services.

We depend on long-term agreements with Telus and IDT, respectively in Canada and the United States, for the provision of our telephony services to our residential and business customers.

We offer video services to our customers in our Canadian and American footprint through a combination of equipment from TiVo, Arris, Cisco and other suppliers. Other advanced products exist on the market.

All these suppliers may experience business difficulties, restructure their operations, consolidate with other suppliers, discontinue products or sell their operations to other suppliers, which could affect the future development of our products and services. The inability to meet product or service delivery objectives or having to incur increased costs as a result of a failure in supply from third-party suppliers or change in suppliers could have a materially adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

We depend on third-party power utilities and third party Internet providers for certain of our Business ICT services.

We depend on power utility suppliers in the geographical areas in which our data centres are located. Prolonged power outages could prevent us from delivering some of our services until our power utility suppliers have resolved the failure, which may result in significant customer dissatisfaction, loss of revenue and potential litigation.

Cogeco Peer 1 depends on third-party Internet providers with regards to the purchase of bandwidth throughout its network. There can be no assurance that these service providers will continue to provide service to Cogeco Peer 1 on competitive terms, if at all, or that Cogeco Peer 1 will be able to acquire additional network capacity to adequately meet future customer demand. A failure by the Internet providers in their ability to provide the service or the inability from Cogeco Peer 1 to acquire additional network capacity and maintain direct connections to multiple IP backbone networks in order to meet future customer demand, could materially adversely affect our financial condition and operating results.

We lease facilities from third parties.

Most of the data centres operated by Cogeco Peer 1 are located in leased premises. The failure to comply with lease terms and conditions resulting in the termination of a lease agreement or failure to renew said leases at commercially reasonable terms could have a material adverse effect on our ability to conduct our business and results of operations.

MERGERS/ACQUISITIONS, DIVESTITURES AND REORGANIZATIONS

Cogeco Communications has grown through acquisitions and will continue to seek attractive acquisition opportunities in the future. Achieving the expected benefits of acquisitions depends in part on successfully consolidating functions, integrating operations, procedures and personnel in a timely and efficient manner and realizing revenue, synergies and other growth opportunities from combining acquired businesses with those of Cogeco Communications. There is no assurance that the integration of acquisitions will be successful and will deliver the anticipated benefits and results. The integration process after an acquisition may lead to greater than expected operating expenses, financial leverage, capital costs, customer losses, business disruption of our other businesses and management's diversion of time and resources. We may also be required to make capital expenditures or other investments, which may affect our ability to implement our business strategies to the extent we are unable to secure additional financing on acceptable terms or generate sufficient funds internally to cover these requirements. In addition, an acquired business could have liabilities that we fail or are unable to uncover or were unable to quantify and for which the Corporation may be responsible. Depending on the circumstances, pursuing acquisition may also require that we raise additional capital, through debt or equity, and establish relationships with new financing partners, or use cash that would otherwise have been available to support our existing business operations. Any failure by Cogeco Communications to successfully integrate or address the risks associated with acquisitions or to take advantage of future strategic opportunities could materially adversely affect our financial position, financial performance, cash flows, business or reputation.

ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE

The economic dependence of our Business ICT service segment on a few large customers has the potential to materially affect the financial results of this segment should the relationship terminate, if we are unable to replace such lost revenues.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS

Our American Broadband services activities are carried out by Atlantic Broadband in western Pennsylvania, south Florida, Maryland/Delaware, South Carolina and eastern Connecticut while part of our Business ICT services activities are conducted by Cogeco Peer 1 in the United States (California, Texas, Virginia, Florida and Georgia) and Europe (United Kingdom and France). The revenue of the Corporation in the United States and in Europe represents respectively 32.7% and 1.4% of the consolidated revenue of the Corporation. There are significant complexities and risks involved with carrying foreign operations, such as differences in political, legal, regulatory and taxation regimes or fluctuations in relative currency values against the Canadian dollar, all of which could have a material adverse impact on our operating and financial results.

TALENT MANAGEMENT AND SUCCESSION PLANNING

Our success is substantially dependent upon the retention and the continued performance of our executive officers. Many of these executive officers are uniquely qualified in their areas of expertise, making it difficult to replace their services. The loss of the services of any key executives and/or employees in critical roles or inadequate processes designed to attract, develop, motivate and retain productive and engaged employees could impact our ability to deliver on organizational goals and have a material adverse effect on our growth, business and profitability.

LABOUR RELATIONS

As of August 31, 2017, approximately 22% of our employees were represented by several unions under collective bargaining agreements. The Corporation has been successful to date in negotiating satisfactory collective agreements with unions without significant labour disruption. While the Corporation's labour relations have been satisfactory in the past, we can neither predict the outcome of current or future negotiations relating to labour disputes, union representation or renewal of collective bargaining agreements, nor be able to avoid future work stoppages, strikes or other forms of labour protests pending the outcome of any current or future negotiations. A prolonged work stoppage, strike or other form of labour protest could have a material adverse effect on our businesses, operations and reputation. Even if we do not experience strikes or other forms of labour protests, the outcome of labour negotiations could adversely affect our businesses and results of operations. In addition, our ability to make short-term adjustments to control compensation and benefits costs is limited by the terms of our collective bargaining agreements.

11.3 REGULATORY RISKS

REGULATORY RISKS - CANADIAN AND AMERICAN BROADBAND SERVICES

Our Canadian and American Broadband operations are subject to extensive and evolving laws, regulations and policies. Changes to these laws, regulations and policies could have negative financial, operational or competitive consequences on our business. Recent regulatory proceedings and decisions in Canada and the United States described below may also affect us and have an adverse impact on our business.

Our Canadian and American broadband operations are subject to extensive regulation and policies.

Canadian laws and regulations govern the issuance, amendment, renewal, transfer, suspension, revocation and ownership of broadcasting programming and broadcasting distribution licences. With respect to broadcasting distribution, regulations govern, among other things, the distribution of Canadian and non-Canadian programming services, the composition of the basic cable service, access to distribution, the resolution of disputes on the terms of carriage for Canadian programming services and mandatory financial contributions for the funding of Canadian programming. There are significant restrictions on the ability of non-Canadians to own or control broadcasting licences and telecommunications common carriers in Canada.

Cogeco Connexion, our broadcasting distribution and telecommunications business in Canada is primarily regulated respectively under the *Broadcasting Act* and the *Telecommunications Act* and regulations thereunder. The CRTC, which oversees the implementation of the *Broadcasting Act* and the *Telecommunications Act*, has the power to grant, amend, suspend, revoke and renew broadcasting licenses, approve certain changes in corporate ownership and control, and make regulations and policies in accordance with the *Broadcasting Act* and the *Telecommunications Act*, subject to certain directions from the federal cabinet. In addition, we are subject to other Canadian laws relating to communications, intellectual property, data protection, privacy of personal information, spam, e-commerce, direct marketing and digital advertising which have become more prevalent in recent years.

Cogeco Connexion cable systems operated in Canada are subject to periodic licence renewals by the CRTC. The maximum licence term is seven years. While CRTC licences are usually renewed in the normal course upon application by the licensee, except in case of substantial and repeated breach of conditions or regulations by the licensee, there can be no assurance that the maximum renewal term will be granted or that new or modified conditions of licence or expectations will not apply to the renewal term. Cable service areas in Canada are non-exclusive. Competition from additional programming distributors through cable or distribution platforms in our Canadian service area could materially adversely affect our growth, financial condition and results of operations.

In the Budget Plan dated March 23, 2017, the Federal Government proposed to review and modernize the *Broadcasting Act* and the *Telecommunications Act*. In this review, the Government indicated that it will examine issues such as telecommunications and content creation in the digital age, net neutrality and cultural diversity and how to strengthen the future of Canadian media and Canadian content creation. The timeline and details of this review will be announced at a later date. Changes to the Canadian regulatory framework, specifically the laws, regulations and policies governing our lines of business or operations, foreign ownership restrictions, terms of licence, the issuance of new licences, the distribution and packaging of programming services, wholesale or retail service terms, terms for the licensing of programming services for distribution in Canada on various distribution platforms, complaint or dispute resolution processes, industry codes of conduct, or the tax status or treatment of competitive suppliers or their respective services, could have a material adverse effect on our business (including who we compete with and how we provide products and services), financial condition, prospects and results of operations. In addition, we may incur increased costs necessary to comply with existing and newly adopted laws and regulations or penalties for any failure to comply. It is difficult to predict in what form Canadian laws, regulations, policies and rulings will be adopted over time, when they will be implemented or how they will be construed by the relevant courts, or the extent to which any changes might adversely affect us.

In the United States, federal, state and local governments extensively regulate our video, high-speed Internet and voice services. Certain of these laws require Atlantic Broadband to maintain licenses and authorizations for the operation of our business and restrict or impose conditions on the way in which we operate. These restrictions and conditions could inhibit our ability to expand our business and introduce new products and services.

Over the past few years, the FCC and certain states have been more active in proposing legislation and rulemakings concerning our industry. Congress has also proposed legislation, and will likely propose new legislation in the future, that could impact our business, such as rewriting the *Communications Act of 1934* ("Communications Act") to address changes in technology and the marketplace and funding new broadband infrastructure. Changes to existing laws and regulations, as well as the adoption of new laws and regulations, could have an adverse effect on our business by increasing our costs, limiting our revenues and/or imposing additional restrictions on our operations.

In addition, we could be materially disadvantaged if we remain subject to legal and regulatory constraints that do not apply equally to our competitors. The FCC has adopted rules to ensure that the state and local governmental regulations do not unreasonably interfere with competitive entry and several states have enacted legislation to ease the regulatory burden on new entrants. Further, DBS providers are not required to comply with several of the regulatory requirements that apply to cable operators. Atlantic Broadband could be materially disadvantaged if the rules continue to set different, less burdensome requirements for some of its competitors than for the company.

Recent regulatory proceedings and decisions in Canada and the United States may also affect us and have an adverse impact on our business.

Several recent proceedings and decisions of the CRTC in Canada and the FCC in the United States could have a material adverse impact on our business and results of operations.

Following a regulatory policy proceeding launched in April 2014 regarding Canadian television broadcasting and distribution (the "*Let's Talk TV Proceeding* "), the CRTC has issued a series of regulatory policy statements that provide for a number of major changes to the regulatory framework for television broadcasting and distribution in Canada. On March 1, 2016, Cogeco Connexion started offering a small entry-level package comprised of local and regional over-the-air Canadian stations, mandatory distribution channels as well as community and educational channels, at a retail regulated price of $25 with no inflation mechanism, exclusive of equipment. Cogeco Connexion also started offering smaller optional packages of 10, 20, 30 or 40 additional channels in Ontario and of 10, 15, 20 and 30 channels in Québec. Close to 110 discretionary services in Ontario and 60 in Québec are also available on a pick and pay basis. All discretionary services were made available *à la carte*, starting December 2016. Revenue of broadcasting distribution undertakings ("BDUs") are under pressure as customers can reduce their television spending by choosing to subscribe to the small entry-level package or by subscribing to smaller television packages or fewer television services.

As part of these policy changes, the CRTC issued on September 24, 2015, a Wholesale Code to govern the commercial arrangements between BDUs and programming services. The Wholesale Code imposes a number of negotiation parameters with respect to affiliation agreements between programming services and cable and satellite distributors in Canada, including dealing with dispute resolution. In prior regulatory proceedings before the CRTC, Cogeco Communications and other independent distributors advocated the adoption of a Wholesale Code so as to ensure that vertically integrated entities such as Bell cannot abuse their market power and impose anticompetitive terms for the distribution of their programming services. On October 23, 2015, Bell filed a motion to the Federal Court of Appeal, seeking leave to appeal the Wholesale Code on the basis that it would be conflicting with the *Copyright Act* and not authorized by the *Broadcasting Act*. Bell argues that the Wholesale Code wrongly interferes with their intellectual property rights in programs under the *Copyright Act* and that the CRTC lacks jurisdiction to issue the Wholesale Code under the *Broadcasting Act*. On December 22, 2015, the Federal Court of Appeal granted Bell leave to appeal the Wholesale Code. Cogeco Communications is challenging Bell's appeal. The Wholesale Code came into force on January 22, 2016 and is applicable to all licensed programming and distribution undertakings.

On April 9, 2015, the CRTC initiated a public consultation aiming to review the basic telecommunications services that should be available and affordable to all Canadians. In this proceeding, the CRTC specifically considered whether the broadband Internet access service should be included in the current definition of the basic telecommunications services and examined whether the existing subsidy regime for local telephone service should be changed to fund the expansion of the Internet access service in rural and remote areas. On December 21, 2016, the CRTC issued its decision and determined that broadband internet access is now considered a basic telecommunications service for all Canadians. It is creating a new fund to support projects aiming to build or upgrade infrastructure for fixed and mobile broadband internet access services in order to meet specific targets. The fund will make available up to $750 million over the first five years. The Commission's existing subsidy regime for local telephone service will gradually be phased out and transitioned to the new funding mechanism. Furthermore, the current funding will be expanded to include both retail Internet access and texting services revenues. This change to the calculation of the revenue-percent charge will take effect in the first year of implementation of the new fund and it is expected, according to the Commission, that the revenue-percent charge will be approximately the same as the current revenue-percent charge of 0.63%. Two follow-up proceedings were initiated in April 2017 to examine all matters related to the new funding mechanism and how the existing local subsidy regime should be phased out.

On July 22, 2015, the CRTC decided that the mandatory wholesale TPIA service should now be available through the implementation of regional based access points of interconnection ("POIs"), starting with the provinces of Ontario and Québec, and ordered to this end the major ISPs operating in these provinces, including Cogeco Connexion, to file proposed network interconnection configurations and thereafter proposed capacity and access rates. The regional POIs are intended to replace the current centralized POIs over a three year period. Under the regional network configuration, TPIA customers wishing to offer download speeds in excess of 100 Mbps will have to be interconnected at regional access POIs. On August 29, 2017, the CRTC approved capacity and access rates for regional TPIA services on an interim basis. It is expected that the CRTC will release in early 2018 the final rates for both regional and centralized wholesale TPIA services. These final rates could adversely impact our financial position and results of operations.

Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada ("ISED") is currently reviewing the allocation rules of the 600 MHZ spectrum and of the millimeter wave spectrum to support 5G services. ISED has initiated a consultation on its overall approach and planning activities related to the release of spectrum over the next five years.

Government spectrum allocation policies in Canada and the United States may change in the future and adversely impact our competitive position.

In 2017, the FCC, under new leadership, has taken more of a hands-off approach to regulatory requirements. Such a hands-off approach, however, could negatively impact the Corporation in certain areas, such as carriage rights for broadcast stations and programming networks. Additionally, the recent increase in the consolidation of broadcast station ownership, as well as the consolidation of vertically-integrated electronic communications service providers with distribution and programming ownership interests could negatively impact our ability to obtain carriage rights on reasonable, non-discriminatory terms and conditions.

As a result of the FCC's net neutrality order, which was upheld by the U.S. Court of Appeals on June 14, 2016, Internet services are now subject to regulation at the federal level, and certain states and local governments are attempting to regulate Internet services. The FCC is currently reconsidering the classification of broadband service as a telecommunications service, which is subject to regulation under Title II of the *Communications Act*. The outcome of any such reclassification, could impact our network management practices. Additionally, such regulations could impact our broadband service rates, terms and conditions. Such regulations also impose significant monetary penalties for non-compliance.

We must obtain access to support structures and municipal right of ways for our broadband operations.

We require access to the support structures of provincial and municipal electric utilities and telephone companies and to municipal rights of way to deploy our broadband network. Where access to municipal rights of ways in our Canadian footprint cannot be secured, we may apply to the CRTC to obtain a right of access under the *Telecommunications Act*. Access to the support structures of telephone companies is provided on a tariff basis approved by the CRTC. In the case of provincial and municipal electric utilities, access to those support structures is subject to provincial and municipal requirements, and the terms for access to these structures may need to be obtained through provincial and municipal authorities. We have entered into comprehensive support structure access agreements with all of the major electric companies and all of the major telecommunications companies in our network footprint.

In the United States, the *Communications Act* requires telephone companies and other utilities (other than those owned by municipalities or cooperatives) to provide cable systems with non-discriminatory access to any pole or right-of-way controlled by the utility. The rates that utilities may charge, together with certain terms and conditions for such access are regulated by the FCC, or, alternatively, by states that certify to the FCC that they regulate pole attachments. Three states in which Atlantic Broadband has cable systems have certified that they regulate pole attachments. There is always the possibility that the FCC or a State could permit the increase of pole attachment rates paid by cable operators.

If we have to support increasing costs in securing access to support structures needed for our broadband network or are unable to secure such agreements, we may not be able to implement our business strategies and our businesses, financial condition, results of operations, reputation and prospects could be materially adversely affected.

REGULATORY RISKS - BUSINESS ICT SERVICES

The activities in our Business ICT services segment are less regulated than our Canadian and American broadband services segments. Cogeco Peer 1 is nevertheless subject to various laws and regulations in the course of its business activities in the jurisdictions where it operates, including applicable laws and regulations dealing with international trade and foreign policies that restrict private trade with certain countries or individuals, environmental compliance, telecommunications, and privacy and data security.

A growing compliance burden (e.g. ISO 27001, OSFI Cybersecurity, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 ("HIPAA"), etc.) is also placed on data center businesses who want to attract customers in the financial health care, payments cards and government sectors.

11.4 TECHNOLOGY RISKS

NETWORK FAILURE

In Canada, Cogeco Connexion provides Internet, digital video and telephony services through a network of four major headends and several minor headends in its broadband network. Although we have a backup system for retransmission through another headend or a mobile headend if one of our headends fail, there may be a delay in transferring to another headend, which could potentially have a material adverse impact on our service performance, brand, reputation, customer relationship and results of operations.

In the United States, Atlantic Broadband provides Internet, digital video and telephony services through seven major headends and several minor ones. Despite available emergency backup or replacement sites, including several interconnects with adjacent cable operators to be able to use their signals as a backup, a failure in our headends could prevent us from delivering some of our services through a portion of our network until we have implemented backup solutions or resolved the failure.

A failure of our broadband network could result in significant customer dissatisfaction, loss of revenue and potential litigation, depending on the severity of the outage condition.

MAINTENANCE OF OUR NETWORK, INFRASTRUCTURE AND IT SYSTEMS

We continuously maintain, upgrade or replace our network, infrastructure or IT systems in order to optimize our networks and systems, increase the speed of our Internet service, improve and provide new or enhanced services that meet the needs and expectations of our customers. If we are unable to do so because of capital or other constraints, this may materially adversely affect our ability to compete and negatively impact business and financial performance.

DEPENDENCE ON TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS

The daily operation of our businesses is highly dependent on information technology systems, including those provided by certain third party suppliers. Our business is dependent on our payroll, transaction, financial, accounting and other data processing systems. We rely on these systems to process, on a daily basis, a large number of transactions. An inability to maintain and enhance our existing information technology systems or obtain new systems to accommodate additional customer growth or to support new products and services could also have a material adverse impact on our ability to acquire new customers, retain existing customers, produce accurate and timely billing, generate revenue growth and manage operating expenses, or comply with regulatory requirements, all of which could materially adversely impact our financial results and position. During the next fiscal year, Cogeco Connexion will replace its legacy ordering and billing software platforms in Ontario and Québec for both its residential and its business customers. Implementation or transitioning issues, delays or cost overruns could have a material adverse effect on our operations, compliance with regulatory requirements, financial performance and future business prospects. There can be no certainty that this replacement will be implemented successfully and in accordance with anticipated timelines.

CYBER THREATS

Cybersecurity breaches have grown in frequency and complexity over recent years in the public and private sectors. Security measures are in place to safeguard against cybersecurity breaches such as firewalls, site monitoring and intrusion detection software. We have deployed over the recent year numerous efforts to improve the overall governance over information security, the security awareness of our employees through continuous training, the security of our IT systems, the controls within our IT systems and our business processes. These efforts and initiatives may not however successfully prevent cyberattacks against our network infrastructure and supporting information systems and could result in service disruptions, loss of customers, litigation, remediation costs and reputational damage.

Despite the fact that we are protecting critical data and infrastructure from cyberattacks, theft, unauthorized usage and disclosure, viruses, sabotage and other cyber threats, there can be no certainty that we will not be the subject of such attacks which could have an adverse effect on our brand and reputation as well as entail significant legal and financial exposure.

DATA PROTECTION

We collect, use and manage in the course of our business various data about our customers, including sensitive personal information. Policies, procedures, guidelines, business rules and safeguards have been put in place to ensure that the personal information of our customers is protected and treated appropriately under applicable privacy laws. Existing and proposed privacy legislation and regulations, including changes in the manner in which such legislation and regulations are interpreted by courts in Canada, the United States and other jurisdictions may impose limits on our collection and use of certain kinds of information.

Many countries around the world are deploying stricter data protection regulations, such as the legislation approved by the European Union in 2016 (the General Data Protection Regulation or GDPR) which will become effective in early 2018. Data protection is also a focus of concern for Business ICT customers who are seeking maximum contractual indemnification in their contracts in regards to potential data security breaches. We have limited insurance coverage against the losses resulting from such breaches.

Any malfunction of our systems and equipment or security breaches resulting in unauthorized access to, loss or use of, customer and employee personal information or the personal information that our customers process using our Business ICT services could result in the potential loss of business, damage to our market reputation, litigation, regulatory investigation and penalties.

11.5 FINANCIAL RISKS

CAPITAL COMMITMENTS, LIQUIDITY AND DEBT

Cogeco Communications relies on its free cash flow generated by operations to fund its capital expenditures program and on capital markets to refinance its indebtedness and further grow its business through acquisitions. Capital markets are volatile and Cogeco Communications may not be able to access them at reasonable conditions if its credit profile and general economic conditions deteriorate. Such conditions could lead to higher cost of funding, deteriorating financial position and liquidity, and more restrictions on the Corporation’s operations.

We may be unable to generate sufficient cash flow and maintain an adequate liquidity position to ensure and preserve the company’s financial stability/solvency and fund strategic imperatives as well as operational and financial obligations of the business.

CURRENCY AND INTEREST RATES

Our financial results are reported in Canadian dollars and a significant portion of our revenue, operating expenses and capital expenditures are realized in currencies other than Canadian dollars, most often US dollars and British Pounds. For the purposes of financial reporting, any change in the value of the Canadian dollar against the US dollar or the British Pound during a given financial reporting period would result in variations on our operating results and financial condition. Although a significant portion of our indebtedness, which is denominated in US dollars, serves as a cash flow hedge to foreign operations, our revenue, adjusted EBITDA and indebtedness could fluctuate materially as a result of foreign exchange rate fluctuations.

Interest rate volatility can also impact variable interest rate debt and have a material adverse impact on our financial performance.

CREDIT RATINGS

Credit ratings issued by rating agencies can affect the availability and terms of the Corporation’s financings. A reduction in the Corporation's credit ratings, particularly a downgrade below investment grade of secured debt currently rated as investment grade, could materially adversely affect our cost of capital and access to capital.

TAXATION MATTERS

Our business operations are subject to various tax laws and regulations. These tax laws and regulations are subject to frequent changes and evolving interpretation. While we believe we have adequately provided for all taxes based on the information available to us, the calculation of taxes requires significant judgment in interpreting laws and regulations. A failure to accurately assess and record taxes could result in material changes to tax amounts recorded and an assessment of interest and penalties having a material adverse impact on financial results.

Changes to Canadian and foreign tax policies in the tax jurisdictions where we are present may also have a material adverse impact on our current financial structure and the level of our future tax costs and liabilities.

11.6 ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

We are affected by general economic conditions, consumer confidence and spending, and the demand for our products and services. Adverse general economic conditions, such as economic downturns or recessions leading to a declining level of retail and commercial activity could have a negative impact on the demand for our products and services. More specifically, adverse general economic conditions could result in customers delaying or reducing purchases of our products and services or discontinuing using them, and a decline in the creditworthiness of our customers, which could increase our bad debt expense.

11.7 OWNERSHIP RISKS

We are controlled by Cogeco through its ownership of multiple voting shares. Cogeco is in turn controlled by Gestion Audem Inc., a company controlled by the members of the family of the late Henri Audet (the "Audet Family"), through its ownership of Cogeco's multiple voting and subordinate voting shares. Both Cogeco Communications and Cogeco are reporting issuers in Canada with subordinate voting shares listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange. Pursuant to the Conflicts Agreement in effect between us and Cogeco, all cable television undertakings must be owned or controlled by us. Cogeco is otherwise free to own and operate any other business or to invest as it deems appropriate. It is possible that situations could arise where the respective interests of the Audet Family and shareholders or other stakeholders of Cogeco and of the shareholders or other stakeholders of Cogeco Communications could differ and that the interests of these shareholders or stakeholders be adversely impacted.

11.8 HUMAN-CAUSED AND NATURAL THREATS TO OUR NETWORK, INFRASTRUCTURE AND SYSTEMS

In the event of natural disasters, terrorist acts or other catastrophic occurrence, either natural or man-made, our ability to protect our network, infrastructure, including customer data, and to maintain ongoing operations could be significantly impaired. Global climate change may increase the severity and frequency of natural threats on our business, such as weather-related events. Although we have business continuity and disaster recovery plans and strategies, they may not be successful in mitigating the effects of a natural disaster, terrorist act or catastrophic occurrence which could have a material adverse effect on our business, prospects, financial condition and results of operations. Moreover, we have limited insurance coverage against the losses resulting from natural disasters affecting our networks.

11.9 LITIGATION RISKS

We are involved in various litigation matters arising in the course of our business. The outcome of these claims or litigations is uncertain and may impact our reputation, results of operation, liquidity or financial condition. Based on information currently known to us, we do not expect any of these claims and proceedings, individually or in total, to the extent not provided for through insurance or otherwise, to have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operation or financial condition.

12. CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY PROGRAM

12.1 OVERVIEW

The Cogeco group of companies has designed a corporate social responsibility ("CSR") program aimed at operating responsibly and sustainably and being a good corporate citizen. Concretely, this means we seek to integrate practices which improve the environmental and social impacts of our operations while ensuring the Corporation's continued growth. The Corporation's Corporate Social Responsibility Policy, the Code of Ethics and the Supplier Code of Conduct together form the framework of our CSR Program. The CSR Program is under the responsibility of the Vice-President, Internal Audit and Risk Management.

The CSR program integrates our corporate social responsibility objectives articulated around six pillars:

Supported by a corporate management structure, overseen by a CSR Steering Committee composed of executives from all business units, and a sound corporate governance framework, we strive to improve our performance in line with the expectations of our stakeholders, our corporate values and our business objectives. To achieve its CSR goals of reducing its environmental footprint and having a positive impact on society, we have developed key performance indicators for social, economic and environmental objectives. These objectives are tracked and reported on a biannual basis to the Corporate Governance Committee.

12.2 FISCAL 2017 ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

During fiscal 2017, the key initiatives of the CSR Program were rolled-out to our business units, namely Atlantic Broadband, Cogeco Connexion and Cogeco Peer 1.

Here below are some examples of the CSR initiatives that were conducted in fiscal 2017:

- we celebrated our 60th anniversary as a Corporation dedicated to excellence in customer service with an internal contest in which over 1,500 employees from all our business units across two continents participated;
- each business unit made significant progress on their three-year action plan created to integrate the CSR principles into their activities and operations;
- we continued to measure and track our Greenhouse Gas Emissions ("GHG") reductions and now integrate all Cogeco business units into the calculations, as well as emissions from refrigerant gases;
- we published our sixth Carbon Disclosure Project ("CDP") report and completed the Information and Communications Technology additional module;
- we implemented a Supplier Code of Conduct to address supply chain risks related to CSR, and progressed towards our objective of getting our most critical suppliers to acknowledge it. The Code is available in the CSR section of our Corporate website;
- we published Cogeco's Statement against Slavery, Forced Labor and Human Trafficking, in line with the UK Modern Slavery Act;
- approximately 20% of Cogeco's facilities underwent environmental assessments conducted by a third party. No significant adverse impact on the environment was identified during that exercise;
- Cogeco Connexion voluntarily purchased carbon offsets to cover the GHG from its business travel from fiscal 2017 (301 tons of CO2e). The offsets purchased are Gold Standard and Gold Standard Transition, and will fund emissions reduction projects located in Québec and in China;
- we contributed over $3 million to donations and sponsorships and offered air time for fund raising purposes. Our principal focus areas are the health, culture and education sectors;
- we participated in the finalization of the Canadian Energy Efficiency Voluntary Agreement ("CEEVA"), effective since January 2017. This agreement, developed by Canadian telecommunications companies together with Natural Resources Canada, intends to limit the energy consumption of set top-boxes provided to our customers. With this agreement in place, it is expected that the total annual energy consumption in Canada, with the telecommunications companies' contribution, including Cogeco Connexion, will be reduced and annual carbon dioxide emissions will be cut by over 100,000 tonnes. This is equivalent to the emissions of over 44,000 sub-compact new vehicles driving 15,000 km/year;
- we assessed our current situation with aboriginal employment, contracting and community involvement, in order to identify areas for improvement;
- we assessed our current situation in terms of supplier diversity, in order to identify areas for improvement.

For more information on our initiatives and our performance, please refer to the latest CSR Report, which was published in January 2016. Our 2016-2017 CSR Report will be published in January 2018.

RECOGNITIONS

The Corporation's CSR program and related initiatives were recognized during fiscal 2017:

- For a fourth year in a row, Cogeco Communications was part of the *Jantzi Social Index*, consisting of 60 Canadian companies that passed a set of broadly based environmental, social, and governance rating criteria.

12.3 FISCAL 2018 CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOCUS

In fiscal 2018, we will continue with the implementation of the main initiatives of the CSR program, such as the reduction of our GHG emissions, the implementation of our Supplier Code of Conduct and the monitoring of our key performance indicators. As we are progressing towards the attainment of our CSR commitments, we will work on the second generation of action plans to further improve our performance. One key area of focus will be the development of a supplier monitoring program, following a risk-based approach.

13. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Internal control over financial reporting ("ICFR") is a process designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and of the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with IFRS. The President and Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") and the Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer ("CFO"), together with Management, are responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate disclosure controls and procedures ("DC&P") and ICFR, as defined in National Instrument 52-109. Cogeco Communications' internal control framework is based on the criteria published in the updated version released in May 2013 of the report *Internal Control Integrated Framework* issued by the *Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission*.

The CEO and CFO, supported by Management, evaluated the design and effectiveness of the Corporation's DC&P and ICFR at August 31, 2017, and concluded that they were effective. Furthermore, no significant changes to the internal controls over financial reporting occurred during the year ended August 31, 2017.

14. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

14.1 CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ESTIMATES

Preparation of the consolidated financial statements in accordance with IFRS requires management to adopt accounting policies and to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, contingent assets and liabilities and revenue and expenses during the reporting year. A summary of the Corporation's significant accounting policies is presented in Note 2 of the consolidated financial statements. The following accounting policies were identified as critical to Cogeco Communications' business operations.

REVENUE RECOGNITION

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, net of returns and discounts. The Corporation recognizes revenue from the sale of products or the rendering of services when the following conditions are met:

- The amount of revenue and related costs can be measured reliably;
- The significant risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred to customers and there is no continuing management involvement to the degree usually associated with ownership nor effective control over the goods; and
- The recovery of the consideration is probable.

More specifically, the Corporation's principal sources of revenue are recognized as follows:

- Monthly subscription revenue for Internet, video and telephony services and rental of equipment are recognized as the services are provided;
- Revenue from data services, long-distance and other pay-per-use services are recognized as the services are provided;
- Revenue from colocation, network connectivity, hosting, cloud and managed services are recognized as the services are provided; and
- Revenue generated from the sale of home terminal devices or other equipment are recognized when the customer accepts the delivery of the equipment.

ALLOWANCE FOR DOUBTFUL ACCOUNTS

Allowance for doubtful accounts is established based on specific credit risk of the Corporation's customers by examining such factors as the number of overdue days of the customer's balance outstanding as well as the customer's collection history. As a result, conditions causing fluctuations in the aging of customer accounts will directly impact the reported amount of bad debt expenses.

BUSINESS COMBINATIONS

Fair value of assets acquired and liabilities assumed in a business combination is estimated based on information available at the date of acquisition and involves considerable judgment in determining the fair values assigned to the property, plant and equipment and intangible assets acquired and liabilities assumed on acquisition. Among other things, the determination of these fair values involves the use of discounted cash flow analyses, estimated future margins and estimated future customer counts.

CAPITALIZATION OF PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

During construction of new assets, direct costs plus overhead costs directly attributable to the asset are capitalized. Borrowing costs directly attributable to the acquisition or construction of qualifying assets, which require a substantial amount of time to get ready for their intended use or sale, are capitalized until such time the assets are substantially ready for their intended use or sale. All other borrowing costs are recorded as financial expense in the period in which they are incurred.

The cost of replacing a part of property, plant and equipment that is ready for its intended use is added to the carrying amount of the property, plant and equipment or recognized as a separate component if applicable, only if it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the cost will flow to the Corporation and the cost can be measured reliably. The carrying amount of the replaced part is derecognized. All other day-to-day maintenance costs are recognized in profit or loss in the period in which they are incurred.

CAPITALIZATION OF INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Reconnect and additional service activation costs are capitalized up to a maximum amount not exceeding the revenue generated by the reconnect activity. Direct and incremental costs associated with the acquisition of customers are capitalized.

DEPRECIATION OF PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT AND AMORTIZATION OF INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Measurement of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets with finite useful lives requires estimates for determining the asset expected useful lives and residual values. Management's judgment is also required to determine the components and the depreciation method used.

PROVISIONS

Management's judgment is used to determine the timing, likelihood and the amount of expected cash outflows as well as the discount rate.

CONTINGENCIES

Contingencies such as lawsuits, taxes and commitments under contractual and other commercial obligations are estimated based on applying significant judgement in determining if a loss is probable and in determining the estimated outflow of economic resources. Such contingencies are estimated based on the information available to the Corporation.

FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT OF DERIVATIVE FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The fair value of derivative financial instruments is estimated using valuation techniques based on several market data such as interest rates, foreign exchange rates and the Corporation's or counterparties' credit risks.

HEDGE ACCOUNTING

Management uses significant judgment in determining whether the Corporation's financial instruments qualify for hedge accounting, including the assumptions for effectiveness and also in estimating the probability that a transaction will occur, in the case of cash flow hedges of forecasted transaction.

MEASUREMENT OF DEFINED BENEFIT OBLIGATION

The net defined benefit obligation is determined using actuarial calculations that are based on several assumptions. The actuarial valuation uses the Corporation's assumptions for the discount rate, the expected rate of compensation increase and the mortality table. If the actuarial assumptions are found to be significantly different from the actual data subsequently observed, it could impact the reported amount of defined benefit pension cost recognized in profit or loss, the remeasurement of the net defined benefit asset or liability recognized directly in other comprehensive income and the net assets or net liabilities related to these obligations presented in the consolidated statement of financial position.

SHARE-BASED PAYMENT

Management estimates the fair value of stock-options granted using the Black-Scholes option pricing model. The estimates used by management include expected dividend yields, volatility of the Corporation's share price, the expected life of the option, the risk-free interest rate and the number of options expected to vest. Estimates are also used in the determination of the number of ISUs and PSUs that are expected to vest, which influences their fair value. The fair value of the PSUs is also estimated based on the level of Economic Value increase;

MEASUREMENT OF NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS

The measurement of non-financial assets requires the use of management judgment to identify the existence of impairment indicators and the determination of cash-generating units ("CGUs"). Furthermore, when determining the recoverable amount of a CGU or an asset, the Corporation uses significant estimates such as the estimation of future cash flows and discount rates applicable. Any significant modification of market conditions could translate into an inability to recover the carrying amounts of non-financial assets.

DEFERRED TAXES

Deferred tax assets and liabilities require estimates about the nature and timing of future permanent and temporary differences, the expected timing of reversals of those temporary differences and the future tax rates that will apply to those differences. Judgment is also required in determining the tax basis of indefinite life intangible assets and the resulting tax rate used to measure deferred taxes.

14.2 CHANGES IN CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ESTIMATES

During 2016, the *IFRS Interpretations Committee* ("IFRIC") received a request to clarify how an entity determines the expected manner of recovery of an intangible asset with an indefinite useful life for the purposes of measuring deferred tax. Through the process of considering this question, the IFRIC clarified that an entity should use the tax rate associated with the expected manner of recovery to measure deferred taxes. Further, the fact that an indefinite life intangible asset is not being amortized is not in and of itself evidence that the manner of recovery will be through sale. In response to this clarification, the Corporation retrospectively changed its accounting policy as of September 1, 2016 and has restated the prior period for this change as further explained below.

IAS 12, *Income Taxes*, states that measurement of deferred tax liabilities and deferred tax assets reflects the tax consequences that follow from the manner in which the entity expects, at the end of the reporting period, to recover or settle the carrying amount of the assets and liabilities. The carrying value is recovered in the form of economic benefits that flow to the entity in future periods, thereby the assets are recovered through sale or recovered through use.

In applying the new interpretation, the Corporation has now determined that the benefit of its Cable Distribution Licenses will flow to the Corporation on an annual basis, and thereby the carrying amount will be recovered through use, and as a result, will be subject to a higher tax rate.

Consequently, the Corporation changed its accounting policy with respect to the tax rate used in determining the deferred tax assets and liabilities at the reporting date. The Corporation believes this change in accounting policy will better reflect how the assets will be recovered by the Corporation. The change in accounting policy was applied retrospectively and resulted in the following changes to the Corporation's consolidated financial statements:

	As previously reported	Effect of change in accounting policy	As currently reported
	$	$	$
Balance at August 31, 2015			
Deferred tax assets	12,086	(4,093)	7,993
Deferred tax liabilities	514,194	112,134	626,328
Retained earnings	660,999	(116,227)	544,772
Balance at August 31, 2016			
Deferred tax assets	11,680	(4,093)	7,587
Deferred tax liabilities	488,993	112,134	601,127
Retained earnings	389,720	(116,227)	273,493

14.3 FUTURE ACCOUNTING DEVELOPMENT IN CANADA

A number of new standards, interpretations and amendments to existing standards were issued by the *International Accounting Standard Board* ("IASB") that are mandatory but not yet effective for the year ended August 31, 2017, and have not been applied in preparing these consolidated financial statements. The following standards may have a material impact on future consolidated financial statements of the Corporation:

	Effective for annual periods starting on or after	
IFRS 9 *Financial Instruments*	January 1, 2018	Early adoption permitted
IFRS 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*	January 1, 2018	Early adoption permitted
IFRS 16 Leases	January 1, 2019	Early adoption permitted

IFRS 9

IFRS 9 replaces the guidance in IAS 39 *Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement.* The Standard includes requirements for recognition and measurement, impairment, derecognition and general hedge accounting. The IASB completed its project to replace IAS 39 in phases, adding to the standard as it completed each phase. IFRS 9 does not replace the requirement for portfolio fair value hedge accounting for interest risk since this phase of the project was separated from the IFRS 9 project due to the longer term nature of the macro hedging project which is currently at the discussion paper phase of the due process. Consequently, the exception in IAS 39 for a fair value hedge of an interest rate exposure of a portfolio of financial assets or financial liabilities continues to apply. The Corporation is in the process of determining the extent of the impact of this change on its consolidated financial statements.

IFRS 15

IFRS 15 establishes principles for reporting the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of revenue and cash flows arising from an entity's contracts with customers. It provides a single, five-step model for an entity to recognize revenue in order to depict the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods and services. IFRS 15 also provides guidance relating to the treatment of contract acquisition and contract fulfillment costs. In addition, IFRS 15 requires additional disclosure in the consolidated financial statements regarding the Corporation's revenue.

The Corporation expects that the adoption of IFRS 15 should have an impact on the consolidated financial statements with regards to the capitalization of costs to obtain or fulfill a contract. IFRS 15 requires costs to obtain a contract (such as direct and incremental costs associated with the acquisition of customers) and costs to fulfill a contract (such as reconnect and additional service activation costs), to be recognized as an asset and recognized in operating expenses over the period of time the customer is expected to remain a customer of the Corporation. Direct and incremental costs associated with the acquisition of customers are currently being capitalized as intangible assets, for contracts lasting greater than 1 year, and amortized over the term of the revenue arrangement. For contracts with durations of less than 1 year, these costs are currently being recognized in operating expenses as incurred. Reconnect and additional service activation costs are currently being capitalized as intangible assets up to a maximum amount not exceeding the revenue generated by these related reconnect activities, and amortized over the average life of the customer's subscription. Under IFRS 15, these costs will no longer be limited to the related reconnect revenue.

The adoption of IFRS 15 should not have a significant impact on the timing of the recognition of revenue and on the total revenue recognized over the term of the revenue arrangement. Thus, all performance obligations within the contract should remain essentially the same. The Corporation expects that the presentation of expenses between amortization and operating expenses may change under IFRS 15, however the impact of the new standard should be low on its profit for the period and its free cash flow.

IFRS 15 supersedes the following standards: IAS 11 *Construction Contracts*, IAS 18 *Revenue*, IFRIC 13 *Customer Loyalty Programmes*, IFRIC 15 *Agreements for the Construction of Real Estate*, IFRIC 18 *Transfers of Assets from Customers* and SIC-31 *Revenue-Barter Transactions Involving Advertising Services*.

Application of the standard is mandatory for all IFRS reporters, and is expected to be applied retrospectively by the Corporation. It applies to almost all contracts with customers: the main exceptions being leases, financial instruments and insurance contracts. The Corporation is continuing to assess the impact of this change on its consolidated financial statements.

IFRS 16

IFRS 16 introduces a single accounting model for lessees and for all leases with a term of more than 12 months, unless the underlying asset is of low value. A lessee will be required to recognize a right-of-use asset, representing its right to use the underlying asset, and a corresponding lease liability, representing its obligation to make the lease payments. IFRS 16 supersedes the current standard IAS 17 *Leases.* The accounting treatment for lessors will remain largely the same as under IAS 17. Early adoption is permitted, but only if the entity is also applying IFRS 15. The Corporation is in the process of determining the extent of the impact of this change on its consolidated financial statements.

15. NON-IFRS FINANCIAL MEASURES

This section describes non-IFRS financial measures used by Cogeco Communications throughout this MD&A. These financial measures are reviewed in assessing the performance of the Corporation and used in the decision-making process with regards to our business units. Reconciliations between “free cash flow”, “adjusted EBITDA”, “operating margin” and "capital intensity" and the most comparable IFRS financial measures are also provided. These financial measures do not have standard definitions prescribed by IFRS and, therefore, may not be comparable to similar measures presented by other companies.

Non-IFRS measure	Application	Calculation	Most comparable IFRS measures
Free cash flow	Management and investors use free cash flow to measure Cogeco Communications' ability to repay debt, distribute capital to its shareholders and finance its growth.	Free cash flow: - Cash flow from operating activities add: - Amortization of deferred transaction costs and discounts on long-term debt; - Changes in non-cash operating activities; - Income taxes paid; and - Financial expense paid deduct: - Current income taxes; - Financial expense; - Acquisition of property, plant and equipment; and - Acquisition of intangible and other assets.	Cash flow from operating activities
Adjusted EBITDA and Operating margin	Adjusted EBITDA and operating margin are key measures commonly reported and used in the telecommunications industry, as they allow comparisons between companies that have different capital structures and are more current measures since they exclude the impact of historical investments in assets. Adjusted EBITDA is one of the key metrics employed by the financial community to value a business and its financial strength. Adjusted EBITDA for Cogeco Communications' business units is equal to the segment profit (loss) reported in note 5 of the Consolidated Financial Statements.	Adjusted EBITDA: - Profit (loss) for the year add: - Income taxes; - Financial expense; - Depreciation and amortization; - Impairment of goodwill and intangible assets; - Claims and litigations; and - Integration, restructuring and acquisition costs.	Profit (loss) for the year
		Operating margin: - Adjusted EBITDA divided by: - Revenue	No comparable IFRS measure
Capital intensity	Capital intensity is used by Cogeco Communications' management and investors to assess the Corporation's investment in capital expenditures in order to support a certain level of revenue.	Capital intensity: - Acquisition of property, plant and equipment; and - Acquisition of intangible and other assets divided by: - Revenue	No comparable IFRS measure

15.1 FREE CASH FLOW RECONCILIATION

	Quarters ended		Years ended	
	August 31, 2017	August 31, 2016	August 31, 2017	August 31, 2016
(in thousands of dollars)	$	$	$	$
Cash flow from operating activities	**345,957**	261,623	**956,657**	745,168
Amortization of deferred transaction costs and discounts on long-term debt	**2,171**	2,110	**8,804**	9,002
Changes in non-cash operating activities	**(112,013)**	(53,924)	**(68,833)**	(32,301)
Income taxes paid	**(2,682)**	18,451	**2,969**	123,001
Current income taxes	**(20,918)**	(23,252)	**(88,162)**	(93,887)
Financial expense paid	**16,555**	20,997	**119,781**	133,903
Financial expense	**(33,067)**	(34,394)	**(129,424)**	(136,378)
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment	**(138,312)**	(103,109)	**(406,864)**	(444,741)
Acquisition of intangible and other assets	**(6,850)**	(6,908)	**(21,193)**	(22,769)
Free cash flow	**50,841**	81,594	**373,735**	280,998

15.2 ADJUSTED EBITDA AND OPERATING MARGIN RECONCILIATION

	Quarters ended		Years ended	
	August 31, 2017	August 31, 2016	August 31, 2017	August 31, 2016
(in thousands of dollars, except percentages)	$	$	$	$
Profit (loss) for the period	**71,335**	74,581	**299,225**	(189,628)
Income taxes	**22,460**	17,918	**98,062**	69,143
Financial expense	**33,067**	34,394	**129,424**	136,378
Impairment of goodwill and intangible assets	**—**	—	**—**	450,000
Depreciation and amortization	**117,142**	119,299	**475,068**	497,963
Claims and litigations	**—**	292	**—**	10,791
Integration, restructuring and acquisition costs	**3,191**	1,326	**3,191**	8,802
Adjusted EBITDA	**247,195**	247,810	**1,004,970**	983,449
Revenue	**551,728**	544,056	**2,226,851**	2,176,149
Operating margin	**44.8%**	45.5%	**45.1%**	45.2%

15.3 CAPITAL INTENSITY RECONCILIATION

	Quarters ended		Years ended	
	August 31, 2017	August 31, 2016	August 31, 2017	August 31, 2016
(in thousands of dollars, except percentages)	$	$	$	$
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment	**138,312**	103,109	**406,864**	444,741
Acquisition of intangible and other assets	**6,850**	6,908	**21,193**	22,769
Total acquisitions of property, plant and equipment, intangible and other assets	**145,162**	110,017	**428,057**	467,510
Revenue	**551,728**	544,056	**2,226,851**	2,176,149
Capital intensity	**26.3%**	20.2%	**19.2%**	21.5%

16. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This MD&A was prepared on November 2, 2017. Additional information relating to the Corporation, including its Annual Information Form, is available on the SEDAR website at www.sedar.com or on the Corporation's website at corpo.cogeco.com.

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Consolidated Financial Statements

MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY

RELATED TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The consolidated financial statements of Cogeco Communications Inc. (the "Corporation") and the financial information contained in this annual report are the responsibility of management. The consolidated financial statements include amounts determined by management based on estimates, which in their opinion are reasonable and fair. The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS") and have been approved by the Board of Directors. Operating and financial information used elsewhere in the annual report is consistent with that of the consolidated financial statements.

In fulfilling its responsibilities, management of Cogeco Communications Inc. and its subsidiaries has developed, and continues to improve administrative and accounting systems in order to provide reasonable assurance that assets are safeguarded against loss or unauthorized use and maintains internal accounting controls to ensure that financial records are reliable for preparing the financial statements. The Board of Directors carries out its responsibility for the financial statements in this annual report principally through its Audit Committee, which reviews the annual consolidated financial statements of the Corporation and recommends their approval to the Board of Directors. The Committee periodically meets with management and the external auditor to discuss the results of the external and internal examinations and matters having an impact on financial information.

The independent auditor appointed by the shareholders, Deloitte LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants, is responsible for making an independent examination of the consolidated financial statements in accordance with Canadian auditing standards and to issue an opinion on the statements. The independent auditor has free access to the Audit Committee, with or without the presence of management. Their report follows.

Louis Audet
President and Chief Executive Officer

Patrice Ouimet
Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Montréal, November 2, 2017

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Shareholders of Cogeco Communications Inc.

We have audited the accompanying consolidated financial statements of Cogeco Communications Inc., which comprise the consolidated statements of financial position as at August 31, 2017 and August 31, 2016, and the consolidated statements of profit or loss, consolidated statements of comprehensive income (loss), consolidated statements of changes in shareholders' equity and consolidated statements of cash flows for the years ended August 31, 2017 and August 31, 2016, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Consolidated Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these consolidated financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained in our audits is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Cogeco Communications Inc. as at August 31, 2017 and August 31, 2016, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the years ended August 31, 2017 and August 31, 2016 in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

Deloitte LLP[1]

November 2, 2017
Montréal, Québec

[1] CPA auditor, CA, public accountancy permit No. A124341

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF PROFIT OR LOSS

Years ended August 31,	Notes	2017	2016
(In thousands of Canadian dollars, except per share data)		$	$
Revenue	*5*	**2,226,851**	2,176,149
Operating expenses	*7*	**1,202,942**	1,174,232
Management fees – Cogeco Inc.	*23 A)*	**18,939**	18,468
Integration, restructuring and acquisition costs	*5*	**3,191**	8,802
Claims and litigations	*5*	—	10,791
Depreciation and amortization	*8*	**475,068**	497,963
Impairment of goodwill and intangible assets	*15 C)*	—	450,000
Financial expense	*9*	**129,424**	136,378
Income taxes	*10*	**98,062**	69,143
Profit (loss) for the year		**299,225**	(189,628)
Earnings (loss) per share			
Basic	*11*	**6.08**	(3.87)
Diluted	*11*	**6.03**	(3.87)

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)

Years ended August 31,	Note	2017	2016
(In thousands of Canadian dollars)		$	$
Profit (loss) for the year		**299,225**	(189,628)
Other comprehensive income (loss)			
Items to be subsequently reclassified to profit or loss			
Cash flow hedging adjustments			
Net change in fair value of hedging derivative financial instruments		830	(49,999)
Net change in fair value of hedging derivative financial instruments reclassified to financial expense		—	48,108
Related income taxes		(271)	440
		559	(1,451)
Foreign currency translation adjustments			
Net foreign currency translation differences on net investments in foreign operations		(36,301)	957
Net changes on translation of long-term debt designated as hedges of net investments in foreign operations		28,022	2,664
Related income taxes		(272)	(1,363)
		(8,551)	2,258
		(7,992)	807
Items not to be subsequently reclassified to profit or loss			
Defined benefit plans actuarial adjustments			
Remeasurement of net defined benefit liability	*21*	5,509	(6,021)
Related income taxes		(1,460)	1,619
		4,049	(4,402)
Other comprehensive income (loss) for the year		(3,943)	(3,595)
Comprehensive income (loss) for the year		**295,282**	(193,223)

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY

Years ended August 31, 2017 and 2016	Share capital	Share-based payment reserve	Accumulated other comprehensive income	Retained earnings	Total shareholders' equity
(In thousands of Canadian dollars)	$	$	$	$	$
	(Note 18)		*(Note 19)*	*(restated, Note 3)*	
Balance at August 31, 2015	1,001,618	12,535	83,820	544,772	1,642,745
Loss for the year	—	—	—	(189,628)	(189,628)
Other comprehensive income (loss) for the year	—	—	807	(4,402)	(3,595)
Comprehensive income (loss) for the year	—	—	807	(194,030)	(193,223)
Issuance of subordinate voting shares under the Stock Option Plan	5,282	—	—	—	5,282
Share-based payment	—	6,184	—	—	6,184
Share-based payment previously recorded in share-based payment reserve for options exercised	1,261	(1,261)	—	—	—
Dividends on multiple voting shares (Note 18 C))	—	—	—	(24,478)	(24,478)
Dividends on subordinate voting shares (Note 18 C))	—	—	—	(52,020)	(52,020)
Acquisition of subordinate voting shares held in trust under the Incentive and Performance Share Unit Plans	(4,575)	—	—	—	(4,575)
Distribution to employees of subordinate voting shares held in trust under the Incentive and Performance Share Unit Plans	4,881	(4,130)	—	(751)	—
Total contributions by (distributions to) shareholders	6,849	793	—	(77,249)	(69,607)
Balance at August 31, 2016	1,008,467	13,328	84,627	273,493	1,379,915
Profit for the year	—	—	—	**299,225**	**299,225**
Other comprehensive income (loss) for the year	—	—	**(7,992)**	**4,049**	**(3,943)**
Comprehensive income (loss) for the year	—	—	**(7,992)**	**303,274**	**295,282**
Issuance of subordinate voting shares under the Stock Option Plan	**7,011**	—	—	—	**7,011**
Share-based payment	—	**5,155**	—	—	**5,155**
Share-based payment previously recorded in share-based payment reserve for options exercised	**1,538**	**(1,538)**	—	—	—
Dividends on multiple voting shares (Note 18 C))	—	—	—	**(26,989)**	**(26,989)**
Dividends on subordinate voting shares (Note 18 C))	—	—	—	**(57,671)**	**(57,671)**
Acquisition of subordinate voting shares held in trust under the Incentive and Performance Share Unit Plans	**(3,436)**	—	—	—	**(3,436)**
Distribution to employees of subordinate voting shares held in trust under the Incentive and Performance Share Unit Plans	**4,056**	**(3,859)**	—	**(197)**	—
Total contributions by (distributions to) shareholders	**9,169**	**(242)**	—	**(84,857)**	**(75,930)**
Balance at August 31, 2017	**1,017,636**	**13,086**	**76,635**	**491,910**	**1,599,267**

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

At August 31,	Notes	2017	2016
(In thousands of Canadian dollars)		$	$
			(restated, Note 3)
Assets			
Current			
Cash and cash equivalents	*20 B)*	**211,185**	62,286
Short-term investments	*12*	**54,000**	—
Trade and other receivables	*22 A)*	**90,387**	115,435
Income taxes receivable		**4,210**	12,701
Prepaid expenses and other		**20,763**	16,208
Derivative financial instrument		**98**	1,040
		380,643	207,670
Non-current			
Other assets	*13*	**7,095**	7,944
Property, plant and equipment	*14*	**1,947,239**	1,989,720
Intangible assets	*15 A)*	**1,978,302**	2,059,548
Goodwill	*15 B)*	**1,023,424**	1,060,780
Derivative financial instrument		**759**	—
Deferred tax assets	*10*	**10,918**	7,587
		5,348,380	5,333,249

Liabilities and Shareholders' equity			
Liabilities			
Current			
Bank indebtedness	*17 a)*	**3,801**	4,115
Trade and other payables		**316,762**	289,668
Provisions	*16*	**23,010**	30,688
Income tax liabilities		**103,649**	26,680
Deferred and prepaid revenue		**85,005**	61,316
Balance due on a business combination		**118**	—
Derivative financial instruments		**192**	—
Intercompany note payable - Cogeco Inc.	*23 B)*	**—**	40,000
Current portion of long-term debt	*17*	**131,915**	22,516
		664,452	474,983
Non-current			
Long-term debt	*17*	**2,444,518**	2,838,130
Derivative financial instruments		**—**	165
Deferred and prepaid revenue and other liabilities		**31,462**	30,120
Pension plan liabilities and accrued employee benefits	*21*	**4,934**	8,809
Deferred tax liabilities	*10*	**603,747**	601,127
		3,749,113	3,953,334
Shareholders' equity			
Share capital	*18 B)*	**1,017,636**	1,008,467
Share-based payment reserve		**13,086**	13,328
Accumulated other comprehensive income	*19*	**76,635**	84,627
Retained earnings		**491,910**	273,493
		1,599,267	1,379,915
		5,348,380	5,333,249

Commitments, contingencies and guarantees (Note 24)

On behalf of the Board of Directors,

Jan Peeters
Director

Joanne Ferstman
Director

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

Years ended August 31, (In thousands of Canadian dollars)	Notes	2017 $	2016 $
Cash flow from operating activities			
Profit (loss) for the year		299,225	(189,628)
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation and amortization	8	475,068	497,963
Impairment of goodwill and intangible assets	15 C)	—	450,000
Financial expense	9	129,424	136,378
Income taxes	10	98,062	69,143
Share-based payment	18 D)	6,658	6,398
Loss on disposals and write-offs of property, plant and equipment		2,225	952
Defined benefit plans contributions, net of expense		(88)	(1,435)
		1,010,574	969,771
Changes in non-cash operating activities	20 A)	68,833	32,301
Financial expense paid		(119,781)	(133,903)
Income taxes paid		(2,969)	(123,001)
		956,657	745,168
Cash flow from investing activities			
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment	14	(406,864)	(444,741)
Acquisition of intangible and other assets		(21,193)	(22,769)
Acquisition of short-term investments	12	(54,000)	—
Business combination, net of cash and cash equivalents acquired	6	(804)	—
Proceeds on disposals of property, plant and equipment		9,648	2,635
Other		—	156
		(473,213)	(464,719)
Cash flow from financing activities			
Increase (decrease) in bank indebtedness		(314)	4,115
Proceeds (repayment) on intercompany note payable - Cogeco inc.		(40,000)	40,000
Net decrease under the revolving facilities		(187,286)	(107,755)
Repayments of long-term debt and settlement of derivative financial instruments		(23,078)	(240,629)
Repayment of balance due on a business combination		(837)	—
Transaction costs on long-term debt conversion and increase in deferred transaction costs		(440)	(1,195)
Issuance of subordinate voting shares	18 B)	7,011	5,282
Acquisition of subordinate voting shares held in trust under the Incentive and Performance Share Unit Plans	18 B)	(3,436)	(4,575)
Dividends paid on multiple voting shares	18 C)	(26,989)	(24,478)
Dividends paid on subordinate voting shares	18 C)	(57,671)	(52,020)
		(333,040)	(381,255)
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents denominated in foreign currencies		(1,505)	(74)
Net change in cash and cash equivalents		148,899	(100,880)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of the year		62,286	163,166
Cash and cash equivalents, end of the year		211,185	62,286

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Years ended August 31, 2017 and 2016

NATURE OF OPERATIONS

Cogeco Communications Inc. ("Cogeco Communications" or the "Corporation") is a Canadian public communications corporation whose subordinate voting shares are listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange ("TSX") under the trading symbol "CCA".

Operating in Canada under the Cogeco Connexion name in Québec and Ontario, and in the United States under the Atlantic Broadband name in western Pennsylvania, south Florida, Maryland/Delaware, South Carolina and eastern Connecticut, Cogeco Communications provides residential and business customers with Internet, video and telephony services through its two-way broadband fibre networks. Through its subsidiary Cogeco Peer 1, the Corporation provides its business customers with a suite of information technology services (colocation, network connectivity, hosting, cloud services and managed services), through its 16 data centres, extensive FastFiber Network® and more than 50 points of presence in North America and Europe.

During 2017, the Corporation announced that its subsidiary, Atlantic Broadband has entered into a definitive agreement with Harron Communications, L.P. to purchase all of its cable systems operating under the MetroCast brand name ("MetroCast") (see Note 24 A)). The transaction is expected to be completed in January 2018 and is subject to regulatory approvals along with other closing conditions customary to transactions of this nature.

The Corporation is a subsidiary of Cogeco Inc. ("Cogeco"), which holds 31.7% of the Corporation's equity shares, representing 82.3% of the votes attached to the Corporation's voting shares.

The Corporation's registered office is located at 5 Place Ville Marie, Suite 1700, Montréal, Québec, H3B 0B3.

1. BASIS OF PRESENTATION

These audited consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS") issued by the International Accounting Standards Board ("IASB").

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis using historical cost, except for financial instruments and derivative financial instruments (see Note 2 M)), cash-settled share-based payment arrangements (see Note 2 J)) and pension plan assets (see Note 2 K)), which are measured at fair value, and for the defined benefit obligation (see Note 2K)) and provisions (see Note 2 I)), which are measured at present value.

Financial information is presented in Canadian dollars, which is the functional currency of Cogeco Communications.

The consolidated financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors of Cogeco Communications at its meeting held on November 2, 2017.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounting policies set out below have been applied consistently to all periods presented in the consolidated financial statements, unless otherwise indicated.

A) BASIS OF CONSOLIDATION

These consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Corporation and its subsidiaries.

Subsidiaries are entities controlled by the Corporation. Control is achieved where the Corporation has the power to govern the financial and operating policies of an entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities. Subsidiaries' financial statements are included in the consolidated financial statements from the date that control commences until the date that control ceases. Subsidiaries' year-end and accounting policies are aligned with those adopted by the Corporation. Operating segments and percentage of interest in the principal subsidiaries at August 31, 2017 are as follows:

Operating segment	Principal subsidiaries	Percentage of equity interest	Voting rights
		%	%
Canadian broadband services	Cogeco Connexion	100	100
American broadband services	Atlantic Broadband	100	100
Business ICT services	Cogeco Peer 1	100	100

The Corporation has established special purpose entities ("SPEs") with the objective of mitigating the impact of stock price fluctuations in connection with its Incentive and Performance Share Unit Plans. SPEs are consolidated if, based on an evaluation of the substance of their relationship with the Corporation and the SPEs' risks and rewards, the Corporation concludes that it controls the SPEs. SPEs controlled by the Corporation were established under terms that impose strict limitations on the decision-making powers of the SPEs' management, resulting in the Corporation receiving the majority of the benefits related to the SPEs' operations and net assets, being exposed to the majority of risks incident to the SPEs' activities, and retaining the majority of the residual or ownership risks related to the SPEs or their assets.

All intercompany transactions and balances and any unrealized revenue and expense are eliminated in preparing the consolidated financial statements.

B) BUSINESS COMBINATIONS

Business combinations are accounted for using the acquisition method. Goodwill is measured as the excess of the fair value of the consideration transferred including the recognized amount of any non-controlling interest in the acquiree over the net recognized amount of the identifiable assets acquired and liabilities assumed, all measured at the acquisition date.

The consideration transferred is measured as the sum of the fair values of assets transferred, liabilities assumed, and equity instruments issued by the Corporation at the acquisition date, including any asset or liability resulting from a contingent consideration arrangement, in exchange for control of the acquiree.

A right to receive or an obligation to pay contingent consideration is classified as an asset or a liability or as equity. Contingent consideration classified as equity is not remeasured until it is finally settled within equity. Contingent consideration classified as an asset or a liability is measured either as a financial instrument or as a provision. Changes in fair values that qualify as measurement period adjustments of preliminary purchase price allocations are adjusted in the current period and such changes are applied on a retroactive basis.

Acquisition costs, other than those associated with the issuance of debt or equity securities, and integration and restructuring costs that the Corporation incurs in connection with a business combination are recognized in profit or loss as incurred.

C) REVENUE RECOGNITION

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, net of returns and discounts. The Corporation recognizes revenue from the sale of products or the rendering of services when the following conditions are met:

- The amount of revenue and related costs can be measured reliably;
- The significant risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred to customers and there is no continuing management involvement to the degree usually associated with ownership nor effective control over the goods; and
- The recovery of the consideration is probable.

More specifically, the Corporation's principal sources of revenue are recognized as follows:

- Monthly subscription revenue for Internet, video and telephony services and rental of equipment are recognized as the services are provided;
- Revenue from data services, long-distance and other pay-per-use services are recognized as the services are provided;
- Revenue from colocation, network connectivity, hosting, cloud and managed services are recognized as the services are provided; and
- Revenue generated from the sale of home terminal devices or other equipment are recognized when the customer accepts the delivery of the equipment.

Multiple-element arrangements

The Corporation offers certain products and services as part of multiple deliverable arrangements. The Corporation evaluates each deliverable arrangement to determine if it would represent a separate component. Components are accounted separately when:

- The delivered elements have stand-alone value to the customer; and
- There is an objective and a reliable evidence of fair value of any undelivered elements.

Consideration is measured and allocated between the components based upon their relative fair values while applying the relevant revenue recognition policy.

The Corporation considers that installation and activation fees are not separate components because they have no stand-alone value. Accordingly, they are deferred and amortized as revenue at the same pace as the revenue from the related services are earned, which is the average life of a customer's subscription for Broadband service customers or the term of the agreement for Business ICT service customers.

Unearned revenue, such as payments for goods and services received in advance of delivery, are recorded as deferred and prepaid revenue until the service is provided or the product is delivered to the customer.

D) PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Property, plant and equipment are measured at cost, less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

During construction of new assets, direct costs plus overhead costs directly attributable to the asset are capitalized. Borrowing costs directly attributable to the acquisition or construction of qualifying assets, which require a substantial amount of time to get ready for their intended use or sale, are capitalized until such time the assets are substantially ready for their intended use or sale. All other borrowing costs are recorded as financial expense in the period in which they are incurred.

The cost of replacing a part of property, plant and equipment that is ready for its intended use is added to the carrying amount of the property, plant and equipment or recognized as a separate component if applicable, only if it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the cost will flow to the Corporation and the cost can be measured reliably. The carrying amount of the replaced part is derecognized. All other day-to-day maintenance costs are recognized in profit or loss in the period in which they are incurred.

Depreciation is recognized from the date the asset is ready for its intended use so as to write-off the cost of assets, other than freehold land and properties under construction, less their residual values over their useful lives, using the straight-line method. Assets held under finance leases are depreciated over their expected useful lives on the same basis as owned assets or, where shorter, the term of the relevant lease. Depreciation periods are as follows:

Buildings and leasehold improvements [(1)]	10 to 40 years
Networks and infrastructure [(2)]	5 to 20 years
Home terminal devices	3 to 5 years
Data centre equipment [(3)]	3 to 7 years
Rolling stock and equipment [(4)]	3 to 10 years

(1) Leasehold improvements are amortized over the shorter of the term of the lease or economic life.

(2) Networks and infrastructure include cable towers, headends, transmitters, fibre and coaxial networks, customer drops and network equipment.

(3) Data centre equipment includes general infrastructure, mechanical and electrical equipment, security and access control. Servers that are included as part of the hosting product line are amortized on a straight-line basis over their expected useful life, which is three years.

(4) Rolling stock and equipment includes rolling stock, programming equipment, furniture and fixtures, computer and software and other equipments.

When significant parts of an item of property, plant and equipment have different useful lives, they are accounted for as separate items (major components) of property, plant and equipment.

The estimated useful lives, residual values and depreciation method are reviewed annually, with the effect of any changes in estimate accounted for on a prospective basis.

The gain or loss arising on the disposal or write-off of an item of property, plant and equipment is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds, if any, and the carrying amount of the asset and is recognized as profit or loss.

The Corporation does not record decommissioning obligations in connection with its fibre and coaxial networks. The Corporation expects to renew all of its agreements with utility companies to access their support structures in the future, thus the resulting present value of the obligation is not significant.

E) INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Intangible assets acquired separately

Intangible assets acquired separately are measured at cost less accumulated amortization and impairment losses, if they are amortizable, otherwise, only net of accumulated impairment losses. The useful lives of intangible assets are assessed as either finite or indefinite.

Identifiable intangible assets acquired in a business combination

Identifiable intangible assets acquired in a business combination are recognized separately from goodwill if they meet the definition of intangible asset and if their fair value can be measured reliably. The cost of these intangible assets equals their acquisition-date fair value. Subsequent to initial recognition, identifiable intangible assets acquired in a business combination are recorded at cost less accumulated amortization and impairment losses, if they are amortizable, otherwise only net of accumulated impairment losses. The useful lives of intangible assets are assessed as either finite or indefinite.

Intangible assets with finite useful lives

Intangible assets with finite useful lives are amortized over their useful life. The estimated useful lives are reviewed annually, with the effect of any changes in estimate being accounted for on a prospective basis. Intangible assets with finite useful lives are amortized as follows:

- Customer relationships are amortized on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life, defined as the average life of a customer's subscription, not exceeding eight years;
- Favorable leases are amortized on a straight-line basis over the remaining non-cancelable term of the lease agreement;
- Reconnect and additional service activation costs are capitalized up to a maximum amount not exceeding the revenue generated by the reconnect activity and are amortized over the average life of a customer's subscription, not exceeding eight years; and
- Direct and incremental costs associated with the acquisition of customers are capitalized and amortized over the term of the revenue arrangement for customers whereby the expected term of the arrangement is greater than one year.

Intangible assets with indefinite useful lives

Intangible assets with indefinite useful lives are those for which there is no foreseeable limit to their useful economic life as they arise from contractual or other legal rights that can be renewed without significant cost. They are comprised of Cable Distribution Undertaking Broadcasting Licenses and Franchises ("Cable Distribution Licenses") and Trade name. Cable Distribution Licenses are comprised of broadcast authorities licenses and exemptions from licensing that allow access to homes and customers in a specific area. The Corporation has concluded that the Cable Distribution Licenses have indefinite useful lives since there are no legal, regulatory, contractual, economic or other factors that would prevent their renewals or limit the period over which they will contribute to the Corporation's cash flows. The Trade name is considered to have an indefinite economic life because of the institutional nature of the corporate trade name, its ability to maintain market recognition and profitable operations over long periods of time and the Corporation's commitment to develop and enhance its value. The Corporation reviews at the end of each reporting period whether events and circumstances continue to support indefinite useful life assessment for these Cable Distribution Licenses and the Trade name. Intangible assets with indefinite useful lives are not amortized, but tested for impairment at least annually or more frequently if there is any indication of impairment.

Goodwill represents the future economic benefits arising from a business combination that are not individually identified and separately recognized. It is not amortized but tested for impairment at least annually or more frequently if there is an indication of impairment.

F) IMPAIRMENT OF NON FINANCIAL ASSETS

At the end of each reporting period, the Corporation reviews the carrying value of its property, plant and equipment and intangible assets with finite useful lives to determine whether there is any indication of impairment. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss, if any.

Goodwill and intangible assets with indefinite useful lives are tested for impairment at least annually or more frequently if there is an indication of impairment.

The recoverable amount is the higher of fair value less costs to sell and value in use. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset for which the estimates of future cash flows have not been adjusted.

For the purpose of impairment testing, assets that cannot be tested on an individual basis are grouped together into the smallest identifiable group of assets that generates cash inflows that are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or group of assets ("cash-generating unit" or "CGU"). When a reasonable and consistent basis of allocation can be identified, corporate assets are allocated to an individual CGU, otherwise they are allocated to the smallest group of CGU for which a reasonable and a consistent basis of allocation can be identified.

The most recent detailed calculation made in a preceding period of the recoverable amount of a CGU to which goodwill has been allocated may be used in the impairment test of that unit in the current period provided all of the following criteria are met:

- The assets and liabilities making up the unit have not changed significantly since the most recent recoverable amount calculation;
- The most recent recoverable amount calculation resulted in an amount that exceeded the carrying amount of the unit by a substantial margin; and
- Based on an analysis of events that have occurred and circumstances that have changed since the most recent recoverable amount calculation, the likelihood that a current recoverable amount determination would be less than the current carrying amount of the unit is remote.

An impairment loss is recognized when the carrying amount of an asset or a CGU exceeds its recoverable amount. Impairment losses recognized in respect of CGUs are allocated first to reduce the carrying amount of any allocated goodwill and then to reduce the carrying amount of other assets on a pro-rata basis. The impairment loss is recognized immediately in profit or loss in the period in which the loss occurs.

Impairment losses recognized in prior periods are assessed at each reporting date for any indications that the loss has decreased or no longer exists. An impairment loss is reversed if there has been a change in the estimates used to determine the recoverable amount. An impairment loss is reversed only to the extent that the asset's carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined, net of depreciation or amortization, if no impairment loss had been recognized. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognized immediately in profit or loss.

For the purpose of impairment testing, goodwill is allocated to each of the Corporation's CGUs that are expected to benefit from the synergies of the related business combination. An impairment loss recognized for goodwill cannot be reversed.

G) LEASES

Lessee

Leases are classified as finance leases whenever the terms of the lease transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the asset to the lessee. All other leases are classified as operating leases.

Assets held under finance leases are recognized as assets of the Corporation at their fair value at the inception of the lease or, if lower, at the present value of the minimum lease payments as determined at the inception of the lease. Subsequent to initial recognition, the asset is accounted for in accordance with the accounting policy applicable to that asset. The corresponding liability is included in the statement of financial position as a finance lease obligation. Lease payments are apportioned between financial expense and reduction of the lease obligation so as to achieve a constant rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability. Financial expense and depreciation of the assets are recognized in profit or loss in the period they occur.

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to profit or loss on a straight-line basis over the term of the relevant lease.

Lessor

The Corporation leases certain equipment, primarily home terminal devices, to its customers. These leases are classified as operating leases and rental revenue is recognized over the term of the relevant lease.

H) INCOME TAXES

Income tax expense represents the sum of the taxes currently payable and deferred. Current and deferred taxes are recognized in profit or loss, except when they relate to a business combination or to items that are recognized in other comprehensive income or directly in equity.

Current tax

The tax currently payable is based on taxable profit for the year. The Corporation's liability for current tax is calculated using tax rates that have been enacted or substantively enacted at the end of the reporting period.

Deferred tax

Deferred tax is recognized in respect of temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities for financial reporting purposes and the amounts used for taxation purposes. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are not recognized if the temporary difference arises from the initial recognition of goodwill or assets or liabilities in a transaction that is not a business combination and that affects neither the taxable profit nor the accounting profit or is related to investments in subsidiaries to the extent that the Corporation is able to control the reversal and it is probable that the temporary differences will not reverse in the foreseeable future.

Deferred tax assets are generally recognized for unused tax losses and deductible temporary differences to the extent that it is probable that future taxable profits will be available against which, those unused tax losses and deductible temporary differences can be utilized. Deferred tax assets are reviewed at each reporting date and are reduced to the extent that it is no longer probable that the related tax benefit will be realized.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured at the tax rates that are expected to apply in the period in which the liability is settled or the asset realized, based on tax rates that have been enacted or substantively enacted at the end of the reporting period. The measurement of deferred tax assets and liabilities reflects the tax consequences that would follow from the manner in which the Corporation expects, at the end of the reporting period, to recover or settle the carrying amount of its assets and liabilities.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are offset when there is a legally enforceable right to set off current tax assets against current tax liabilities and when they relate to income taxes levied by the same taxation authority on the same taxable entity, or on different tax entities, but the Corporation intends to settle its current tax assets and liabilities on a net basis.

I) PROVISIONS

Provisions represent liabilities of the Corporation for which the amount or timing is uncertain. A provision is recorded when the Corporation has a legal or constructive present obligation as a result of a past event and it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. The amount recognized represents management's best estimate required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period, taking into account the obligation's risks and uncertainties. When the effect of the time value of money is material, the amount of the provision is determined by discounting the expected future cash flows at a pre-tax rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the liability. When discounting is used, the increase in the provision due to the passage of time is recognized as financial expense.

When some or all of the economic benefits required to settle a provision are expected to be recovered from a third party, a receivable is recognized as an asset if it is virtually certain that reimbursement will be received and the amount of the receivable can be measured reliably.

J) SHARE-BASED PAYMENT

Equity-settled awards

The Corporation measures stock options granted to employees that vest rateably over the service period based on the fair value of each tranche on grant date by using the Black-Scholes pricing model and a compensation expense is recognized on a straight-line basis over the vesting period applicable to the tranche, with a corresponding increase in share-based payment reserve. Granted options vest equally over a period of five years beginning one year after the day such options are granted. When the stock options are exercised, share capital is credited by the sum of the consideration paid and the related portion previously recorded in share-based payment reserve.

The Corporation measures Incentive Share Units ("ISUs") and Performance Share Units ("PSUs") granted to employees based on the fair value of the Corporation's subordinate voting shares at the date of grant and a compensation expense is recognized over the vesting period, with a corresponding increase in share-based payment reserve. The total vesting period of each grant is three years less one day.

Cash-settled awards

The fair value of the amount payable to the members of the Board of Directors in respect of share appreciation rights under the Deferred Share Unit ("DSU") Plan of the Corporation, which are settled in cash or shares, is recognized as a compensation expense with a corresponding increase in pension plan liabilities and accrued employee benefits as of the date units are issued to the members of the Board of Directors. The accrued liability is remeasured at the end of each reporting period, until settlement, using the average closing price of the subordinate voting shares on the TSX for the twenty consecutive trading days immediately preceding by one day the closing date of the reporting period. Any changes in the fair value of the liability are recognized in profit or loss.

K) EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Short-term employee benefits

Short-term employee benefits include wages, salaries, compensated absences, profit-sharing and bonuses. They are measured on an undiscounted basis and are expensed as the related service is provided. A liability is recognized for the amount expected to be paid under short-term cash bonus or profit sharing plans if the Corporation has a present legal or constructive obligation to pay this amount as a result of past service provided by the employee and the obligation can be estimated reliably.

Defined contribution plans

A defined contribution plan is a post-employment benefit plan under which an entity pays fixed contributions and will have no legal or constructive obligation to pay further amounts. Obligations for contributions to defined contribution plans are recognized as an expense in the periods during which services are rendered by employees.

Defined benefit plans

A defined benefit plan is a post-employment benefit plan whereby the amount of pension benefit that a plan participant will receive during retirement is defined and dependent on factors such as age, years of service and compensation. On each annual reporting date, independent actuaries extrapolate the data of the most recent full actuarial valuation to measure, for accounting purposes, the present value of the defined benefit obligation. The Corporation's net defined benefit liability in respect of defined benefit plans is calculated separately for each plan.

The present values of the defined benefit obligation, the current service cost and, if applicable, the past service cost are actuarially determined using the projected unit credit method (sometimes known as the accrued benefit method pro-rated on service) based on management's best-estimate assumptions on the discount rate, the expected rate of compensation increase and the mortality table.

Management determines the discount rate based on a review of the current market interest rates on investment-grade fixed-rate corporate bonds, which are rates adjusted to reflect the duration of the expected future cash outflows of retirement benefit payments.

The net defined benefit liability or asset recognized in the consolidated statement of financial position corresponds to the fair value of plan assets net of the present value of the defined benefit obligation. Any asset resulting from this calculation is limited to the present value of the economic benefits available in the form of refunds from the plans or in the form of reductions in future contributions to the plans.

The net defined benefit cost components of the defined benefit plans are recognized as follows:

- Service cost is recognized in profit or loss;
- Net interest on the net defined benefit liability or asset is recognized in profit or loss;
- Remeasurements of the net defined benefit liability or asset are recognized in other comprehensive income.

The service cost recognized in profit or loss comprises:

- Current service cost provided in exchange for employees services rendered during the period;
- Past service cost recognized in profit or loss in the period in which the plan is amended; and
- Gains or losses resulting from a settlement recognized in profit or loss in the period in which the plan settlement occurs.

Net interest on the net defined benefit liability or asset is calculated by multiplying the net defined benefit liability or asset by the discount rate.

Remeasurements of the net defined benefit liability or asset are recognized immediately in retained earnings and they are not reclassified to profit or loss in a subsequent period. Remeasurements of the net defined benefit liability or asset comprise:

- Actuarial gains and losses arising from experience adjustments, changes in financial assumptions and changes in demographic assumptions;
- The return on plan assets, except amounts included in interest income; and
- Any change in the effect of the asset ceiling, except amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability or asset.

L) FOREIGN CURRENCY TRANSLATION

For the purpose of the consolidated financial statements, the profit or loss and financial position of each group entity are expressed in Canadian dollars, which is the functional and presentation currency of the Corporation.

Foreign currency transactions

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated to the respective functional currency of the Corporation's entities at the exchange rate in effect at the transaction date. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the reporting date are translated to the functional currency at the exchange rate at that date. Foreign currency differences arising on translation are recognized as financial expense in profit or loss, except for those arising on the translation of financial instruments designated as a hedge of a net investment in foreign operations, and financial instruments designated as hedging instruments in a cash flow hedge, which are recognized in other comprehensive income until the hedged items are settled or recognized in profit or loss.

Foreign operations

The assets and liabilities of foreign operations, including goodwill and fair value adjustment arising on acquisition, are translated to Canadian dollars using exchange rates prevailing at the end of the reporting period.

Revenue and expense items are translated at the average exchange rates for the period, unless exchange rates fluctuated significantly or significant transactions occurred during that period, in which case the exchange rates at the date of the transactions are used. Exchange differences arising from the translation process of net investments in foreign operations are recognized as foreign currency translation adjustments in other comprehensive income and accumulated in equity.

The Corporation applies hedge accounting to foreign currency differences arising between the functional currency of the foreign operation and the Corporation's functional currency. Foreign currency differences arising on the translation of long-term debt designated as hedges of a net investment in foreign operations are recognized in other comprehensive income to the extent that the hedge is effective, and are presented within equity in the foreign currency translation balance. To the extent that the hedge is ineffective, such differences are recognized in profit or loss. When the hedged portion of a net investment is disposed of, the relevant amount in the cumulative amount of foreign currency translation adjustments is transferred to profit or loss as part of the profit or loss on disposal.

M) FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Classification and measurement

All financial instruments, including derivatives, are included in the statement of financial position initially at fair value when the Corporation becomes a party to the contractual obligations of the instrument.

Subsequent to initial recognition, non-derivative financial instruments are measured in accordance with their classification as described below:

- Loans and receivables are financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted on an open market. Cash and cash-equivalents (other than bankers' acceptances), short-term investments and trade and other receivables are classified as loans and receivables. They are measured at amortized cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment loss;

- Bankers' acceptances (included in cash equivalents), are classified as held-to-maturity and measured at amortized cost;

- Transaction costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition or related to the issuance of financial assets or liabilities (other than financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss) are added to or deducted from the fair value of the financial assets or financial liabilities, as required, upon initial recognition. Transaction costs directly attributable to the acquisition of financial assets or liabilities at fair value through profit or loss are recognized immediately in profit or loss; and

- Bank indebtedness, trade and other payables, intercompany note payable and long-term debt are classified as other liabilities. They are measured at amortized cost using the effective interest method. Directly attributable transaction costs are added to the initial fair value of financial instruments except for those incurred with respect to the revolving facilities which are recorded as other assets and amortized over the term of the related financing on a straight-line basis.

Financial assets are derecognized only when the Corporation no longer holds the contractual rights to the cash flows of the asset or when the Corporation transfers substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset to another entity. Financial liabilities are derecognized only when the Corporation's obligations are discharged, cancelled or expired.

Financial assets and financial liabilities are offset and the net amount reported in the statement of financial position if, and only if, there is a currently enforceable legal right to offset the recognized amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis, or to realize the assets and settle the liabilities simultaneously.

Derivative financial instruments, including hedge accounting

The Corporation uses foreign currency forward contracts as derivative financial instruments to manage foreign exchange risk related to its foreign denominated forecasted purchase commitments of property, plant and equipment. In addition, the Corporation uses interest rate swaps as derivative financial instruments to manage interest rate risk related to its floating rate long-term debt. The Corporation does not hold or use any derivative financial instruments for speculative trading purposes.

Derivative financial instruments are recognized initially at fair value and related transaction costs are recognized in profit or loss as incurred. Subsequent to initial recognition, derivative financial instruments are measured at fair value, and changes therein are accounted for as described below. Net receipts or payments arising from derivative financial instruments are recognized as financial expense.

On initial designation of the hedge, the Corporation formally documents the relationship between the hedging instrument and the hedged item, including the risk management objectives and strategy in undertaking the hedging transaction, together with the methods that will be used to assess the effectiveness of the hedging relationship and measure the ineffectiveness. The Corporation makes an assessment, both at the inception of the hedge relationship as well as on an ongoing basis, whether the hedging instruments are expected to be "highly effective" in offsetting the changes in the cash flows of the respective hedged items during the period for which the hedge is designated and whether the actual results of each hedging relationship are within a range of 80-125 percent. For a cash flow hedge of a forecasted transaction, the transaction should be highly probable to occur and should present an exposure to variations in cash flows that could ultimately affect reported profit or loss.

Cash flow hedge accounting

When a derivative financial instrument is designated as the hedging instrument in a hedge of the variability in cash flows attributable to a particular risk associated with a recognized asset or liability or a highly probable forecasted transaction that could affect profit or loss, the effective portion of changes in the fair value of the derivative financial instrument is recognized in accumulated other comprehensive income and presented in the cash flow hedge reserve in equity. The amount recognized in accumulated other comprehensive income is removed and included in profit or loss in the same period as the hedged item affects profit or loss and in the same line item as the hedged item. Any ineffective portion of changes in the fair value of the derivative financial instrument is recognized immediately in profit or loss.

If the hedging instrument no longer meets the criteria for hedge accounting, expires, is sold, terminated, exercised, or the designation is revoked, then hedge accounting is discontinued prospectively. The cumulative gain or loss previously recognized in accumulated other comprehensive income and presented in cash flow hedge reserve in equity, remains there until the forecasted hedged item affects profit or loss. If the forecasted hedged item is no longer expected to occur, then the balance in accumulated other comprehensive income is recognized immediately in profit or loss.

In other cases, the amount recognized in accumulated other comprehensive income is transferred to profit or loss in the same period in which, the hedged item affects profit or loss.

Embedded derivatives

Embedded derivatives are separated from the host contract and accounted for separately if the economic characteristics and risks of the host contract and the embedded derivative are not closely related, if a separate instrument with the same terms as the embedded derivative would meet the definition of a derivative, and if the combined instrument is not measured at fair value through profit or loss.

Impairment of financial assets

Trade and other receivables ("receivables") are assessed at each reporting date to determine whether there is objective evidence that they are impaired. A financial asset is impaired if objective evidence indicates that a loss event has occurred after the initial recognition of the asset, and that the loss event had a negative effect on the estimated future cash flows of that asset that can be estimated reliably.

Objective evidence that receivables are impaired can include default or delinquency by a debtor or indications that a debtor will enter into bankruptcy.

The Corporation considers evidence of impairment for receivables at both the specific asset level and on an aggregate basis. All individually significant receivables are assessed for specific impairment. Those found not to be specifically impaired are then collectively assessed for any impairment that has been incurred but not yet identified. Receivables that are not individually significant are assessed on an aggregate basis for impairment by grouping together receivables with similar risk characteristics.

An impairment loss in respect of receivables is calculated as the difference between its carrying amount and the present value of the estimated future cash flows. Losses are recognized in profit or loss and reflected in an allowance account presented in reduction of receivables. When a subsequent event causes the amount of impairment loss to decrease, the decrease in impairment loss is reversed through profit or loss.

N) CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash and cash equivalents include cash and highly liquid investments that have an original maturity of three months or less.

O) SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS

Short-term investments consist of highly liquid certificates of deposit and have original maturities over three months, but not more than one year.

P) EARNINGS PER SHARE

The Corporation presents basic and diluted earnings per share data for its multiple and subordinate voting shares. Basic earnings per share is calculated by dividing the profit or loss attributable to shareholders of the Corporation by the weighted average number of multiple and subordinate voting shares outstanding during the period, adjusted for subordinate voting shares held in trust under the ISU and PSU Plans. Diluted earnings per share is determined by further adjusting the weighted average number of multiple and subordinate voting shares outstanding for the effects of all potential dilutive subordinate voting shares, which comprise stock options, ISUs and PSUs granted to executive officers and designated employees.

Q) SEGMENT REPORTING

An operating segment is a component of the Corporation that engages in business activities from which it may earn revenue and incur expenses, including revenue and expenses that relate to transactions with any of the Corporation's other components. All segments' operating results are reviewed regularly by the Corporation's chief operating decision maker (“CODM”) to decide about resources to be allocated to the operating segment and to assess its performance, and for which discrete financial information is available. Segment operating results that are directly reported to the CODM include items directly attributable to an operating segment as well as those that can be allocated on a reasonable basis.

R) ACCOUNTING JUDGMENTS AND USE OF ESTIMATES

The preparation of consolidated financial statements in accordance with IFRS requires management to make judgments, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of accounting policies and the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, revenue and expenses.

Significant areas requiring the use of management's judgments and estimates relate to the following items:

- **Allowance for doubtful accounts**

  Allowance for doubtful accounts is established based on specific credit risk of the Corporation's customers by examining such factors as the number of overdue days of the customer's balance outstanding as well as the customer's collection history. As a result, conditions causing fluctuations in the aging of customer accounts will directly impact the reported amount of bad debt expenses (see Note 22 A));

- **Business combinations**

  Fair value of assets acquired and liabilities assumed in a business combination is estimated based on information available at the date of acquisition and involves considerable judgment in determining the fair values assigned to the property, plant and equipment and intangible assets acquired and liabilities assumed on acquisition. Among other things, the determination of these fair values involves the use of discounted cash flow analyses, estimated future margins and estimated future customer counts (see Note 6);

- **Depreciation of property, plant and equipment and amortization of intangible assets**

  Measurement of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets with finite useful lives requires estimates for determining the asset expected useful lives and residual values. Management's judgment is also required to determine the components and the depreciation method used (see Note 8);

- **Provisions**

  Management's judgment is used to determine the timing, likelihood and the amount of expected cash outflows as well as the discount rate (see Note 16);

- **Contingencies**

  Contingencies such as lawsuits, taxes and commitments under contractual and other commercial obligations are estimated based on applying significant judgement in determining if a loss is probable and in determining the estimated outflow of economic resources. Such contingencies are estimated based on the information available to the Corporation;

- **Fair value measurement of derivative financial instruments**

  The fair value of derivative financial instruments is estimated using valuation techniques based on several market data such as interest rates, foreign exchange rates and the Corporation's or counterparties' credit risks;

- **Hedge accounting**

  Management uses significant judgment in determining whether the Corporation's financial instruments qualify for hedge accounting, including the assumptions for effectiveness and also in estimating the probability that a transaction will occur, in the case of cash flow hedges of forecasted transaction;

- **Measurement of defined benefit obligation**

  The net defined benefit obligation is determined using actuarial calculations that are based on several assumptions. The actuarial valuation uses the Corporation's assumptions for the discount rate, the expected rate of compensation increase and the mortality table. If the actuarial assumptions are found to be significantly different from the actual data subsequently observed, it could impact the reported amount of defined benefit pension cost recognized in profit or loss, the remeasurement of the net defined benefit asset or liability recognized directly in other comprehensive income and the net assets or net liabilities related to these obligations presented in the consolidated statement of financial position (see Note 21);

- **Share-based payments**

  Management estimates the fair value of stock-options granted using the Black-Scholes option pricing model. The estimates used by management include expected dividend yields, volatility of the Corporation's share price, the expected life of the option, the risk-free interest rate and the number of options expected to vest. Estimates are also used in the determination of the number of ISUs and PSUs that are expected to vest, which influences their fair value. The fair value of the PSUs is also estimated based on the level of Economic Value increase;

- **Measurement of non-financial assets**

  The measurement of non-financial assets requires the use of management judgment to identify the existence of impairment indicators and the determination of CGUs. Furthermore, when determining the recoverable amount of a CGU or an asset, the Corporation uses significant estimates such as the estimation of future cash flows and discount rates applicable. Any significant modification of market conditions could translate into an inability to recover the carrying amounts of non-financial assets (Note 15); and

- **Deferred taxes**

  Deferred tax assets and liabilities require estimates about the nature and timing of future permanent and temporary differences, the expected timing of reversals of those temporary differences and the future tax rates that will apply to those differences. Judgment is also required in determining the tax basis of indefinite life intangible assets and the resulting tax rate used to measure deferred taxes (see Note 10).

Such judgments and estimates are based on the facts and information available to the management of the Corporation. Changes in facts and circumstances may require the revision of previous estimates, and actual results could differ from these estimates.

3. CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING POLICY

During 2016, the *IFRS Interpretations Committee* ("IFRIC") received a request to clarify how an entity determines the expected manner of recovery of an intangible asset with an indefinite useful life for the purposes of measuring deferred tax. Through the process of considering this question, the IFRIC clarified that an entity should use the tax rate associated with the expected manner of recovery to measure deferred taxes. Further, the fact that an indefinite life intangible asset is not being amortized is not in and of itself evidence that the manner of recovery will be through sale. In response to this clarification, the Corporation retrospectively changed its accounting policy as of September 1, 2016 and has restated the prior period for this change as further explained below.

IAS 12, *Income Taxes*, states that measurement of deferred tax liabilities and deferred tax assets reflects the tax consequences that follow from the manner in which the entity expects, at the end of the reporting period, to recover or settle the carrying amount of the assets and liabilities. The carrying value is recovered in the form of economic benefits that flow to the entity in future periods, thereby the assets are recovered through sale or recovered through use.

In applying the new interpretation, the Corporation has now determined that the benefit of its Cable Distribution Licenses will flow to the Corporation on an annual basis, and thereby the carrying amount will be recovered through use, and as a result, will be subject to a higher tax rate.

Consequently, the Corporation changed its accounting policy with respect to the tax rate used in determining the deferred tax assets and liabilities at the reporting date. The Corporation believes this change in accounting policy will better reflect how the assets will be recovered by the Corporation. The change in accounting policy was applied retrospectively and resulted in the following changes to the Corporation’s consolidated financial statements:

	As previously reported	Effect of change in accounting policy	As currently reported
	$	$	$
Balance at August 31, 2015			
Deferred tax assets	12,086	(4,093)	7,993
Deferred tax liabilities	514,194	112,134	626,328
Retained earnings	660,999	(116,227)	544,772
Balance at August 31, 2016			
Deferred tax assets	11,680	(4,093)	7,587
Deferred tax liabilities	488,993	112,134	601,127
Retained earnings	389,720	(116,227)	273,493

4. NEW ACCOUNTING STANDARDS AND INTERPRETATIONS ISSUED BUT NOT YET EFFECTIVE

A number of new standards, interpretations and amendments to existing standards were issued by the IASB that are mandatory but not yet effective for the year ended August 31, 2017, and have not been applied in preparing these consolidated financial statements. The following standards may have a material impact on future consolidated financial statements of the Corporation:

	Effective for annual periods starting on or after	
IFRS 9 *Financial Instruments*	January 1, 2018	Early adoption permitted
IFRS 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*	January 1, 2018	Early adoption permitted
IFRS 16 *Leases*	January 1, 2019	Early adoption permitted

IFRS 9

IFRS 9 replaces the guidance in IAS 39 *Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement.* The Standard includes requirements for recognition and measurement, impairment, derecognition and general hedge accounting. The IASB completed its project to replace IAS 39 in phases, adding to the standard as it completed each phase. IFRS 9 does not replace the requirement for portfolio fair value hedge accounting for interest risk since this phase of the project was separated from the IFRS 9 project due to the longer term nature of the macro hedging project which is currently at the discussion paper phase of the due process. Consequently, the exception in IAS 39 for a fair value hedge of an interest rate exposure of a portfolio of financial assets or financial liabilities continues to apply. The Corporation is in the process of determining the extent of the impact of this change on its consolidated financial statements.

IFRS 15

IFRS 15 establishes principles for reporting the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of revenue and cash flows arising from an entity's contracts with customers. It provides a single, five-step model for an entity to recognize revenue in order to depict the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods and services. IFRS 15 also provides guidance relating to the treatment of contract acquisition and contract fulfillment costs. In addition, IFRS 15 requires additional disclosure in the consolidated financial statements regarding the Corporation's revenue.

The Corporation expects that the adoption of IFRS 15 should have an impact on the consolidated financial statements with regards to the capitalization of costs to obtain or fulfill a contract. IFRS 15 requires costs to obtain a contract (such as direct and incremental costs associated with the acquisition of customers) and costs to fulfill a contract (such as reconnect and additional service activation costs), to be recognized as an asset and recognized in operating expenses over the period of time the customer is expected to remain a customer of the Corporation. Direct and incremental costs associated with the acquisition of customers are currently being capitalized as intangible assets, for contracts lasting greater than 1 year, and amortized over the term of the revenue arrangement. For contracts with durations of less than 1 year, these costs are currently being recognized in operating expenses as incurred. Reconnect and additional service activation costs are currently being capitalized as intangible assets up to a maximum amount not exceeding the revenue generated by these related reconnect activities, and amortized over the average life of the customer's subscription. Under IFRS 15, these costs will no longer be limited to the related reconnect revenue.

The adoption of IFRS 15 should not have a significant impact on the timing of the recognition of revenue and on the total revenue recognized over the term of the revenue arrangement. Thus, all performance obligations within the contract should remain essentially the same. The Corporation expects that the presentation of expenses between amortization and operating expenses may change under IFRS 15, however the impact of the new standard should be low on its profit for the period.

IFRS 15 supersedes the following standards: IAS 11 *Construction Contracts*, IAS 18 *Revenue*, IFRIC 13 *Customer Loyalty Programmes*, IFRIC 15 *Agreements for the Construction of Real Estate*, IFRIC 18 *Transfers of Assets from Customers* and SIC-31 *Revenue-Barter Transactions Involving Advertising Services*.

Application of the standard is mandatory for all IFRS reporters, and is expected to be applied retrospectively by the Corporation. It applies to almost all contracts with customers: the main exceptions being leases, financial instruments and insurance contracts. The Corporation is continuing to assess the impact of this change on its consolidated financial statements.

IFRS 16

IFRS 16 introduces a single accounting model for lessees and for all leases with a term of more than 12 months, unless the underlying asset is of low value. A lessee will be required to recognize a right-of-use asset, representing its right to use the underlying asset, and a corresponding lease liability, representing its obligation to make the lease payments. IFRS 16 supersedes the current standard IAS 17 *Leases.* The accounting treatment for lessors will remain largely the same as under IAS 17. Early adoption is permitted, but only if the entity is also applying IFRS 15. The Corporation is in the process of determining the extent of the impact of this change on its consolidated financial statements.

5. OPERATING SEGMENTS

The Corporation's segment profit (loss) is reported in three operating segments: Canadian broadband services, American broadband services and Business information and communications technology ("Business ICT") services. The reporting structure reflects how the Corporation manages its business activities to make decisions about resources to be allocated to the segments and to assess their performance.

The Canadian and American broadband services segments provide a wide range of Internet, video and telephony services primarily to residential customers and also provide business services to small and medium sized businesses across their coverage areas. The Canadian broadband services activities are carried out by Cogeco Connexion in the Provinces of Québec and Ontario, and the American broadband services activities are carried out by Atlantic Broadband in western Pennsylvania, southern Florida, Maryland/Delaware, South Carolina and eastern Connecticut.

The Business ICT services segment provides colocation, network connectivity, hosting, cloud and an extensive portfolio of managed services primarily in Canada, the United States and Europe to small, medium and large enterprises around the globe. Cogeco Peer 1 provides these services in the following key vertical markets: online retail, financial services, technology, public sector, education, health care, business services, manufacturing, media and online gaming. The primary activities of the Business ICT services segment are carried out by Cogeco Peer 1 across Canada (British Columbia, Ontario and Québec), the United States (California, Texas, Virginia, Florida and Georgia) and Europe (London and Southampton, United Kingdom and France). Cogeco Peer 1 has more than 50 points of presence, including in Germany, the Netherlands and Mexico.

The Corporation and its chief operating decision maker assess the performance of each operating segment based on its segment profit (loss), which is equal to revenue less operating expenses. The other expenses, except for management fees, financial expense and income taxes, are reported by segment solely for external reporting purposes. Management fees, financial expense and income taxes are managed on a consolidated basis and, accordingly, are not reflected in segmented results.The Inter-segment eliminations and other, eliminate any intercompany transactions included in each segment's operating results and include head office activities. Transactions between operating segments are measured at the amounts agreed to between the parties.

Year ended August 31, 2017	Canadian broadband services	American broadband services	Business ICT services	Inter-segment eliminations and other	Consolidated
(In thousands of Canadian dollars)	$	$	$	$	$
Revenue	1,296,455	643,135	290,799	(3,538)	2,226,851
Operating expenses	618,223	371,947	199,748	13,024	1,202,942
Management fees – Cogeco Inc.	—	—	—	18,939	18,939
Segment profit (loss)	678,232	271,188	91,051	(35,501)	1,004,970
Integration, restructuring and acquisition costs (1)	—	3,191	—	—	3,191
Depreciation and amortization	231,893	138,088	104,786	301	475,068
Financial expense					129,424
Income taxes					98,062
Profit for the year					299,225
Property, plant and equipment	1,110,926	443,257	392,603	453	1,947,239
Intangible assets	990,600	905,805	81,897	—	1,978,302
Goodwill	4,662	749,982	268,780	—	1,023,424
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment	229,530	129,735	47,599	—	406,864
Acquisition of intangible and other assets	10,600	5,215	5,378	—	21,193

(1) Comprised of due diligence and transaction costs in connection with a business combination that is expected to close in early January 2018 (see Note 24 A)).

Year ended August 31, 2016	Canadian broadband services	American broadband services	Business ICT services	Inter-segment eliminations and other	Consolidated
(In thousands of Canadian dollars)	$	$	$	$	$
Revenue	1,268,515	609,753	301,523	(3,642)	2,176,149
Operating expenses	608,452	349,497	203,189	13,094	1,174,232
Management fees – Cogeco Inc.	—	—	—	18,468	18,468
Segment profit (loss)	660,063	260,256	98,334	(35,204)	983,449
Integration, restructuring and acquisition costs (1)	2,752	594	5,456	—	8,802
Claims and litigations (2)	—	—	10,791	—	10,791
Depreciation and amortization	242,100	129,427	126,135	301	497,963
Impairment of goodwill and intangible assets *(Note 15 C))*	—	—	450,000	—	450,000
Financial expense					136,378
Income taxes					69,143
Loss for the year					(189,628)
Property, plant and equipment	1,106,192	444,666	438,108	754	1,989,720
Intangible assets	988,957	970,790	99,801	—	2,059,548
Goodwill	4,662	784,680	271,438	—	1,060,780
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment	222,333	115,081	107,310	17	444,741
Acquisition of intangible and other assets	11,492	4,072	7,205	—	22,769

(1) Comprised of acquisition and integration costs related to a business combination in the American broadband services segment and restructuring costs in the Canadian broadband services and Business ICT services segments.

(2) Comprised of costs related to the settlement of claims and costs related to litigations.

The following tables set out certain geographic market information:

Year ended August 31, 2017	**Canada**	**United States**	**Europe**	**Total**
(In thousands of Canadian dollars)	$	$	$	$
Revenue	**1,466,948**	**729,201**	**30,702**	**2,226,851**
Property, plant and equipment	**1,426,089**	**490,820**	**30,330**	**1,947,239**
Intangible assets	**1,044,991**	**929,565**	**3,746**	**1,978,302**
Goodwill	**221,867**	**787,633**	**13,924**	**1,023,424**

Year ended August 31, 2016	Canada	United States	Europe	Total
(In thousands of Canadian dollars)	$	$	$	$
Revenue	1,428,863	708,680	38,606	2,176,149
Property, plant and equipment	1,450,350	502,357	37,013	1,989,720
Intangible assets	1,051,192	1,002,134	6,222	2,059,548
Goodwill	221,867	824,074	14,839	1,060,780

6. BUSINESS COMBINATION

On September 1, 2016, Cogeco Connexion completed the acquisition of all the shares of Briand et Moreau Câble Inc., a regional cable company operating in Gaspésie (Québec), which served 808 Internet service and 1,439 video service customers at September 1, 2016.

The acquisition was accounted for using the purchase method and was subject to post closing adjustments, which were completed in the second quarter of 2017. The final allocation of the purchase price of this acquisition is as follows:

	Preliminary November 30, 2016	Final February 28, 2017
	$	$
Purchase price		
Consideration paid	880	880
Balance due on a business combination	896	955
	1,776	1,835
Net assets acquired		
Cash and cash equivalents	76	76
Trade and other receivables	70	57
Prepaid expenses and other	9	9
Property, plant and equipment	204	204
Intangible assets	2,296	2,358
Trade and other payables assumed	(102)	(92)
Income tax liabilities	(13)	(13)
Deferred and prepaid revenue	(10)	(10)
Deferred tax liabilities	(549)	(549)
Long-term debt assumed	(205)	(205)
	1,776	1,835

7. OPERATING EXPENSES

Years ended August 31,	2017	2016
(In thousands of Canadian dollars)	$	$
Salaries, employee benefits and outsourced services	358,736	350,877
Service delivery costs(1)	658,955	650,834
Customer related costs(2)	66,923	64,230
Other external purchases(3)	118,328	108,291
	1,202,942	1,174,232

(1) Include cost of equipment sold, content and programming costs, payments to other carriers, data centre expenses, franchise fees and network costs.

(2) Include advertising and marketing expenses, selling costs, billing expenses, bad debts and collection expenses.

(3) Include office building expenses, professional service fees, Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission ("CRTC") fees, losses and gains on disposals and write-offs of property, plant and equipment and other administrative expenses.

8. DEPRECIATION AND AMORTIZATION

Years ended August 31,	2017	2016
(In thousands of Canadian dollars)	$	$
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	413,016	428,722
Amortization of intangible assets	62,052	69,241
	475,068	497,963

9. FINANCIAL EXPENSE

Years ended August 31, *(In thousands of Canadian dollars)*	2017 $	2016 $
Interest on long-term debt	124,215	131,808
Net foreign exchange losses (gains)	846	(273)
Amortization of deferred transaction costs	2,511	2,432
Capitalized borrowing costs (1)	(2,930)	(1,877)
Other	4,782	4,288
	129,424	136,378

(1) For the years ended August 31, 2017 and 2016, the weighted average interest rate used in the capitalization of borrowing costs was 4.5%.

10. INCOME TAXES

Years ended August 31, *(In thousands of Canadian dollars)*	2017 $	2016 $
Current	88,162	93,887
Deferred	9,900	(24,744)
	98,062	69,143

The following table provides the reconciliation between income tax expense at the Canadian statutory federal and provincial income tax rates and the consolidated income tax expense:

Years ended August 31, *(in thousands of Canadian dollars)*	2017 $	2016 $
Profit (loss) before income taxes	397,287	(120,485)
Combined Canadian income tax rate	26.50%	26.71%
Income taxes at combined Canadian income tax rate	105,281	(32,182)
Adjustment for losses or profit subject to lower or higher tax rates	9,315	6,902
Revaluation of deferred tax assets	587	9,444
Impact on deferred taxes as a result of changes in substantively enacted tax rates	(1,714)	1,226
Impact on income taxes arising from non-deductible expenses (1)	671	107,676
Tax impacts related to foreign operations	(17,009)	(21,346)
Other	931	(2,577)
Income taxes at effective income tax rate	98,062	69,143

(1) Comprised of $107.2 million of non-deductible impairment of goodwill and intangible assets for the year ended August 31, 2016.

The following table shows deferred income taxes resulting from temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities for accounting purposes and the amounts used for tax purposes, as well as tax losses carryforwards:

At August 31, *(In thousands of Canadian dollars)*	2017 $	2016 $ *(restated, Note 3)*
Property, plant and equipment	(165,005)	(174,237)
Intangible assets and goodwill	(563,613)	(565,757)
Deferred and prepaid revenue	11,731	10,973
Non-capital losses and other tax credits carryforwards, net of unrecognized benefits related to tax losses	133,791	139,832
Other	(9,733)	(4,351)
Net deferred tax liabilities	(592,829)	(593,540)
Financial statement presentation:		
Deferred tax assets	10,918	7,587
Deferred tax liabilities	(603,747)	(601,127)
Net deferred tax liabilities	(592,829)	(593,540)

The movements in deferred tax asset and liability balances during fiscal 2017 and 2016 were as follows:

Year ended August 31, 2017	Balance beginning of the year	Recognized in profit or loss	Recognized in other comprehensive income (loss)	Acquisition through a business combination	Foreign currency translation adjustments	Balance end of the year
(In thousands of Canadian dollars)	$	$	$	$	$	$
	(restated, Note 3)					
Property, plant and equipment	(174,237)	4,552	—	63	4,617	(165,005)
Intangible assets and goodwill	(565,757)	(11,288)	—	(612)	14,044	(563,613)
Deferred and prepaid revenue	10,973	995	—	—	(237)	11,731
Non-capital losses and other tax credits carryforwards, net of unrecognized benefits related to tax losses	139,832	(683)	—	—	(5,358)	133,791
Other	(4,351)	(3,476)	(2,003)	—	97	(9,733)
	(593,540)	(9,900)	(2,003)	(549)	13,163	(592,829)

Year ended August 31, 2016	Balance beginning of the year	Recognized in profit or loss	Recognized in other comprehensive income (loss)	Foreign currency translation adjustments	Balance end of the year
(In thousands of Canadian dollars)	$	$	$	$	$
	(restated, Note 3)				*(restated, Note 3)*
Property, plant and equipment	(169,710)	(3,881)	—	(646)	(174,237)
Intangible assets and goodwill	(573,049)	5,887	—	1,405	(565,757)
Deferred and prepaid revenue	9,683	1,311	—	(21)	10,973
Partnerships income	(20,710)	20,710	—	—	—
Non-capital losses and other tax credits carryforwards, net of unrecognized benefits related to tax losses	139,609	1,423	—	(1,200)	139,832
Other	(4,158)	(706)	696	(183)	(4,351)
	(618,335)	24,744	696	(645)	(593,540)

At August 31, 2017, the Corporation and its subsidiaries had accumulated federal income tax losses, the benefits of which have been recognized in these financial statements, unless indicated otherwise. These losses expire as follows:

	2025	2026	Thereafter	Total
(In thousands of Canadian dollars)	$	$	$	$
Canada	—	—	62,545	62,545
United States	39,542	69,180	196,575	305,297
United Kingdom (1)	—	—	14,910	14,910
	39,542	69,180	274,030	382,752

(1) Net tax losses in United Kingdom can be carried forward indefinitely to offset against profit of the same enterprise. The benefit of these tax losses have not been recognized in these financial statements.

The Corporation and its subsidiaries also had accumulated capital losses amounting to $521 million which can be carried forward indefinitely against capital gains, and $248 million of unrealized foreign exchange temporary differences, the benefits of which have not been recognized in these consolidated financial statements.

11. EARNINGS (LOSS) PER SHARE

The following table provides the reconciliation between basic and diluted earnings (loss) per share:

Years ended August 31,	2017	2016
(In thousands of Canadian dollars, except number of shares and per share data)	$	$
Profit (loss) for the year	299,225	(189,628)
Weighted average number of multiple and subordinate voting shares outstanding	49,204,213	49,032,367
Effect of dilutive stock options (1) (2)	168,469	—
Effect of dilutive incentive share units (2)	111,120	—
Effect of dilutive performance share units (2)	111,393	—
Weighted average number of diluted multiple and subordinate voting shares outstanding	49,595,195	49,032,367
Earnings (loss) per share		
Basic	6.08	(3.87)
Diluted	6.03	(3.87)

(1) For the year ended August 31, 2017, 2,475 stock options (155,900 in 2016) were excluded from the calculation of diluted earnings per share as the exercise price of the options was greater than the average share price of the subordinate voting shares.

(2) The weighted average dilutive potential of subordinate voting shares which amounted to 417,337 for the year ended August 31, 2016, is anti-dilutive due to the loss incurred for the year.

12. SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS

At August 31, 2017 the Corporation's short-term investments are comprised of certificates of deposit, for a total of $54 million, bearing interest between 1.08% to 1.22% and with maturity dates ranging from October 2017 to June 2018.

13. OTHER ASSETS

At August 31,	2017	2016
(In thousands of Canadian dollars)	$	$
Transaction costs	3,091	5,167
Other	4,004	2,777
	7,095	7,944

14. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

During fiscal 2017 and 2016, property, plant and equipment variations were as follows:

Years ended August 31, 2017 and 2016	Land, buildings and leasehold improvements	Networks and infrastructure (1)	Data centre equipment (2)	Home terminal devices	Rolling stock and equipment (3)	Total
(In thousands of Canadian dollars)	$	$	$	$	$	$
Cost						
Balance at August 31, 2015	241,033	2,874,338	272,520	555,844	309,371	4,253,106
Additions	17,124	212,784	57,374	89,297	68,162	444,741
Disposals and write-offs	(393)	(7,527)	(3,162)	(37,181)	(15,038)	(63,301)
Foreign currency translation adjustments	(6,076)	(3,380)	(5,388)	(495)	(2,297)	(17,636)
Balance at August 31, 2016	251,688	3,076,215	321,344	607,465	360,198	4,616,910
Acquisition through a business combination	—	204	—	—	—	204
Additions	4,967	233,627	25,189	78,961	64,120	406,864
Disposals and write-offs	(6,931)	(15,485)	(17,896)	(47,647)	(2,650)	(90,609)
Foreign currency translation adjustments	(3,463)	(31,450)	(11,523)	(6,198)	(5,316)	(57,950)
Balance at August 31, 2017	**246,261**	**3,263,111**	**317,114**	**632,581**	**416,352**	**4,875,419**
Accumulated depreciation and impairment losses						
Balance at August 31, 2015	61,407	1,472,548	118,416	413,600	201,714	2,267,685
Depreciation expense	16,865	255,337	26,264	70,623	59,633	428,722
Disposals and write-offs	(364)	(5,133)	(3,029)	(36,170)	(15,018)	(59,714)
Foreign currency translation adjustments	(1,712)	(2,020)	(3,932)	(230)	(1,609)	(9,503)
Balance at August 31, 2016	76,196	1,720,732	137,719	447,823	244,720	2,627,190
Depreciation expense	15,760	244,847	32,528	70,361	49,520	413,016
Disposals and write-offs	(653)	(10,844)	(17,845)	(46,845)	(2,549)	(78,736)
Foreign currency translation adjustments	(1,339)	(16,237)	(9,807)	(2,799)	(3,108)	(33,290)
Balance at August 31, 2017	**89,964**	**1,938,498**	**142,595**	**468,540**	**288,583**	**2,928,180**
Carrying amounts						
At August 31, 2016	175,492	1,355,483	183,625	159,642	115,478	1,989,720
At August 31, 2017	**156,297**	**1,324,613**	**174,519**	**164,041**	**127,769**	**1,947,239**

(1) Networks and infrastructure include cable towers, headends, transmitters, fibre and coaxial networks, customer drops, and network equipment.

(2) Data centre equipment includes general infrastructure, mechanical and electrical equipment, security and access control.

(3) Rolling stock and equipment includes rolling stock, programming equipment, furniture and fixtures, computer and software and other equipments.

15. INTANGIBLE ASSETS AND GOODWILL

A) INTANGIBLE ASSETS

During fiscal 2017 and 2016, intangible assets variations were as follows:

	Finite useful life		Indefinite useful life		
Years ended August 31, 2017 and 2016	Customer relationships (1)	Other (2)	Cable Distribution Licenses	Trade name	Total
(In thousands of Canadian dollars)	$	$	$	$	$
Cost					
Balance at August 31, 2015	427,973	68,353	1,811,679	25,934	2,333,939
Additions	—	22,960	—	—	22,960
Fully amortized	—	(12,249)	—	—	(12,249)
Foreign currency translation adjustments	(3,328)	(445)	(2,632)	—	(6,405)
Balance at August 31, 2016	424,645	78,619	1,809,047	25,934	2,338,245
Acquisitions through a business combination	2,358	—	—	—	2,358
Additions	—	21,572	—	—	21,572
Fully amortized	—	(13,533)	—	—	(13,533)
Foreign currency translation adjustments	(14,144)	(1,316)	(37,236)	—	(52,696)
Balance at August 31, 2017	**412,859**	**85,342**	**1,771,811**	**25,934**	**2,295,946**
Accumulated amortization and impairment losses					
Balance at August 31, 2015	167,964	34,492	—	—	202,456
Amortization expense	52,018	17,223	—	—	69,241
Impairment	21,500	—	—	—	21,500
Fully amortized	—	(12,249)	—	—	(12,249)
Foreign currency translation adjustments	(2,027)	(224)	—	—	(2,251)
Balance at August 31, 2016	239,455	39,242	—	—	278,697
Amortization expense	44,095	17,957	—	—	62,052
Fully amortized	—	(13,533)	—	—	(13,533)
Foreign currency translation adjustments	(9,002)	(570)	—	—	(9,572)
Balance at August 31, 2017	**274,548**	**43,096**	**—**	**—**	**317,644**
Carrying amounts					
At August 31, 2016	185,190	39,377	1,809,047	25,934	2,059,548
At August 31, 2017	**138,311**	**42,246**	**1,771,811**	**25,934**	**1,978,302**

(1) Customer relationships include long-term contractual agreements with customers.

(2) Includes reconnect and additional service activation costs in the Broadband services segments, direct and incremental costs associated with the acquisition of customers and favorable leases.

B) GOODWILL

During fiscal 2017 and 2016, goodwill variations were as follows:

Years ended August 31, 2017 and 2016 *(In thousands of Canadian dollars)*	$
Cost	
Balance at August 31, 2015	1,497,800
Foreign currency translation adjustments	(11,910)
Balance at August 31, 2016	1,485,890
Foreign currency translation adjustments	**(51,806)**
Balance at August 31, 2017	**1,434,084**
Accumulated impairment losses	
Balance at August 31, 2015	—
Impairment	428,500
Foreign currency translation adjustments	(3,390)
Balance at August 31, 2016	425,110
Foreign currency translation adjustments	**(14,450)**
Balance at August 31, 2017	**410,660**
Carrying amounts	
At August 31, 2016	1,060,780
At August 31, 2017	**1,023,424**

C) IMPAIRMENT TESTING OF GOODWILL AND INTANGIBLE ASSETS

The Corporation tests goodwill and intangible assets with indefinite useful lives for impairment annually, or more frequently when indicators of impairment are identified.

Goodwill is allocated to cash-generating units ("CGU") based on the level at which management monitors goodwill. The allocation is made to CGUs that are expected to benefit from the synergies of the business combination from which it arose.

Intangible assets with indefinite useful lives who do not generate independent cash inflows from those of other assets or group of assets, are allocated and tested for impairment as part of the CGU to which they belong.

For the purpose of impairment testing, goodwill and intangible assets with indefinite useful lives are allocated to each of the Corporation's CGUs as follows:

At August 31,		**2017**			2016	
Operating segment / CGU	**Goodwill**	**Cable Distribution Licenses**	**Trade name**	Goodwill	Cable Distribution Licenses	Trade name
(In thousands of Canadian dollars)	$	$	$	$	$	$
Canadian broadband services	**4,662**			4,662		
Ontario		**857,696**	—		857,696	—
Québec		**109,304**	—		109,304	—
American broadband services	**749,982**			784,680		
Southern Florida		**234,423**	—		245,269	—
South Carolina		**38,862**	—		40,660	—
Western Pennsylvania		**389,870**	—		407,908	—
Maryland/Delaware		**51,398**	—		53,776	—
Eastern Connecticut		**90,258**	—		94,434	—
Business ICT services	**268,780**	—	**25,934**	271,438	—	25,934
Total	**1,023,424**	**1,771,811**	**25,934**	1,060,780	1,809,047	25,934

Goodwill and intangible assets with indefinite useful lives are considered impaired if the recoverable amount is less than the carrying amount. The recoverable amount of each CGU is calculated based on the higher of value in use and fair value less cost to sell. The value in use is determined using cash flow projections derived from internal financial projections covering a period of five to eight years. They reflect management's expectations of revenue growth, expenses and capital expenditures for each CGU based on past experience and expected growth for the segment. Cash flows beyond that period are extrapolated using an estimated terminal growth rate determined with regard to projected growth rates for the specific markets in which the CGUs participate and are not considered to exceed the long-term average growth rates for those markets. Discount rates applied to the cash flow forecasts are derived from the Corporation's pre-tax weighted average cost of capital, adjusted for the different risk profiles of the individual CGUs.

In fiscal 2017 the Corporation changed the date of its annual impairment tests from August 31st to June 30th. The change better aligns with the Corporation's annual budgeting process. The Corporation determined this date change to be more appropriate and believes it did not have any impact on the financial results of the Corporation.

At June 30, 2017 and August 31, 2016, the Corporation performed impairment tests for its CGUs within the Canadian and American broadband services segments. The recoverable amount of each CGU was determined to be higher than its carrying amount and no impairment loss has been recognized for the years ended August 31, 2017 and 2016. The 2014 calculation of the recoverable amount of the Canadian broadband services, which represented the most recent detailed calculation made in a preceding year, was used in the impairment tests of its CGUs at August 31, 2016.

At May 31, 2017, the Corporation tested goodwill and long-lived assets of its Business ICT services CGU for impairment, due to the financial performance indicators being lower than initially projected. The recoverable amount was determined to be higher than its carrying amount and no impairment loss was recognized at May 31, 2017.

Impairment of goodwill and intangible assets in 2016

As part of a process initiated in fiscal 2015, the Corporation performed a thorough review of its Business ICT services segment operations, organizational structure and portfolio of products and services. The review resulted in several initiatives primarily focused on profitable sales generation, the streamlining of the product offering, the simplification of operational processes and the combination of its two business units Cogeco Data Services and Peer 1 Hosting to form Cogeco Peer 1.

Despite continuous efforts to align Cogeco Peer 1’s sales structure on its streamlined product offering, the sales performance has not achieved the expected growth. Sales of managed hosting services, which are Cogeco Peer 1’s main product sold in the United States and Europe, have been substantially lower than expected due to a combination of an accelerated transition out of unprofitable services, slower than planned ramp-up of the sales team, and increased competition in the market from large cloud-based offerings, which now compete with most traditional managed hosting providers. In addition, the fair market value and trading multiples for managed hosting businesses had decreased significantly in 2016 due to the entry in the market of these cloud-based offerings.

Consequently, management reviewed downwards its future financial projections, resulting in a decrease in the value of the Corporation’s investment in Cogeco Peer 1. As a result, at May 31, 2016, the Corporation tested goodwill and all long-lived assets of Cogeco Peer 1 for impairment. The Corporation recorded a non-cash impairment loss of $428.5 million on goodwill. In addition, the Corporation completed its impairment testing on the long-lived assets and concluded that the carrying value of the customer relationships exceeded their recoverable amount, calculated as the discounted future cash flows expected to be generated from the asset. As a result, a non-cash impairment loss of $21.5 million was also recognized during the third quarter of fiscal 2016 regarding the customer relationships.

The impairment of goodwill and intangible assets that affected the Corporation’s financial results for the year ended August 31, 2016 is as follows:

	$
Impairment of goodwill (1)	428,500
Impairment of intangible assets (2)	21,500
Impairment of goodwill and intangible assets	450,000
Income taxes	(16,048)
Impairment of goodwill and intangible assets net of income taxes	433,952

(1) Impairment of goodwill by geographic market included $111.8 million in Canada, $278.9 million in the United States and $37.8 million in Europe.

(2) Intangible assets were impaired only in the United States.

The following represents the key assumptions that were used to determine the recoverable amounts in the most recent impairment tests performed for each of the Corporation's operating segments:

	2017		2016	
	Pre-tax discount rate	**Terminal growth rate**	Pre-tax discount rate	Terminal growth rate
Operating segment	%	%	%	%
Canadian broadband services	**10.0**	**2.0**	10.5 to 10.9	2.0
American broadband services	**9.2 to 10.0**	**2.5 to 3.0**	10.9 to 11.6	2.5 to 3.0
Business ICT services	**11.5**	**3.2**	11.3	3.2

The following table presents for each operating segment, the change in the pre-tax discount rate and in the terminal growth rate used in the tests performed, that would have been required in order for the recoverable amount to equal the carrying value of the CGU at the date of the most recent impairment tests :

	Increase in pre-tax discount rate	Decrease in terminal growth rate
Operating segment	%	%
Canadian broadband services	10.2 to 12.1	12.1 to 15.4
American broadband services	2.3 to 10.2	4.1 to 41.4
Business ICT services	0.4	0.4

16. PROVISIONS

During fiscal 2017, provisions variations were as follows:

Year ended August 31, 2017	Withholding and stamp taxes	Programming and content costs	Restructuring costs	Claims and litigations	Other	Total
(In thousands of Canadian dollars)	$	$	$	$	$	$
Balance, beginning of the year	6,976	8,104	340	7,000	8,268	30,688
Provisions made during the year	—	8,081	—	—	1,528	9,609
Provisions used during the year	—	(7,122)	(340)	(6,586)	(25)	(14,073)
Provisions reversed during the year	—	(3,282)	—	—	—	(3,282)
Foreign currency translation	123	(23)	—	—	(32)	68
Balance, end of the year	7,099	5,758	—	414	9,739	23,010

The provisions for withholding and stamp taxes relate to contingent liabilities for withholding and stamp taxes relating to fiscal years prior to the acquisition of a Portuguese subsidiary by the Corporation. Pursuant to the completion of the sale of the Portuguese subsidiary in 2012, the Corporation remains responsible for these contingent liabilities up to a maximum amount of €5 million under the terms of the sale agreement.

The provisions for programming and content costs include provisions for retroactive rate increases as well as additional royalties or content costs as a result of periodical audits from service providers.

The other provisions include provisions for contractual obligations and other legal obligations.

17. LONG-TERM DEBT

At August 31,	Maturity	Interest rate		2017	2016
(In thousands of Canadian dollars, except percentages)		%		$	$
Corporation					
Term Revolving Facility [a)]					
Canadian Revolving Facility					
Revolving loan – US$59.5 million in 2016	January 2022	—		—	78,040
Revolving loan – £23.6 million in 2016	January 2022	—		—	40,646
UK Revolving Facility – £4.4 million in 2016	January 2022	—		—	7,578
Senior Secured Notes [b)]					
Series A – US$25 million	September 2024	4.14		31,229	32,665
Series B - US$150 million	September 2026	4.29		187,325	195,961
Senior Secured Notes Series B [c)]	October 2018	7.60		54,922	54,853
Senior Secured Notes - US$215 million [d)]	June 2025	4.30		268,432	280,787
Senior Secured Debentures Series 2 [e)]	November 2020	5.15		199,354	199,174
Senior Secured Debentures Series 3 [f)]	February 2022	4.93		199,061	198,878
Senior Secured Debentures Series 4 [g)]	May 2023	4.18		298,078	297,788
Senior Unsecured Debenture [h)]	March 2018	5.94		99,979	99,939
Senior Unsecured Notes – US$400 million [i)]	May 2020	4.88		498,141	520,201
Subsidiaries					
First Lien Credit Facilities [j)]					
Term Loan A-2 Facility – US$94.4 million (US$98.2 million in 2016)	September 2019	3.11	(1)(2)	117,397	127,146
Term Loan A-3 Facility - US$118.4 million (US$124.6 million in 2016)	September 2019	3.11	(1)(2)	147,073	161,284
Term Loan B Facility – US$355.4 million (US$362.6 million in 2016)	December 2019	3.73	(1)	439,088	466,024
Revolving Facility – US$29 million (US$76 million in 2016)	September 2019	3.11	(1)	36,354	99,682
				2,576,433	2,860,646
Less current portion				131,915	22,516
				2,444,518	2,838,130

(1) Interest rate on debt includes applicable margin.

(2) On October 14, 2015, a US subsidiary of the Corporation entered into two interest rate swap agreements to fix the interest rate on a notional amount of US$150 million (US$75 million each agreement) of its LIBOR based loans. These agreements have the effect of converting the floating US Libor base rate at fixed rates of 0.9870% and 0.6120%, under Term Loan A-2 and Term Loan A-3 Facilities, until July 31, 2019 and October 30, 2017, respectively.

a) The Corporation has a Term Revolving Facility of $800 million with a syndicate of lenders. On December 9, 2016, the maturity was extended until January 24, 2022 and can be further extended annually. This amended and restated Term Revolving Facility is comprised of two tranches: a first tranche, a Canadian tranche, amounting to $788 million and the second tranche, a UK tranche, amounting to $12 million. Cogeco Peer 1 (UK) Ltd. can borrow under the UK tranche. The Canadian tranche is available in Canadian dollars, US dollars, Euros and British Pounds and interest rates are based on banker's acceptance, US dollar base rate loans, LIBOR loans in US dollars, Euros or British Pounds, plus the applicable margin. The UK tranche is available in British Pounds and interest rates are based on British Pounds base rate loans and British Pounds LIBOR loans.The Term Revolving Facility provides access to a swingline with a limit of $30 million, from which $12 million are available under a UK swingline. The Term Revolving Facility is indirectly secured by a first priority fixed and floating charges and a security interest on substantially all present and future real and personal properties and undertaking of every nature and kind of the Corporation and certain of its subsidiaries, and provides for certain permitted encumbrances, including purchased money obligations, existing funded obligations and charges granted by any subsidiary prior to the date when it becomes a subsidiary, subject to a maximum amount. The provisions under this facility provide for restrictions on the operations and activities of the Corporation. Generally, the most significant restrictions relate to total indebtedness, financial expense, permitted investments, distributions to shareholders including dividends on multiple and subordinate voting shares and share repurchases, as well as the incurrence and maintenance of certain financial ratios primarily linked to EBITDA adjusted for integration, restructuring and acquisition costs, claims and litigations, impairment of goodwill and intangible assets ("adjusted EBITDA").

b) On August 27, 2014, the Corporation completed, pursuant to a private placement, the issuance of US$25 million Senior Secured Notes Series A and of US$150 million Senior Secured Notes Series B. The Senior Secured Notes Series A bear interest at 4.14% per annum payable semi-annually and mature on September 1, 2024, and the Senior Secured Notes Series B bear interest at 4.29% per annum payable semi-annually and mature on September 1, 2026. The Senior Secured Notes Series A and B are redeemable at any time at Cogeco Communications' option, in whole or in part, at 100% of the principal amount plus a make-whole premium. These Notes are indirectly secured by a first priority fixed and floating charge and a security interest on substantially all present and future real and personal property and undertaking of every nature and kind of the Corporation and certain of its subsidiaries.

c) On October 1, 2008, the Corporation issued $55 million Senior Secured Notes Series B maturing October 1, 2018. The Senior Secured Notes Series B bear interest at the coupon rate of 7.60% per annum, payable semi-annually. The Senior Secured Notes are senior secured obligations and rank equally and rateably with all existing and future senior indebtedness. These Notes are indirectly secured by a first priority fixed and floating charge and a security interest on substantially all present and future real and personal property and undertaking of every nature and kind of the Corporation and certain of its subsidiaries. These Notes are redeemable at the Corporation's option at any time, in whole or in part, prior to maturity, at 100% of the principal amount plus a make-whole premium.

d) On June 27, 2013, the Corporation completed, pursuant to a private placement, the issuance of US$215 million Senior Secured Notes. The Senior Secured Notes bear interest at 4.30% payable semi-annually and mature on June 16, 2025. The Senior Secured Notes are redeemable at the Corporation's option at any time, in whole or in part, at 100% of the principal amount plus a make-whole premium. These Notes are indirectly secured by a first priority fixed and floating charge and a security interest on substantially all present and future real and personal property and undertaking of every nature and kind of the Corporation and certain of its subsidiaries.

e) On November 16, 2010, the Corporation completed pursuant to a public debt offering, the issue of $200 million Senior Secured Debentures Series 2. These debentures mature on November 16, 2020 and bear interest at 5.15% per annum payable semi-annually. These debentures are indirectly secured by a first priority fixed and floating charge and a security interest on substantially all present and future real and personal property and undertaking of every nature and kind of the Corporation and certain of its subsidiaries.

f) On February 14, 2012, the Corporation completed pursuant to a public debt offering, the issue of $200 million Senior Secured Debentures Series 3. These debentures mature on February 14, 2022 and bear interest at 4.925% per annum payable semi-annually. These debentures are indirectly secured by a first priority fixed and floating charge and a security interest on substantially all present and future real and personal property and undertaking of every nature and kind of the Corporation and certain of its subsidiaries.

g) On May 27, 2013, the Corporation completed pursuant to a public debt offering, the issue of $300 million Senior Secured Debentures Series 4. These debentures mature on May 26, 2023 and bear interest at 4.175% per annum payable semi-annually. These debentures are indirectly secured by a first priority fixed and floating charge and a security interest on substantially all present and future real and personal property and undertaking of every nature and kind of the Corporation and its subsidiaries except for the unrestricted subsidiaries. The provisions under these debentures provide for restrictions on the operations and activities of the Corporation and its subsidiaries except for the unrestricted subsidiaries. Generally, the most significant restrictions relate to permitted indebtedness, dispositions and maintenance of certain financial ratios.

h) On March 5, 2008, the Corporation issued a $100 million Senior Unsecured Debenture by way of a private placement. The debenture bears interest at a fixed rate of 5.936% per annum, payable semi-annually. The debenture matures on March 5, 2018 and is redeemable at the Corporation's option at any time, in whole or in part, prior to maturity, at 100% of the principal amount plus a make-whole premium.

i) On April 23, 2013, the Corporation completed a private placement of US$400 million aggregate principal amount of Senior Unsecured Notes. These Notes mature on May 1, 2020 and bear interest at 4.875% per annum payable semi-annually. They are guaranteed on a senior unsecured basis, jointly and severally, by its subsidiaries except for the unrestricted subsidiaries. The provisions under these Notes provide for restrictions on the operations and activities of the Corporation and its subsidiaries except for the unrestricted subsidiaries. Generally, the most significant restrictions relate to permitted indebtedness, investments and distributions.

j) In connection with the acquisition of Atlantic Broadband on November 30, 2012, the Corporation concluded, through two of its United States subsidiaries, First Lien Credit Facilities totaling US$710 million in three tranches: the first tranche, a Term Loan A Facility maturing on November 30, 2017, the second tranche, a Term Loan B Facility maturing on December 2, 2019 and the third tranche, a Revolving Credit Facility maturing on November 30, 2017. Interest rates on the First Lien Credit Facilities are based on LIBOR plus the applicable margin, with a LIBOR floor of 0.75% for the Term Loan B Facility. Term Loan A and B Facilities are subject to a quarterly fixed amortization schedule. In addition to the fixed amortization schedule and since the first quarter of fiscal 2015, loans under the Term Loan Facilities shall be prepaid according to a prepayment percentage of excess cash flow generated during the prior fiscal year which may reduce the quarterly fixed amortization schedule. The calculation of the excess cash flow prepayment is defined as follows:

    (i) 50% if the Consolidated First Lien Leverage Ratio is greater than or equal to 4.00 to 1.00;
    (ii) 25% if the Consolidated First Lien Leverage Ratio is greater than or equal to 3.00 to 1.00 but less than 4.00 to 1.00; and
    (iii) 0% if the Consolidated First Lien Leverage Ratio is less than 3.00 to 1.00.

The First Lien Credit Facilities are non-recourse to the Corporation, its Canadian subsidiaries and are indirectly secured by a first priority fixed and floating charge on substantially all present and future real and personal property and undertaking of every nature and kind of Atlantic Broadband and its subsidiaries. The provisions under these facilities provide for restrictions on the operations and activities of Atlantic Broadband and its subsidiaries. Generally, the most significant restrictions relate to permitted indebtedness, investments, distributions and maintenance of certain financial ratios.

In connection with the acquisition of MetroCast Connecticut by Cogeco Communications' subsidiary, Atlantic Broadband, on August 20, 2015, the First Lien Credit Facilities were amended on July 17, 2015 and such amendments became effective on the closing date of the acquisition. Pursuant to the amendment, an incremental Term Loan A-2 Facility in an amount of US$100 million was issued .The Term Loan A-2 Facility matures on September 3, 2019 and is subject to a quarterly fixed amortization schedule. In addition to the fixed amortization schedule, the Term Loan A-2 Facility is subject to a prepayment percentage of excess cash flow generated during the prior fiscal year which may reduce the quarterly fixed amortization schedule, consistent with that of the Term Loan A. Other terms and conditions related to financial covenants and interest rates remained the same.

On May 31, 2016 the First Lien Credit Facilities were amended. Under the amendment, the Term Loan A Facility was converted into a Term Loan A-3 Facility which resulted in the extension of the maturity from November 2017 to September 2019. The Revolving Facility maturity was also extended from November 2017 to September 2019. Transaction costs of US$0.5 million were incurred in connection with the amendment. All other terms and conditions remained the same.

18. SHARE CAPITAL

A) AUTHORIZED

Unlimited number of:

Class A Preference shares, without voting rights, redeemable by the Corporation and retractable at the option of the holder at any time at a price of $1 per share, carrying a cumulative preferential cash dividend at a rate of 11% of the redemption price per year.

Class B Preference shares, without voting rights, could be issued in series.

Multiple voting shares, 10 votes per share.

Subordinate voting shares, 1 vote per share.

B) ISSUED AND PAID

At August 31,	2017	2016
(In thousands of Canadian dollars, except number of shares)	$	$
15,691,100 multiple voting shares	98,346	98,346
33,813,777 subordinate voting shares (33,673,541 in 2016)	933,149	924,600
	1,031,495	1,022,946
105,219 subordinate voting shares held in trust under the Incentive Share Unit Plan (160,323 in 2016)	(5,801)	(8,527)
122,614 subordinate voting shares held in trust under the Performance Share Unit Plan (89,632 in 2016)	(8,058)	(5,952)
	1,017,636	1,008,467

During fiscal 2017 and 2016, subordinate voting share transactions were as follows:

Years ended August 31,	2017		2016	
	Number of shares	Amount	Number of shares	Amount
(In thousands of Canadian dollars, except number of shares)		$		$
Balance, beginning of the year	33,673,541	924,600	33,533,342	918,057
Shares issued for cash under the Stock Option Plan	140,236	7,011	140,199	5,282
Share-based payment previously recorded in share-based payment reserve for options exercised	—	1,538	—	1,261
Balance, end of the year	33,813,777	933,149	33,673,541	924,600

During fiscal 2017 and 2016, subordinate voting shares held in trust under the Incentive Share Unit Plan transactions were as follows:

Years ended August 31,	2017		2016	
	Number of shares	Amount	Number of shares	Amount
(In thousands of Canadian dollars, except number of shares)		$		$
Balance, beginning of the year	160,323	8,527	223,852	11,322
Subordinate voting shares acquired	19,391	1,240	27,927	1,933
Subordinate voting shares distributed to employees	(74,495)	(3,966)	(91,456)	(4,728)
Balance, end of the year	105,219	5,801	160,323	8,527

During fiscal 2017 and 2016, subordinate voting shares held in trust under the Performance Share Unit Plan transactions were as follows:

Years ended August 31,		2017		2016
	Number of shares	Amount	Number of shares	Amount
(In thousands of Canadian dollars, except number of shares)		$		$
Balance, beginning of the year	89,632	5,952	54,133	3,463
Subordinate voting shares acquired	34,344	2,196	38,176	2,642
Subordinate voting shares distributed to employees	(1,362)	(90)	(2,677)	(153)
Balance, end of the year	122,614	8,058	89,632	5,952

C) DIVIDENDS

For the year ended August 31, 2017, quarterly eligible dividends of $0.43 per share, for a total of $1.72 per share, were paid to the holders of multiple and subordinate voting shares, totaling $84.7 million, compared to quarterly eligible dividends of $0.39 per share, for a total of $1.56 per share or $76.5 million for the year ended August 31, 2016.

At its November 2, 2017 meeting, the Board of Directors of Cogeco Communications declared a quarterly eligible dividend of $0.475 per share for multiple voting and subordinate voting shares, payable on November 30, 2017 to shareholders of record on November 16, 2017.

D) SHARE-BASED PAYMENT PLANS

The Corporation offers an Employee Stock Purchase Plan for the benefit of its employees and those of its subsidiaries and a Stock Option Plan to its executive officers and designated employees. No more than 10% of the outstanding subordinate voting shares are available for issuance under these plans. Furthermore, the Corporation offers an Incentive Share Unit Plan ("ISU Plan") and a Performance Share Unit Plan ("PSU Plan") for executive officers and designated employees, and a Deferred Share Unit Plan ("DSU Plan") for members of the Board of Directors ("Board").

Stock purchase plan

The Corporation offers, for the benefit of its employees and those of its subsidiaries, an Employee Stock Purchase Plan, which is accessible to all employees up to a maximum of 7% of their base annual salary and the Corporation contributes 25% of the employee contributions. The subscriptions are made monthly and employee subordinate voting shares are purchased on the stock market.

Stock option plan

A total of 3,432,500 subordinate voting shares are reserved for the purpose of the Stock Option Plan. The minimum exercise price at which options are granted is equal to the market value of such shares at the time the option is granted. Options vest equally over a period of five years beginning one year after the day such options are granted and are exercisable over ten years.

Under the Stock Option Plan, the following options were granted by the Corporation and are outstanding at August 31:

Years ended August 31,		2017		2016
	Options	Weighted average exercise price	Options	Weighted average exercise price
		$		$
Outstanding, beginning of the year	645,626	53.67	721,973	47.24
Granted (1)	210,650	62.43	176,225	67.40
Exercised (2)	(140,236)	50.00	(140,199)	37.67
Cancelled	(63,655)	60.60	(112,373)	53.84
Outstanding, end of the year	652,385	56.61	645,626	53.67
Exercisable, end of the year	200,526	46.87	221,529	44.70

(1) For the year ended August 31, 2017, the Corporation granted 81,350 (74,750 in 2016) stock options to Cogeco's executive officers as executive officers of the Corporation.

(2) The weighted average share price for options exercised during the year was $73.75 ($63.57 in 2016).

At August 31, 2017, the range of exercise prices, the weighted average exercise price and the weighted average remaining contractual life of options are as follows:

At August 31, 2017			Options outstanding		Options exercisable
Range of exercise prices	Number outstanding	Weighted average remaining contractual life	Weighted average exercise price	Number exercisable	Weighted average exercise price
$		(years)	$		$
31.82 to 38.08	40,091	2.02	33.31	38,945	33.17
38.16 to 45.60	71,924	4.55	38.84	54,756	38.63
48.02 to 58.12	117,850	5.76	49.72	58,710	49.31
61.22 to 66.41	296,845	8.53	62.00	27,255	61.83
67.55 to 79.27	125,675	8.19	67.95	20,860	67.69
	652,385	7.12	56.61	200,526	46.87

The weighted average fair value of stock options granted for the period ended August 31, 2017 was $8.96 ($11.32 in 2016) per option. The weighted average fair value of each option granted was estimated at the grant date for purposes of determining share-based payment expense using the Black-Scholes option pricing model based on the following weighted-average assumptions:

Years ended August 31,	2017	2016
	%	%
Expected dividend yield	2.52	2.09
Expected volatility (1)	21.28	22.33
Risk-free interest rate	0.81	0.96
Expected life (in years)	6.1	6.1

(1) The expected volatility is based on the historical volatility of the Corporation's subordinate voting shares for a period equivalent to the expected life of the options.

A compensation expense of $648,000 ($575,000 in 2016) was recorded for the year ended August 31, 2017 related to this plan.

ISU plan

The Corporation offers to its executive officers and designated employees an Incentive Share Unit ("ISU") Plan. According to this plan, executive officers and designated employees periodically receive a given number of ISUs which entitle the participants to receive subordinate voting shares of the Corporation after three years less one day from the date of grant. The number of ISUs is based on the dollar value of the award and the average closing stock price of the Corporation for the previous twelve month period ending August 31. ISUs are redeemable in case of death, permanent disability, normal retirement or termination of employment not for cause. For the grants made after April 7, 2015 the holder of ISUs is entitled to payment of the ISUs in proportion to the time of employment from the date of the grant to the date of termination versus the three-year vesting period. A trust was created for the purpose of purchasing these shares on the stock market in order to protect against stock price fluctuation and the Corporation instructed the trustee to purchase subordinate voting shares of the Corporation on the stock market. These shares are purchased and are held in trust for the participants until they are fully vested. The trust, considered as a special purpose entity, is consolidated in the Corporation's financial statements with the value of the acquired subordinate voting shares held in trust under the ISU Plan presented in reduction of share capital.

Under the ISU Plan, the following ISUs were granted by the Corporation and are outstanding at August 31:

Years ended August 31,	2017	2016
Outstanding, beginning of the year	144,623	217,779
Granted (1)	41,075	38,325
Distributed	(74,495)	(91,456)
Cancelled	(9,665)	(20,025)
Outstanding, end of the year	101,538	144,623

(1) For the years ended August 31, 2017 and 2016, the Corporation did not grant ISUs to Cogeco's executive officers as executive officers of the Corporation.

A compensation expense of $2,013,000 ($3,088,000 in 2016) was recorded for the year ended August 31, 2017 related to this plan.

PSU plan

The Corporation also offers a Performance Share Unit ("PSU") Plan for the benefit of its executive officers and designated employees. The objectives of the PSU Plan are to retain executive officers and designated employees, to align their interests with those of the shareholders and to sustain positive corporate performance, as measured by the Economic Value Creation formula, a performance measure used by management. The number of PSUs is based on the dollar value of the award and the average closing stock price of the Corporation for the previous twelve month period ending August 31. The PSUs vest over a three-year less one day period, based on the level of increase in the

Economic Value of the Corporation or the relevant subsidiary for the preceding three-year period ending August 31, meaning that no vesting will occur if there is no increase in the Economic Value. The participants are entitled to receive dividend equivalents in the form of additional PSUs but only with respect to vested PSUs. PSUs are redeemable in case of death, permanent disability, normal retirement or termination of employment not for cause, in which cases, the holder of PSUs is entitled to payment of the PSUs in proportion to the time of employment from the date of the grant to the date of termination versus the three-year vesting period. A trust was created for the purpose of purchasing these shares on the stock market in order to protect against stock price fluctuation and the Corporation instructed the trustee to purchase subordinate voting shares of the Corporation on the stock market. These shares are purchased and are held in trust for the participants until they are fully vested. The trust, considered as a special purpose entity, is consolidated in the Corporation's financial statements with the value of the acquired subordinate voting shares held in trust under the PSU Plan presented in reduction of share capital.

Under the PSU Plan, the following PSUs were granted by the Corporation and are outstanding at August 31:

Years ended August 31,	2017	2016
Outstanding, beginning of the year	81,376	49,862
Granted (1)	50,925	44,425
Distributed	(1,362)	(2,677)
Cancelled	(18,421)	(12,339)
Dividend equivalents	2,689	2,105
Outstanding, end of the year	115,207	81,376

(1) For the year ended August 31, 2017, the Corporation granted 12,150 (11,950 in 2016) PSUs to Cogeco's executive officers as executive officers of the Corporation.

A compensation expense of $1,143,000 ($1,074,000 in 2016) was recorded for the year ended August 31, 2017 related to this plan.

DSU plan

The Corporation also offers a Deferred Share Unit ("DSU") Plan for members of the Board to assist in the attraction and retention of qualified individuals to serve on the Board of the Corporation. Each existing or new member of the Board may elect to be paid a percentage of the annual retainer in the form of DSUs with the balance, if any, being paid in cash. The number of DSUs that a member is entitled to receive is based on the average closing price of the subordinate shares on the TSX for the twenty consecutive trading days immediately preceding by one day the date of issue. Dividend equivalents are awarded with respect to DSUs in a member's account on the same basis as if the member was a shareholder of record of subordinate shares on the relevant record date, and the dividend equivalents are credited to the individual's account as additional DSUs. DSUs are redeemable and payable in cash or in shares, upon an individual ceasing to be a member of the Board or in the event of the death of the member.

Under the DSU Plan, the following DSUs were issued by the Corporation and are outstanding at August 31:

Years ended August 31,	2017	2016
Outstanding, beginning of the year	32,483	26,579
Issued	7,097	5,155
Dividend equivalents	866	749
Outstanding, end of the year	40,446	32,483

A compensation expense of $1,503,000 ($214,000 in 2016) was recorded for the year ended August 31, 2017 related to this plan.

19. ACCUMULATED OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

During fiscal 2017 and 2016, accumulated other comprehensive income variations were as follows:

Years ended August 31, 2017 and 2016	Cash flow hedge reserve	Foreign currency translation	Total
(In thousands of Canadian dollars)	$	$	$
Balance at August 31, 2015	1,330	82,490	83,820
Other comprehensive income (loss) for the year	(1,451)	2,258	807
Balance at August 31, 2016	(121)	84,748	84,627
Other comprehensive income (loss) for the year	559	(8,551)	(7,992)
Balance at August 31, 2017	**438**	**76,197**	**76,635**

20. STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

A) CHANGES IN NON-CASH OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Years ended August 31,	2017	2016
(In thousands of Canadian dollars)	$	$
Trade and other receivables	24,207	11,116
Prepaid expenses and other	(6,681)	12,763
Trade and other payables	34,203	397
Provisions	(9,271)	8,104
Deferred and prepaid revenue and other liabilities	26,375	(79)
	68,833	32,301

B) CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

At August 31,	2017	2016
(In thousands of Canadian dollars)	$	$
Cash	162,222	62,286
Cash equivalents (1)	48,963	—
	211,185	62,286

(1) At August 31, 2017, comprised of banker's acceptances and a certificate of deposit, bearing interest between 1.12% to 1.30% and with maturity dates ranging from September 21st to October 19th, 2017.

21. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

A) DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLANS AND COLLECTIVE REGISTERED RETIREMENT SAVING PLANS

The Corporation and its subsidiaries offer to their employees defined contribution plans or collective registered retirement savings plans. Under these plans, the Corporation and its subsidiaries' obligations are limited to the payment of the monthly employer's contribution. The total expense recognized with respect to these plans amounted to $9,032,000 ($8,819,000 in 2016) for the year ended August 31, 2017 and is included in the Corporation's consolidated statement of profit and loss under "salaries, employee benefits and outsourced services".

B) DEFINED BENEFIT PLANS

The Corporation and its subsidiaries sponsor a defined benefit plan for the benefit of its employees and a separate defined benefit plan for the benefit of its executive officers, which provide pensions based on the number of years of service and the average salary during the employment of each participant. In addition, the Corporation and its subsidiaries offer to their designated executive officers a supplementary pension plan. Each year at August 31 the Corporation and its subsidiaries measure plan assets at fair value, as well as the defined benefit obligation for all plans. The most recent actuarial valuation of the pension plan for the benefit of the employees was at August 31, 2016 and the next required valuation is at August 31, 2017. For the executive officers' plans, the most recent actuarial valuation was at August 31, 2014 and the next required valuation is at August 31, 2017. The next required valuation of the pension plan for the benefit of the employees and for the executive officers is expected to be completed in February 2018.

The following table provides a reconciliation of the change in the defined benefit obligations and plan assets at fair value and a statement of the funded status at August 31:

Years ended August 31,	2017	2016
(In thousands of Canadian dollars)	$	$
Defined benefit obligation [1]		
Defined benefit obligation, beginning of the year	48,567	38,636
Current service cost	2,645	2,242
Interest cost	1,532	1,606
Contributions by plan participants	304	318
Benefits paid	(923)	(887)
Actuarial losses (gains) on obligation arising from:		
Experience adjustments	127	624
Changes in demographic assumptions	31	(2)
Changes in financial assumptions	(3,782)	6,662
Defined benefit obligation reallocated to Cogeco's pension plans [2]	—	(632)
Defined benefit obligation, end of the year	48,501	48,567
Plan assets at fair value		
Plan assets at fair value, beginning of the year	42,184	36,652
Interest income	1,301	1,520
Return on plan assets, except amounts included in interest income	1,885	1,263
Administrative expense	(260)	(195)
Contributions by plan participants	304	318
Employer contributions	3,153	4,084
Benefits paid	(923)	(887)
Plan assets reallocated to Cogeco's pension plans [2]	—	(571)
Plan assets at fair value, end of the year	47,644	42,184
Funded status		
Plan assets at fair value	47,644	42,184
Defined benefit obligation	48,501	48,567
Net defined benefit liability	857	6,383

(1) The weighted average duration of the defined benefit obligation at August 31, 2017 is 13 years (14 years in 2016).

(2) Arose following the transfer of Cogeco Communications' employees to Cogeco.

The net defined benefit liability is included in the Corporation's consolidated statement of financial position under "pension plan liabilities and accrued employee benefits".

Defined benefit costs recognized in profit or loss

Years ended August 31,	2017	2016
(In thousands of Canadian dollars)	$	$
Recognized in operating expenses (salaries, employee benefits and outsourced services)		
Current service cost	**2,645**	2,242
Administrative expense	**260**	195
Recognized in financial expense (other)		
Net interest	**231**	86
	3,136	2,523

Defined benefit costs recognized in other comprehensive income

Years ended August 31,	2017	2016
(In thousands of Canadian dollars)	$	$
Actuarial losses (gains) arising from:		
Experience adjustments	**127**	624
Change in demographic assumptions	**31**	(2)
Change in financial assumptions	**(3,782)**	6,662
Return on plan assets, except amounts included in interest income	**(1,885)**	(1,263)
	(5,509)	6,021

The expected employer contributions to the Corporation's defined benefit plans should be $2,552,000 in 2018.

Plan assets consist of:

At August 31,	2017	2016
	%	%
Equity securities (1)	**57**	58
Debt securities (1)	**19**	18
Deposits in trust (2)	**16**	16
Other	**8**	8
Total	**100**	100

(1) All debt and equity securities have a quoted price in active markets.

(2) Deposits in trust prescribed by the Canada Revenue Agency for funded supplemental employee retirement plans are non-interest-bearing.

The significant weighted average assumptions used in measuring the Corporation's defined benefit obligation and defined benefit costs are as follows:

At August 31,	2017	2016
	%	%
Defined benefit obligation		
Discount rate	**3.50**	3.00
Rate of compensation increase	**2.75**	2.75
Mortality table	**CPM-2014**	CPM-2014
Defined benefit costs		
Discount rate	**3.00**	4.00
Rate of compensation increase	**2.75**	3.00
Mortality table	**CPM-2014**	CPM-2014

C) EXPOSURE TO ACTUARIAL RISKS

The Corporation is exposed to the following actuarial risks:

Investment risk

The investment strategy of the plans is to diversify the nature of the returns on assets. Given the long-term nature of the defined benefit obligation, a portion of the assets are invested in equity securities in order to maximize return. Since equity securities are inherently volatile and risky, the Corporation sets investment goals, both in terms of asset mix percentage and target return, which is monitored monthly and adjusted as needed.

Interest rate risk

A decrease in the interest rate on investment-grade fixed-rate Corporate bonds, which would reduce the discount rate used, will increase the present value of the defined benefit obligation. However, the increase in the obligation would be partly offset by an increase in the value of plan investments in debt securities.

Salary risk

Active members expected benefits are linked to their pre-retirement compensation. The present value of the defined benefit obligation is calculated using management's best estimate of the expected rate of compensation increase of plan members. Increasing that assumption would increase the defined benefit obligation.

D) SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS

The sensitivity analysis of the defined benefit obligation were calculated based on reasonably possible changes to each key actuarial assumption without considering simultaneous changes to several key actuarial assumptions. A change in one actuarial assumption could trigger a change in another actuarial assumption, which could amplify or mitigate the impact of the change in these assumptions on the present value of the defined benefit obligation. The sensitivity analysis were prepared in accordance with the Corporation's accounting policies described in Note 2 K). The actual results of items subject to estimates may differ.

At August 31, 2017	Change in assumption	Impact of change in assumption
(In thousands of Canadian dollars)	%	$
Discount rate decrease	0.10	723
Expected rate of compensation increase	0.25	149

22. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

A) FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT

Management's objectives are to protect the Corporation and its subsidiaries against material economic exposures and variability of results, and against certain financial risks including credit, liquidity, interest rate and foreign exchange risks.

Credit risk

Credit risk represents the risk of financial loss for the Corporation if a customer or counterparty to a financial asset fails to meet its contractual obligations. The Corporation is exposed to credit risk arising from the derivative financial instruments, cash and cash equivalents, short-term investments and trade accounts receivable, the maximum exposure of which is represented by the carrying amounts reported on the statement of financial position.

Credit risk from derivative financial instruments arises from the possibility that counterparties to the interest rate swaps and foreign currency forward contracts may default on their obligations in instances where these agreements have positive fair values for the Corporation. The Corporation reduces this risk by completing transactions with financial institutions that carry a credit rating equal to or superior to its own credit rating. The Corporation assesses the creditworthiness of the counterparties in order to minimize the risk of counterparties default under the agreements. At August 31, 2017, management believes that the credit risk relating to its derivative financial instruments is minimal, since the lowest credit rating of the counterparties to the agreements is "A" by Standard & Poor's rating services ("S&P").

Cash equivalents and short-term investments consist mainly of highly liquid money market short-term investments. The Corporation has deposited the cash and cash equivalents and short-term investments with reputable financial institutions, for which management believes the risk of loss to be remote. The credit rating of the counterparties to the cash equivalents and short-term investments is "A+" by S&P and "A (high)" by Dominion Bond Rating Services ("DBRS"), or better.

The Corporation is also exposed to credit risk in relation to its trade accounts receivable. To mitigate such risk, the Corporation continuously monitors the financial condition of its customers and reviews the credit history or worthiness of each new large customer. The Corporation establishes an allowance for doubtful accounts based on specific credit risk of its customers by examining such factors as the number of overdue days of the customer's balance outstanding as well as the customer's collection history. The Corporation believes that its allowance for doubtful accounts is sufficient to cover the related credit risk. The Corporation has credit policies in place and has established various credit controls, including credit checks, deposits on accounts and advance billing, and has also established procedures to suspend the availability of services when customers have fully utilized approved credit limits or have violated existing payment terms. Since the Corporation has a large and diversified clientele dispersed throughout its market areas in Canada, the United States and Europe, there is no significant concentration of credit risk.

The following table provides further details on trade and other receivables, net of allowance for doubtful accounts:

At August 31,	2017	2016
(In thousands of Canadian dollars)	$	$
Trade accounts receivable	87,313	94,458
Allowance for doubtful accounts	(3,820)	(4,093)
	83,493	90,365
Other accounts receivable (1)	6,894	25,070
	90,387	115,435

(1) In fiscal 2016, include amounts receivable related to a claim with a supplier, which was paid partly in cash and partly in the form of credit notes applicable on future purchases of property, plant and equipment.

Trade accounts receivable past due is defined as amount outstanding beyond normal credit terms and conditions for the respective customers. A large portion of the Corporation's customers are billed and pay before the services are rendered. The Corporation considers the amount outstanding at the due date as trade accounts receivable past due. The following table provides further details on trade accounts receivable past due net of allowance for doubtful accounts at August 31, 2017 and 2016:

At August 31,	2017	2016
(In thousands of Canadian dollars)	$	$
Less than 60 days past due	21,222	20,309
60 to 90 days past due	1,503	807
More than 90 days past due	1,032	1,790
	23,757	22,906

The following table shows changes in the allowance for doubtful accounts for the years ended August 31, 2017 and 2016:

Years ended August 31,	2017	2016
(In thousands of Canadian dollars)	$	$
Balance, beginning of the year	4,093	5,326
Provision for impaired receivables	17,403	18,431
Net use	(17,652)	(19,650)
Foreign currency translation adjustments	(24)	(14)
Balance, end of the year	3,820	4,093

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Corporation will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they become due. The Corporation manages liquidity risk through the management of its capital structure and access to different capital markets. It also manages liquidity risk by continuously monitoring actual and projected cash flows to ensure sufficient liquidity to meet its obligations when due. At August 31, 2017, the Corporation had used $6.1 million of its $800 million amended and restated Term Revolving Facility for a remaining availability of $793.9 million. Management believes that the committed Term Revolving Facility will, until its maturity in January 2022, provide sufficient liquidity to manage its long-term debt maturities and support working capital requirements. In addition, two subsidiaries related to Atlantic Broadband also benefit from a Revolving Facility of $188.0 million (US$150 million), of which $38.6 million (US$30.8 million) was used at August 31, 2017 for a remaining availability of $149.4 million (US$119.2 million).

The following table summarizes the contractual maturities of the financial liabilities and related capital amounts at August 31, 2017:

		Contractual cash flows						
	Carrying amount	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Thereafter	Total
(In thousands of Canadian dollars)	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Bank indebtedness	3,801	3,801	—	—	—	—	—	3,801
Trade and other payables (1)	289,439	289,439	—	—	—	—	—	289,439
Balance due on a business combination	118	118	—	—	—	—	—	118
Long-term debt	2,576,433	131,936	93,837	1,179,270	200,000	200,000	788,904	2,593,947
Derivative financial instruments	192	192	—	—	—	—	—	192
	2,869,983	425,486	93,837	1,179,270	200,000	200,000	788,904	2,887,497

(1) Excluding accrued interest on long-term debt.

The following table is a summary of interest payable on long-term debt that is due for each of the next five years and thereafter, based on the principal amount and interest rate prevailing on the outstanding debt at August 31, 2017 and their respective maturities:

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Thereafter	Total
(In thousands of Canadian dollars)	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Interest payments on long-term debt	113,751	104,568	82,188	48,479	38,404	86,838	474,228
Interest receipts on derivative financial instruments	(1,356)	(1,068)	—	—	—	—	(2,424)
Interest payments on derivative financial instruments	1,022	851	—	—	—	—	1,873
	113,417	104,351	82,188	48,479	38,404	86,838	473,677

Interest rate risk

The Corporation is exposed to interest rate risks on its floating interest rate instruments. Interest rate fluctuations will have an effect on the repayment of these instruments. At August 31, 2017, all of the Corporation's long-term debt was at fixed rate, except for the amounts drawn under the First Lien Credit Facilities.

To reduce such risk, the Corporations' US subsidiary entered into interest rate swap agreements. The following table shows the interest rate swaps outstanding at August 31, 2017:

Type of hedge	Notional amount	Receive interest rate	Pay interest rate	Maturity	Hedged item
Cash flow	US$75 million	US Libor base rate	0.6120%	October 30, 2017	Term Loan A-3 Facility
Cash flow	US$75 million	US Libor base rate	0.9870%	July 31, 2019	Term Loan A-2 Facility

The sensitivity of the Corporation's annual financial expense to an increase of 1% in the interest rate applicable to the unhedged portion of these facilities would represent an increase of approximately $5.6 million based on the outstanding debt at August 31, 2017.

Foreign exchange risk

The Corporation is exposed to foreign exchange risk with respect to the interest associated with its long-term debt denominated in US dollars. The impact of a 10% increase in the exchange rate of the US dollar into Canadian dollars would increase financial expense by approximately $7.1 million based on the outstanding debt at August 31, 2017.

The Corporation faces exposure to foreign exchange risk related to its forecasted purchase commitments of property, plant and equipment denominated in US dollars. In order to mitigate such risk, the Corporation entered into foreign currency forward contracts and designated them as cash-flow hedges for accounting purposes. The following table shows the forward contracts outstanding at August 31, 2017:

Type of hedge	Notional amount	Maturity	Exchange rate	Hedged item
Cash flow	US$9.9 million	October - November 2017	1.2653 - 1.2672	Purchase commitments of property, plant and equipment

The Corporation faces exposure to foreign exchange risk on cash and cash equivalents, trade and other receivables, trade and other payables and provisions denominated in US dollars, Euros or British Pounds. The Corporation's exposure to foreign currency risk is as follows:

At August 31,			2017			2016
	US	Euro	British Pounds	US	Euro	British Pounds
(In thousands of Canadian dollars)	$	$	$	$	$	$
Financial assets (liabilities)						
Cash and cash equivalents	18,644	957	108	15,775	1,446	224
Trade and other receivables	4,889	122	—	3,000	170	—
Trade and other payables and provisions	(15,764)	(7,100)	—	(15,424)	(6,982)	—
	7,769	(6,021)	108	3,351	(5,366)	224

Due to their short-term nature, the risk arising from fluctuations in foreign exchange rates is not significant. The impact of a 10% fluctuation in the foreign exchange rates (US dollar, Euro and British Pound) would not change financial expense significantly.

Furthermore, the Corporation's net investments in foreign operations are exposed to market risk attributable to fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates, primarily changes in the values of the Canadian dollar versus the US dollar and British Pound. This risk related to the US dollar is mitigated since the major part of the purchase prices for Atlantic Broadband and Cogeco Peer 1 were borrowed directly in US dollars.

The following table shows the net investments in foreign operations outstanding at August 31, 2017:

Type of hedge	Notional amount of debt	Aggregate investments	Hedged item
Net investment	US$790 million	US$905.9 million	Net investments in foreign operations in US dollar
N/A	£—	£27.4 million	N/A

The exchange rates used to convert the US dollar currency and British Pound currency into Canadian dollar for the consolidated statement of financial position accounts at August 31, 2017 was $1.2536 ($1.3116 in 2016) per US dollar and $1.6161 ($1.7223 in 2016) per British Pound. A 10% decrease in the exchange rates of the US dollar and British Pound into Canadian dollars would decrease other comprehensive income by approximately $18.9 million.

B) FAIR VALUE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Fair values are estimated at a specific point in time, by discounting expected cash flows at rates for assets and liabilities of the same remaining maturities and conditions. These estimates are subjective in nature and involve uncertainties and significant judgment, and therefore, cannot be determined with precision. In addition, income taxes and other expenses that would be incurred on disposition of these financial instruments are not reflected in the fair values. As a result, the fair values are not necessarily the net amounts that would be realized if these instruments were settled. The Corporation has determined the fair value of its financial instruments as follows:

- The carrying amount of cash and cash equivalents, short-term investments, trade and other receivables, bank indebtedness and trade and other payables approximates fair value because of the short-term nature of these instruments;
- Interest rates under the terms of the Corporation's Term Revolving Facility, intercompany note payable and First Lien Facilities are based on bankers' acceptance, US dollar base rate loans, LIBOR loans in US dollars, Euros or British Pounds loans plus applicable margin. Therefore, the carrying value approximates fair value for these facilities, since they have conditions similar to those currently available to the Corporation;
- The fair value of the Senior Secured Debentures Series 2, 3 and 4, Senior Secured Notes Series A and B, Senior Secured Notes, Senior Unsecured Notes and Senior Unsecured Debenture are based upon current trading values for similar financial instruments;

The carrying value of all the Corporation's financial instruments approximates fair value, except as otherwise noted in the following table:

At August 31,		2017		2016
	Carrying value	Fair value	Carrying value	Fair value
(In thousands of Canadian dollars)	$	$	$	$
Long-term debt	2,576,433	2,684,981	2,860,646	2,975,511

All financial instruments recognized at fair value on the consolidated statement of financial position must be measured based on the three fair value hierarchy levels, which are as follows:

- Level 1: quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities;
- Level 2: inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly (i.e., as prices) or indirectly (i.e., derived from prices); and
- Level 3: inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs).

The Corporation considers that its derivative financial instruments are classified as Level 2 under the fair value hierarchy. The fair value of derivative financial instruments is estimated using valuation models that reflect projected future cash flows over contractual terms of the derivative financial instruments and observable market data, such as interest and currency exchange rate curves.

C) CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

The Corporation's objectives in managing capital are to ensure sufficient liquidity to support the capital requirements of its various businesses, including growth opportunities. The Corporation manages its capital structure and makes adjustments in light of general economic conditions, the risk characteristics of the underlying assets and the Corporation's working capital requirements. Management of the capital structure involves the issuance of new debt, the repayment of existing debt using cash generated by operations and the level of distribution to shareholders.

The capital structure of the Corporation is composed of shareholders' equity, cash and cash equivalents, short-term investments, bank indebtedness, intercompany note payable, long-term debt and assets or liabilities related to derivative financial instruments.

The provisions of financing agreements provide for restrictions on the activities of the Corporation. Generally, the most significant restrictions relate to permitted investments and dividends on multiple and subordinate voting shares, as well as the maintenance of certain financial ratios primarily linked to the adjusted EBITDA, financial expense and total indebtedness. At August 31, 2017 and 2016 the Corporation was in compliance with all of its debt covenants and was not subject to any other externally imposed capital requirements.

The following table summarizes certain of the key ratios used to monitor and manage the Corporation's capital structure:

Years ended August 31,	2017	2016
Net secured indebtedness (1) / adjusted EBITDA	1.7	2.3
Net indebtedness (2) / adjusted EBITDA	2.3	2.9
Adjusted EBITDA / financial expense	7.8	7.2

(1) Net secured indebtedness is defined as the total of bank indebtedness, intercompany note payable, principal on long-term debt and obligations under derivative financial instruments, less cash and cash equivalents, short-term investments and principal on Senior Unsecured Debenture and Senior Unsecured Notes.

(2) Net indebtedness is defined as the total of bank indebtedness, balance due on a business combination, intercompany note payable, principal on long-term debt and obligations under derivative financial instruments, less cash and cash equivalents and short-term investments.

D) CATEGORIES OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

At August 31,	2017	2016
(In thousands of Canadian dollars)	$	$
Financial assets		
Loans and receivables	320,628	177,721
Held to maturity	34,944	—
Derivative financial instruments in designated hedge relationships	857	1,040
	356,429	178,761
Financial liabilities		
Derivative financial instruments in designated hedge relationships	192	165
Other liabilities	2,897,114	3,194,429
	2,897,306	3,194,594

23. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

A) MANAGEMENT FEES AND OTHER RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Cogeco Communications is a subsidiary of Cogeco, which holds 31.7% of the Corporation's equity shares, representing 82.3% of the Corporation's voting shares.

Cogeco provides executive, administrative, financial and strategic planning services and other services to the Corporation under a Management Services Agreement. Under the Agreement, management fees are payable on a monthly basis, representing 0.85% of the consolidated revenue of the Corporation. In addition, the Corporation reimburses Cogeco's out-of-pocket expenses incurred with respect to services provided to the Corporation under the Agreement. Provision is made for future adjustment upon the request of either Cogeco or the Corporation should the level of management fees no longer align with the costs, time and resources committed by Cogeco. For fiscal 2017 management fees paid to Cogeco amounted to $18.9 million, compared to $18.5 million for fiscal 2016.

No direct remuneration is payable to Cogeco's executive officers by the Corporation. However, the Corporation granted 81,350 stock options (74,750 in 2016), did not grant any ISUs (nil in 2016) and granted 12,150 PSUs (11,950 in 2016) to these executive officers as executive officers of Cogeco Communications during fiscal 2017. During fiscal 2017, the Corporation charged Cogeco amounts of $652,000 ($616,000 in 2016), $39,000 ($330,000 in 2016) and $660,000 ($501,000 in 2016) with regards to the Corporation's stock options, ISUs and PSUs granted to these executive officers.

B) INTERCOMPANY NOTE PAYABLE

On August 2, 2016 an intercompany loan agreement was concluded between the Corporation and Cogeco, by which a revolving credit facility was established in favour of the Corporation. The maximum principal amount of the facility is set at $40 million and the full amount was advanced to the Corporation as of the signing date. The credit facility is payable on demand and the interest is calculated on the daily outstanding balance at an annual rate equivalent to the Corporation's Canadian Revolving Facility. During the third quarter of fiscal 2017 the intercompany loan was fully repaid by the Corporation.

C) COMPENSATION OF KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

Key management personnel are comprised of the members of the Board and of the Management Committee of the Corporation. The compensation paid or payable to key management personnel for employee services is as follows:

Years ended August 31,	2017	2016
(In thousands of Canadian dollars)	$	$
Salaries and other short-term employee benefits	3,961	4,047
Post-employment benefits	977	472
Share-based payments	2,005	2,162
	6,943	6,681

24. COMMITMENTS, CONTINGENCIES AND GUARANTEES

A) COMMITMENTS

At August 31, 2017, the Corporation and its subsidiaries are committed under operating lease agreements and other long-term contracts to make annual payments as follows:

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Thereafter
(In thousands of Canadian dollars)	$	$	$	$	$	$
Operating lease agreements (1)	29,901	27,729	26,839	24,466	21,818	25,841
Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets (2)	10,347	16,989	—	—	—	—
Other long-term contracts (3)	25,320	8,092	8,404	4,550	4,548	29,077
	65,568	52,810	35,243	29,016	26,366	54,918

(1) Include operating lease agreements for rent of premises and support structures.

(2) Include minimum spend commitments under acquisitions of home terminal devices and software licenses.

(3) Include long-term commitments with suppliers to provide services including minimum spend commitments.

Business combination expected in fiscal 2018

On July 10, 2017, Cogeco Communications announced that its subsidiary, Atlantic Broadband, entered into an agreement with Harron Communications, L.P. to acquire substantially all of the assets of its cable systems operating under the MetroCast brand name which serves about 120,000 Internet, 76,000 video and 37,000 telephony customers. The transaction valued at US$1.4 billion is subject to customary closing adjustments. This acquisition is expected to be financed through a combination of non-recourse debt financing at Atlantic Broadband and a US$315 million equity investment by Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec ("CDPQ") in Atlantic Broadband's holding company, representing 21% of Atlantic Broadband. The transaction is subject to usual closing conditions, regulatory approvals and other customary conditions, which are proceeding as expected. The Corporation expects the transaction to close in early January 2018.

In connection with the expected business combination of MetroCast, a US subsidiary of Cogeco Communications has entered into an agreement with a group of banks who committed to a new US$1.7 billion Senior Secured Term Loan B, whereby US$585 million is expected to be used to refinance the existing First Lien Credit Facilities. An additional borrowing of US$150 million is committed by way of a Senior Secured Revolving Credit Facility.

B) CONTINGENCIES

The Corporation and its subsidiaries are involved in matters involving litigations or potential claims from suppliers arising out of the ordinary course and conduct of its business. Although such matters cannot be predicted with certainty, management does not consider the Corporation's exposure to litigations to be significant to these consolidated financial statements.

C) GUARANTEES

In the normal course of business, the Corporation provides indemnification in conjunction with certain transactions. While many of the agreements specify a maximum potential exposure, some do not specify a maximum amount. The overall maximum amount of an indemnification obligation will depend on future events and conditions and therefore cannot be reasonably estimated. As a result, we cannot determine how they could affect our future liquidity, capital resources or credit risk profile. At August 31, 2017 and 2016, no liability has been recorded with respect to these indemnifications, except for those disclosed in Note 16.

Business combinations and asset disposals

In connection with the acquisition or sale of a business or assets, in addition to possible indemnifications relating to failure to perform covenants and breach of representations and warranties, the Corporation has agreed to indemnify the seller or the purchaser against claims related to events that occurred prior to the date of acquisition or sale.

Long-term debt

Under the terms of the Senior Secured Notes and Senior Unsecured Notes, the Corporation has agreed to indemnify the lenders against changes in regulations relative to withholding taxes and costs incurred due to changes in laws.

Sale of services

As part of transactions involving the sale of services, the Corporation and its subsidiaries may be required to make payments to counterparties as a result of breaches of representations and warranties made into the service agreements.

Purchase and development of assets

As part of transactions involving the purchase and development of assets, the Corporation and its subsidiaries may be required to pay counterparties for costs and losses incurred as a result of breaches of representations and warranties contained in the purchase agreements.

25. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

In 2017 the Corporation did not receive any government assistance, while in 2016 it received $2.1 million in diverse forms of governments grants and research and development credits. The assistance received in fiscal 2016 was accounted for as a reduction of property, plant and equipment for an amount of $1.3 million and as a reduction of operating expenses for an amount of $0.8 million.

26. SUBSEQUENT EVENT

In October 2017, a US subsidiary of Cogeco Communications has entered into four forward starting interest rate swap agreements on a notional amount totalling US$500 million. These agreements will have the effect of converting the floating US LIBOR base rate at an average fixed rate of 2.07% starting on January 31, 2018, under the US$1.7 billion Senior Secured Term Loan B to be issued to finance the MetroCast acquisition and refinance the existing Atlantic Broadband's First Lien Credit Facilities. The MetroCast acquisition is expected to close in early January 2018.

INVESTOR INFORMATION

CREDIT RATINGS

The table below shows Cogeco Communications' and Atlantic Broadband's credit ratings:

At August 31, 2017	S&P	DBRS	Fitch	Moody's
Cogeco Communications				
Senior Secured Notes and Debentures	BBB	BBB (low)	BBB-	NR
Senior Unsecured Notes	BB-	BB	BB+	NR
Atlantic Broadband				
First Liens Credit Facilities	BB	NR	NR	Ba3

NR : Not rated

Pursuant to the announcement of the MetroCast acquisition, all credit ratings for Cogeco Communications and Atlantic Broadband were confirmed. However, the credit rating on Atlantic Broadband's First Lien Credit Facilities to be issued at the closing of the MetroCast acquisition will be downgraded to B1 and BB- by Moody's and S&P, respectively, due to the additional financial leverage at Atlantic Broadband resulting from the acquisition.

Our ability to access debt capital markets and bank credit markets and the cost and amount of funding available partly depends on the quality of our credit ratings. Obligations rated in the "BBB" category are considered investment grade and their cost of funding is typically lower relative to the "BB/B" rating category. In addition, obligations with BBB ratings generally have greater access to funding than those with "BB/B" ratings.

SHARE INFORMATION

At August 31, 2017		Registrar / Transfer agent
Number of multiple voting shares (10 votes per share) outstanding	15,691,100	Computershare Trust Company of Canada 100 University Avenue, 9th Floor Toronto, ON M5J 2Y1 Tel.: 514-982-7555 Tel.: 1-800-564-6253 Fax: 416-263-9394
Number of subordinate voting shares (1 vote per share) outstanding	33,813,777	
Stock exchange listing	The Toronto Stock Exchange	
Trading symbol	CCA	

DIVIDENDS

DIVIDEND DECLARATION

At its November 2, 2017 meeting, the Board of Directors of Cogeco Communications declared a quarterly eligible dividend of $0.475 per share for multiple voting and subordinate voting shares, payable on November 30, 2017 to shareholders of record on November 16, 2017. The declaration, amount and date of any future dividend will continue to be considered and approved by the Board of Directors of the Corporation based upon the Corporation's financial condition, results of operations, capital requirements and such other factors as the Board of Directors, at its sole discretion, deems relevant. There is therefore no assurance that dividends will be declared, and if declared, the amount and frequency may vary.

TRADING STATISTICS

Quarters ended	Nov. 30	Feb. 28	May 31	Aug. 31	2017 Total
(in dollars, except subordinate voting share volumes)	$	$	$	$	
The Toronto Stock Exchange					
High	65.81	73.95	80.77	93.66	
Low	60.62	63.64	68.69	77.32	
Close	64.55	71.80	78.98	93.45	
Volume (subordinate voting shares)	4,319,717	4,186,538	3,021,421	4,036,836	15,564,512

Quarters ended	Nov. 30	Feb. 29	May 31	Aug. 31	2016 Total
(in dollars, except subordinate voting share volumes)	$	$	$	$	
The Toronto Stock Exchange					
High	69.92	66.40	71.67	63.64	
Low	61.62	58.32	61.68	60.12	
Close	64.90	63.43	68.23	63.45	
Volume (subordinate voting shares)	3,457,665	4,643,417	5,739,723	6,738,680	20,579,485

CUSTOMER STATISTICS

	August 31, 2017	May 31, 2017	February 28, 2017	November 30, 2016	August 31, 2016	August 31, 2015
CONSOLIDATED						
Primary service units	**2,527,882**	**2,534,925**	**2,536,876**	**2,527,602**	2,507,750	2,497,702
Internet service customers	**1,042,996**	**1,034,686**	**1,023,519**	**1,007,610**	987,365	934,470
Video service customers	**956,775**	**967,020**	**976,997**	**981,682**	982,955	1,014,661
Telephony service customers	**528,111**	**533,219**	**536,360**	**538,310**	537,430	548,571
CANADA						
Primary service units	**1,916,861**	**1,926,537**	**1,934,496**	**1,930,909**	1,914,017	1,926,542
Internet service customers	**769,869**	**764,350**	**759,152**	**749,275**	733,701	704,555
Penetration as a percentage of homes passed	**44.5%**	**44.3%**	**44.2%**	**43.8%**	43.0%	41.8%
Video service customers	**720,636**	**729,701**	**737,975**	**740,855**	739,323	765,358
Penetration as a percentage of homes passed	**41.6%**	**42.3%**	**42.9%**	**43.3%**	43.4%	45.4%
Telephony service customers	**426,356**	**432,486**	**437,369**	**440,779**	440,993	456,629
Penetration as a percentage of homes passed	**24.6%**	**25.1%**	**25.5%**	**25.8%**	25.9%	27.1%
UNITED STATES						
Primary service units	**611,021**	**608,388**	**602,380**	**596,693**	593,733	571,160
Internet service customers	**273,127**	**270,336**	**264,367**	**258,335**	253,664	229,915
Penetration as a percentage of homes passed	**45.9%**	**45.7%**	**44.7%**	**43.7%**	42.9%	38.9%
Video service customers	**236,139**	**237,319**	**239,022**	**240,827**	243,632	249,303
Penetration as a percentage of homes passed	**39.7%**	**40.1%**	**40.4%**	**40.7%**	41.2%	42.2%
Telephony service customers	**101,755**	**100,733**	**98,991**	**97,531**	96,437	91,942
Penetration as a percentage of homes passed	**17.1%**	**17.0%**	**16.7%**	**16.5%**	16.3%	15.5%

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND CORPORATE MANAGEMENT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

✪ **JAN PEETERS, Board Chair**
Montréal (Québec)
President and Chief Executive Officer and Board Chair
Olameter Inc. (Telemetry company)

★ **LOUIS AUDET**, Eng., MBA, C.M.
Westmount (Québec)
President and Chief Executive Officer
Cogeco Communications Inc. and Cogeco Inc.

●■★ **PATRICIA CURADEAU-GROU**, B. Com., Finance, ICD.D
Montréal (Québec)
Corporate director

● **JOANNE FERSTMAN**, CPA, CA, B.Com
Toronto (Ontario)
Corporate Director

● **L.G. SERGE GADBOIS**, FCPA, FCA, MBA
Boucherville (Québec)
Corporate Director

■★ **CLAUDE A. GARCIA**, B.A., B. Com.
Montréal (Québec)
Corporate Director

●♦ **LIB GIBSON**, M.Sc., B.Sc., ICD.D
Toronto (Ontario)
Corporate Director

■♦★ **DAVID MCAUSLAND**, B.C.L., LL.B.
Baie-D'Urfé (Québec)
Partner
McCarthy Tétrault (Major law firm in Canada)

■♦ **CAROLE J. SALOMON,** B.A., MBA
Toronto (Ontario)
President and Chief Executive Officer
Cardavan Corporation (Management consultancy)

Legend :

✪ Attends as an observer and participates in meetings of all the committees
● Member of the Audit Committee
■ Member of the Human Resources Committee
♦ Member of the Corporate Governance Committee
★ Member of the Strategic Opportunities Committee

CORPORATE HEAD OFFICE

5 Place Ville Marie
Suite 1700
Montréal (Québec)
H3B 0B3
corpo.cogeco.com

CORPORATE MANAGEMENT

LOUIS AUDET
President and Chief Executive Officer

ELIZABETH ALVES
Vice President, Internal Audit and Risk Management

PHILIPPE BONIN
Vice President, Corporate Development

NATHALIE DORVAL
Vice President, Regulatory Affairs and Copyright

RENÉ GUIMOND
Senior Vice President, Public Affairs and Communications

CHRISTIAN JOLIVET
Senior Vice President, Corporate Affairs, Chief Legal Officer and Secretary

PIERRE MAHEUX
Vice President, Corporate Controller

LUC NOISEUX
Senior Vice President and Chief Technology and Strategy Officer

DIANE NYISZTOR
Senior Vice President, Corporate Human Resources

PATRICE OUIMET
Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

ANDRÉE PINARD
Vice President and Treasurer

OPERATIONS INFORMATION

CANADIAN BROADBAND SERVICES

COGECO CONNEXION

KEN SMITHARD
President

5 Place Ville Marie
Suite 1700
Montréal (Québec)
H3B 0B3
www.cogeco.ca

AMERICAN BROADBAND SERVICES

ATLANTIC BROADBAND

RICHARD SHEA
President and Chief Executive Officer

2 Batterymarch Park
Suite 205
Quincy, MA 02169
www.atlanticbb.com

BUSINESS ICT SERVICES

COGECO PEER 1

PHILIPPE JETTÉ
President

413 Horner Avenue
Toronto (Ontario)
M8W 4W3
www.cogecopeer1.com

CORPORATE INFORMATION

ANNUAL MEETING
The Annual Meeting of Shareholders will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, January 11, 2018, at the Centre Mont-Royal, Mont-Royal room 1, 4th Floor, Montréal (Québec).

AUDITORS
Deloitte LLP
1190 Avenue des Canadiens-de-Montréal
Suite 500
Montréal (Québec)
H3B 0M7

LEGAL COUNSEL
Stikeman Elliott LLP
1155 René-Lévesque Blvd. West
40th Floor
Montréal (Québec)
H3B 3V2

TRANSFER AGENT FOR SUBORDINATE VOTING AND MULTIPLE VOTING SHARES, AND TRUSTEE FOR SENIOR SECURED DEBENTURES AND NOTES
Computershare Trust Company of Canada

TRUSTEE FOR SENIOR UNSECURED NOTES
Computershare Trust Company, N.A

QUARTER ENDS
November, February, May

YEAR END
August 31

INQUIRIES

The Annual Report, Annual Information Form, Quarterly Reports and Information Circular are available in the Investors section of the Corporation's website (corpo.cogeco.com) or upon request by calling 514-764-4700.

Des versions françaises du rapport annuel, de la notice annuelle, des rapports trimestriels et de la circulaire d'information sont disponibles sous la section « Investisseurs » du site Internet de la société (corpo.cogeco.com) ou sur demande au 514-764-4700.

INVESTORS AND ANALYSTS

For financial information about the Corporation, please contact the Department of Finance of the Corporation.

SHAREHOLDERS

For any inquiries regarding a change of address or a change of registration of shares, please contact Computershare Trust Company of Canada. For any other inquiries please contact the Corporate and Legal Affairs Department of the Corporation.

DUPLICATE COMMUNICATIONS

Some shareholders may receive more than one copy of publications such as Quarterly Reports and the Annual Report. Every effort is made to avoid such duplication. Shareholders who receive duplicate mailings should advise Computershare Trust Company of Canada.

ETHICS LINE

The Corporation's parent company, Cogeco Inc., makes available an anonymous and confidential Ethics Line for its employees and the employees of all of its business units and other individuals who wish to report any perceived or actual instances of violations of the Cogeco Code of Ethics (including complaints regarding accounting, internal accounting controls and audit matters). The Ethics Line is operated by a specialized external provider that is independent of Cogeco Inc. Reports can be made through secured confidential toll-free telephone lines or the web site described below. All reports submitted through the Ethics Line will be examined by the Vice President, Internal Audit and Risk Management and/or the Senior Vice President, Corporate Affairs, Chief Legal Officer and Secretary. Individuals will be protected from dismissal or retaliation of any kind for reporting truthfully and in good faith.

By telephone:

Canada or United States:	**1-877-706-2640**
United Kingdom:	**0 800 016 3854**
France:	**0 800 914 343**

Web site of ClearView Connects: www.clearviewconnects.com

COGECO COMMUNICATIONS

corpo.cogeco.com