

ROYAL BANK OF CANADA
Form 424B2
February 12, 2018

RBC Capital Markets® Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2)
Registration Statement No. 333-208507

Pricing Supplement

Dated February 9, 2018

To the Product \$5,172,000
Prospectus Supplement Absolute Return Notes
ERN-EI-1 Dated January 12, 2016, Prospectus
Supplement Dated January 8, 2016, and
Prospectus Dated January 8, 2016
Linked to the EURO STOXX 50® Index,
due August 13, 2020
Royal Bank of Canada

Royal Bank of Canada is offering the Absolute Return Notes (the “Notes”) linked to the performance of the EURO STOXX 50® Index (the “Reference Asset”).

The CUSIP number for the Notes is 78013XFT0. The Notes provide a positive return if the level of the Reference Asset increases from the Initial Level to the Final Level, which will be equal to 165% of the percentage by which the Reference Asset has increased. In addition, if the Percentage Change of the Reference Asset is less than or equal to 0% but greater than –15.00%, the Notes provide a one-for-one positive return equal to the absolute value of that Percentage Change. However, if the Percentage Change is less than or equal to –15.00%, investors are subject to one-for-one loss of the principal amount for any decrease in the level of the Reference Asset by more than 15.00%. The Notes do not pay interest. Any payments on the Notes are subject to our credit risk. The Notes will not be listed on any securities exchange.

Issue Date: February 14, 2018

Maturity Date: August 13, 2020

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

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

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

	<u>Per Note</u>	<u>Total</u>
Price to public	100.00%	\$5,172,000.00
Underwriting discounts and commissions	0.00%	\$0.00
Proceeds to Royal Bank of Canada	100.00%	\$5,172,000.00

The initial estimated value of the Notes as of the date of this pricing supplement is \$989.26 per \$1,000 in principal amount, which is less than the price to public. The actual value of the Notes at any time will reflect many factors, cannot be predicted with accuracy, and may be less than this amount. We describe our determination of the initial estimated value in more detail below.

RBC Capital Markets, LLC, which we refer to as RBCCM, acting as agent for Royal Bank of Canada, did not receive a commission in connection with the sale of the Notes. See “Supplemental Plan of Distribution (Conflicts of Interest)”

below.

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

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Absolute Return Notes
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due August 13, 2020

SUMMARY

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

Issuer: Royal Bank of Canada (“Royal Bank”)
Issue: Senior Global Medium-Term Notes, Series G
Underwriter: RBC Capital Markets, LLC (“RBCCM”)
Reference Asset: EURO STOXX 50® Index
Bloomberg Ticker: SX5E
Currency: U.S. Dollars
Minimum Investment: \$1,000 and minimum denominations of \$1,000 in excess thereof
Pricing Date: February 8, 2018
Issue Date: February 14, 2018
CUSIP: 78013XFT0
Valuation Date: August 10, 2020
Payment at Maturity (if held to maturity): If the Final Level is greater than the Initial Level (that is, the Percentage Change is positive), then the investor will receive an amount per \$1,000 principal amount per Note equal to:
 $\text{Principal Amount} + (\text{Principal Amount} \times \text{Percentage Change} \times \text{Leverage Factor})$
If the Final Level is less than or equal to the Initial Level, but greater than the Buffer Level (that is, the Percentage Change is between 0% and –15.00%), then the investor will receive a cash payment equal to:
 $\text{Principal Amount} + [-1 \times (\text{Principal Amount} \times \text{Percentage Change})]$
In this case, the return on the Notes will be positive, even though the Percentage Change is negative.
If the Final Level is less than or equal to the Buffer Level (that is, the Percentage Change is between –15.00% and -100%), then the investor will receive a cash payment equal to:
 $\text{Principal Amount} + [\text{Principal Amount} \times (\text{Percentage Change} + \text{Buffer Amount})]$
In this case, the payment on the Notes will be less than the principal amount, and you will lose up to 85.00% of the principal amount.

Percentage Change: The Percentage Change, expressed as a percentage, is calculated using the following formula:

Initial Level: 3,325.99, which was the closing level of the Reference Asset on February 9, 2018.
Final Level: The closing level of the Reference Asset on the Valuation Date.

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Leverage Factor: 165.00%

Buffer Level: 2,827.09, which is 85.00% of the Initial Level (rounded to two decimal places)

Buffer Amount: 15.00%

Maturity Date: August 13, 2020, subject to extension for market and other disruptions, as described in the product prospectus supplement dated January 12, 2016.

Term: Two (2) years and six (6) months

Principal at Risk: The Notes are NOT principal protected. You will lose up to 85.00% of your principal amount at maturity if there is a percentage decrease from the Initial Level to the Final Level of more than 15.00%.

Calculation Agent: RBCCM

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

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

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

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

Terms Incorporated in the Master Note: All of the terms appearing above the item captioned “Secondary Market” on pages P-2 and P-3 of this pricing supplement and the terms appearing under the caption “General Terms of the Notes” in the product prospectus supplement dated January 12, 2016, as modified by this pricing supplement.

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ADDITIONAL TERMS OF YOUR NOTES

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

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

Prospectus dated January 8, 2016:

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

Prospectus Supplement dated January 8, 2016:

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

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

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

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

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HYPOTHETICAL RETURNS

The examples set out below are included for illustration purposes only. The hypothetical Percentage Changes of the Reference Asset used to illustrate the calculation of the Payment at Maturity (rounded to two decimal places) are not estimates or forecasts of the Final Level or the level of the Reference Asset on any trading day prior to the Maturity Date. All examples are based on the Buffer Level of 85.00% of the Initial Level, the Buffer Amount of 15.00%, the Leverage Factor of 165.00%, and assume that a holder purchased Notes with an aggregate principal amount of \$1,000, and that no market disruption event occurs on the Valuation Date.

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

Percentage Change: 10%

Payment at Maturity: $\$1,000 + (\$1,000 \times 10\% \times 165.00\%) = \$1,000 + \$165.00 = \$1,165.00$

In this case, on a \$1,000 investment, a 10% Percentage Change results in a Payment at Maturity of \$1,165.00, a 16.50% return on the Notes.

Example 2 Calculation of the Payment at Maturity where the Percentage Change is negative, but the Final Level is greater than the Buffer Level.

Percentage Change: -10%

Payment at Maturity: $\$1,000 + [-1 \times (\$1,000 \times -10\%)] = \$1,000 + \$100 = \$1,100.00$

In this case, on a \$1,000 investment, a -10% Percentage Change results in a Payment at Maturity of \$1,100, a 10% return on the Notes.

In this case, even though the Percentage Change is negative, you will receive a positive return equal to the absolute value of the Percentage Change.

Example 3 Calculation of the Payment at Maturity where the Percentage Change is negative, and the Final Level is less than the Buffer Level.

Percentage Change: -40%

Payment at Maturity: $\$1,000 + [\$1,000 \times (-40\% + 15.00\%)] = \$1,000 - \$250.00 = \750.00

In this case, on a \$1,000 investment, a -40% Percentage Change results in a Payment at Maturity of \$750.00, a -25.00% return on the Notes.

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SELECTED RISK CONSIDERATIONS

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

- Principal at Risk – Investors in the Notes will lose up to 85.00% of their principal amount if the Final Level is less than the Buffer Level. In such a case, you will lose 1% of the principal amount of your Notes for each 1% that the Final Level is less than the Initial Level by more than 15.00%.

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

Payments on the Notes Are Subject to Our Credit Risk, and Changes in Our Credit Ratings Are Expected to Affect the Market Value of the Notes – The Notes are Royal Bank’s senior unsecured debt securities. As a result, your receipt of the amount due on the maturity date is dependent upon Royal Bank’s ability to repay its obligations at that time.

This will be the case even if the level of the Reference Asset increases after the date on which the Initial Level is determined. No assurance can be given as to what our financial condition will be at the maturity of the Notes.

There May Not Be an Active Trading Market for the Notes—Sales in the Secondary Market May Result in Significant Losses – There may be little or no secondary market for the Notes. The Notes will not be listed on any securities exchange. RBCCM and other affiliates of Royal Bank may make a market for the Notes; however, they are not required to do so. RBCCM or any other affiliate of Royal Bank may stop any market-making activities at any time.

Even if a secondary market for the Notes develops, it may not provide significant liquidity or trade at prices advantageous to you. We expect that transaction costs in any secondary market would be high. As a result, the difference between bid and asked prices for your Notes in any secondary market could be substantial. The stated payment by Royal Bank, including any benefit from the Leverage Factor and the repayment of principal, only applies if you hold the Notes to maturity. Sales prior to maturity could result in a loss on your investment.

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

The Initial Estimated Value of the Notes Is Less than the Price to the Public. The initial estimated value set forth on the cover page of this pricing supplement does not represent a minimum price at which we, RBCCM or any of our affiliates would be willing to purchase the Notes in any secondary market (if any exists) at any time. If you attempt to sell the Notes prior to maturity, their market value may be lower than the price you paid for them and the initial estimated value. This is due to, among other things, changes in the level of the Reference Asset, the borrowing rate we pay to issue securities of this kind, and the inclusion in the price to the public of the estimated costs relating to our hedging of the Notes. These factors, together with various credit, market and economic factors over the term of the Notes, are expected to reduce the price at which you may be able to sell the Notes in any secondary market and will affect the value of the Notes in complex and unpredictable ways. Assuming no change in market conditions or any other relevant factors, the price, if any, at which you may be able to sell your Notes prior to maturity may be less than your original purchase price, as any such sale price would not be expected to include the hedging costs relating to the Notes. In addition to bid-ask spreads, the value

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of the Notes determined for any secondary market price is expected to be based on the secondary rate rather than the internal funding rate used to price the Notes and determine the initial estimated value. As a result, the secondary price will be less than if the internal funding rate was used. The Notes are not designed to be short-term trading instruments. Accordingly, you should be able and willing to hold your Notes to maturity.

The Initial Estimated Value of the Notes on the Cover Page of this Pricing Supplement Is an Estimate Only, Calculated as of the Time the Terms of the Notes Were Set. The initial estimated value of the Notes is based on the value of our obligation to make the payments on the Notes, together with the mid-market value of the derivative embedded in the terms of the Notes. See “Structuring the Notes” below. Our estimate is based on a variety of assumptions, including our credit spreads, expectations as to dividends, interest rates and volatility, and the expected term of the Notes. These assumptions are based on certain forecasts about future events, which may prove to be incorrect. Other entities may value the Notes or similar securities at a price that is significantly different than we do. The value of the Notes at any time after the Pricing Date will vary based on many factors, including changes in market conditions, and cannot be predicted with accuracy. As a result, the actual value you would receive if you sold the Notes in any secondary market, if any, should be expected to differ materially from the initial estimated value of your Notes.

An Investment in the Notes Is Subject to Risks Relating to Non-U.S. Securities Markets - Because foreign companies or foreign equity securities included in the Reference Asset are publicly traded in the applicable foreign countries and are denominated in currencies other than U.S. dollars, an investment in the securities involves particular risks. For example, the non-U.S. securities markets may be more volatile than the U.S. securities markets, and market developments may affect these markets differently from the U.S. or other securities markets. Direct or indirect government intervention to stabilize the securities markets outside the U.S., as well as cross-shareholdings in certain companies, may affect trading prices and trading volumes in those markets. Also, the public availability of information concerning the foreign issuers may vary depending on their home jurisdiction and the reporting requirements imposed by their respective regulators. In addition, the foreign issuers may be subject to accounting, auditing and financial reporting standards and requirements that differ from those applicable to U.S. reporting companies.

The securities included in the Reference Asset are issued by companies located within the Eurozone, which is and has been undergoing severe financial stress, and the political, legal and regulatory ramifications are impossible to predict. Changes within the Eurozone could have a material adverse effect on the performance of the Reference Asset and, consequently, on the value of the Notes.

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

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INFORMATION REGARDING THE REFERENCE ASSET

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

The Reference Asset was created by STOXX Limited, a subsidiary of Deutsche Börse AG. Publication of the Reference Asset began in February 1998, based on an initial index level of 1,000 at December 31, 1991.

Composition and Maintenance

The Reference Asset is composed of 50 component stocks of market sector leaders from within the 19 EURO STOXX[®] Supersector indices, which represent the Eurozone portion of the STOXX Europe 600[®] Supersector indices. The composition of the Reference Asset is reviewed annually, based on the closing stock data on the last trading day in August. The component stocks are announced on the first trading day in September. Changes to the component stocks are implemented on the third Friday in September and are effective the following trading day. Changes in the composition of the Reference Asset are made to ensure that the Reference Asset includes the 50 market sector leaders from within the Reference Asset.

The free float factors for each component stock used to calculate the Reference Asset, as described below, are reviewed, calculated, and implemented on a quarterly basis and are fixed until the next quarterly review.

The Reference Asset is also reviewed on an ongoing monthly basis. Corporate actions (including initial public offerings, mergers and takeovers, spin-offs, delistings, and bankruptcy) that affect the Reference Asset composition are announced immediately, implemented two trading days later and become effective on the next trading day after implementation.

Calculation of the Reference Asset

The Reference Asset is calculated with the “Laspeyres formula,” which measures the aggregate price changes in the component stocks against a fixed base quantity weight. The formula for calculating the Reference Asset value can be expressed as follows:

$$\text{Reference Asset} = \frac{\text{Free float market capitalization of the Reference Asset}}{\text{Divisor}}$$

The “free float market capitalization of the Reference Asset” is equal to the sum of the products of the price, the number of shares, the free float factor and the weighting cap factor for each component stock as of the time the Reference Asset is being calculated.

The Reference Asset is also subject to a divisor, which is adjusted to maintain the continuity of the Reference Asset values across changes due to corporate actions, such as the deletion and addition of stocks, the substitution of stocks, stock dividends, and stock splits.

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License Agreement

We have entered into a non-exclusive license agreement with STOXX providing for the license to us and certain of our affiliated or subsidiary companies, in exchange for a fee, of the right to use indices owned and published by STOXX (including the SX5E) in connection with certain securities, including the Notes offered hereby.

The license agreement between us and STOXX requires that the following language be stated in this document: STOXX has no relationship to us, other than the licensing of the SX5E and the related trademarks for use in connection with the Notes. STOXX does not:

- sponsor, endorse, sell, or promote the Notes;
- recommend that any person invest in the Notes offered hereby or any other securities;
- have any responsibility or liability for or make any decisions about the timing, amount, or pricing of the Notes;
- have any responsibility or liability for the administration, management, or marketing of the Notes; or
- consider the needs of the Notes or the holders of the Notes in determining, composing, or calculating the SX5E, or have any obligation to do so.

STOXX will not have any liability in connection with the Notes. Specifically:

- STOXX does not make any warranty, express or implied, and disclaims any and all warranty concerning: the results to be obtained by the Notes, the holders of the Notes or any other person in connection with the use of the SX5E and the data included in the SX5E;
 - the accuracy or completeness of the SX5E and its data;
 - the merchantability and the fitness for a particular purpose or use of the SX5E and its data;
 - STOXX will have no liability for any errors, omissions, or interruptions in the SX5E or its data; and
- Under no circumstances will STOXX be liable for any lost profits or indirect, punitive, special, or consequential damages or losses, even if STOXX knows that they might occur.

The licensing agreement between us and STOXX is solely for their benefit and our benefit, and not for the benefit of the holders of the Notes or any other third parties.

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Historical Information

The graph below sets forth the information relating to the historical performance of the Reference Asset. In addition, below the graph is a table setting forth the intra-day high, intra-day low and period-end closing levels of the Reference Asset. The information provided in this table is for the four calendar quarters of 2013 through 2017, and for the period from January 1, 2018 through February 9, 2018.

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

We have not independently verified the accuracy or completeness of the information obtained from Bloomberg Financial Markets. The historical performance of the Reference Asset should not be taken as an indication of its future performance, and no assurance can be given as to the Final Level of the Reference Asset. We cannot give you assurance that the performance of the Reference Asset will result in any positive return on your initial investment.

EURO STOXX 50® Index (“SX5E”)

Period Start Date Period End Date High Intra-Day Level Low Intra-Day Level Period-End Closing Level

1/1/2013	3/31/2013	2,754.80	2,563.64	2,624.02
4/1/2013	6/30/2013	2,851.48	2,494.54	2,602.59
7/1/2013	9/30/2013	2,955.47	2,539.15	2,893.15
10/1/2013	12/31/2013	3,116.23	2,891.39	3,109.00

1/1/2014	3/31/2014	3,185.68	2,944.13	3,161.60
4/1/2014	6/30/2014	3,325.50	3,083.43	3,228.24
7/1/2014	9/30/2014	3,301.15	2,977.52	3,225.93
10/1/2014	12/31/2014	3,278.97	2,789.63	3,146.43

1/1/2015	3/31/2015	3,742.42	2,998.53	3,697.38
4/1/2015	6/30/2015	3,836.28	3,374.18	3,424.30
7/1/2015	9/30/2015	3,714.26	2,973.16	3,100.67
10/1/2015	12/31/2015	3,524.04	3,036.17	3,267.52

1/1/2016	3/31/2016	3,266.01	2,672.73	3,004.93
4/1/2016	6/30/2016	3,156.86	2,678.27	2,864.74
7/1/2016	9/30/2016	3,101.75	2,742.66	3,002.24
10/1/2016	12/31/2016	3,290.52	2,937.98	3,290.52

1/1/2017	3/31/2017	3,500.93	3,214.31	3,500.93
4/1/2017	6/30/2017	3,666.80	3,407.33	3,441.88
7/1/2017	9/30/2017	3,594.85	3,363.68	3,594.85
10/1/2017	12/31/2017	3,708.82	3,503.20	3,503.96

1/1/2018	2/9/2018	3,687.22	3,306.66	3,325.99
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PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT INDICATIVE OF FUTURE RESULTS.

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SUPPLEMENTAL DISCUSSION OF U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES

The following disclosure supplements, and to the extent inconsistent supersedes, the discussion in the product prospectus supplement dated January 12, 2016 under “Supplemental Discussion of U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences.”

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

SUPPLEMENTAL PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION (CONFLICTS OF INTEREST)

Delivery of the Notes will be made against payment for the Notes on February 14, 2018, which is the third (3rd) business day following the Pricing Date (this settlement cycle being referred to as “T+3”). See “Plan of Distribution” in the prospectus dated January 8, 2016. For additional information as to the relationship between us and RBCCM, please see the section “Plan of Distribution - Conflicts of Interest” in the prospectus dated January 8, 2016.

In the initial offering of the Notes, they were offered to investors at a purchase price equal to par.

We will deliver the Notes on a date that is greater than two business days following the Pricing Date. Under Rule 15c6-1 of the Exchange Act, trades in the secondary market generally are required to settle in two business days, unless the parties to any such trade expressly agree otherwise. Accordingly, purchasers who wish to trade the Notes more than two business days prior to the original issue date will be required to specify alternative settlement arrangements to prevent a failed settlement.

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

No Prospectus (as defined in Directive 2003/71/EC (as amended, the “Prospectus Directive”)) will be prepared in connection with these Notes. Accordingly, these Notes may not be offered to the public in any member state of the

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Absolute Return Notes
Linked to the EURO STOXX 50® Index,
due August 13, 2020

European Economic Area (the “EEA”), and any purchaser of these Notes who subsequently sells any of these Notes in any EEA member state must do so only in accordance with the requirements of the Prospectus Directive, as implemented in that member state.

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

STRUCTURING THE NOTES

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

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

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

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VALIDITY OF THE NOTES

In the opinion of Norton Rose Fulbright Canada LLP, the issue and sale of the Notes has been duly authorized by all necessary corporate action of the Bank in conformity with the Indenture, and when the Notes have been duly executed, authenticated and issued in accordance with the Indenture and delivered against payment therefor, the Notes will be validly issued and, to the extent validity of the Notes is a matter governed by the laws of the Province of Ontario or Québec, or the laws of Canada applicable therein, and will be valid obligations of the Bank, subject to equitable remedies which may only be granted at the discretion of a court of competent authority, subject to applicable bankruptcy, to rights to indemnity and contribution under the Notes or the Indenture which may be limited by applicable law; to insolvency and other laws of general application affecting creditors' rights, to limitations under applicable limitations statutes, and to limitations as to the currency in which judgments in Canada may be rendered, as prescribed by the Currency Act (Canada). This opinion is given as of the date hereof and is limited to the laws of the Provinces of Ontario and Québec and the federal laws of Canada applicable thereto. In addition, this opinion is subject to customary assumptions about the Trustee's authorization, execution and delivery of the Indenture and the genuineness of signatures and certain factual matters, all as stated in the letter of such counsel dated January 8, 2016, which has been filed as Exhibit 5.1 to Royal Bank's Form 6-K dated January 8, 2016.

In the opinion of Morrison & Foerster LLP, when the Notes have been duly completed in accordance with the Indenture and issued and sold as contemplated by the prospectus supplement and the prospectus, the Notes will be valid, binding and enforceable obligations of the Bank, entitled to the benefits of the Indenture, subject to applicable bankruptcy, insolvency and similar laws affecting creditors' rights generally, concepts of reasonableness and equitable principles of general applicability (including, without limitation, concepts of good faith, fair dealing and the lack of bad faith). This opinion is given as of the date hereof and is limited to the laws of the State of New York. This opinion is subject to customary assumptions about the Trustee's authorization, execution and delivery of the Indenture and the genuineness of signatures and to such counsel's reliance on the Bank and other sources as to certain factual matters, all as stated in the legal opinion dated January 8, 2016, which has been filed as Exhibit 5.2 to the Bank's Form 6-K dated January 8, 2016.

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