

Bell Aliant Inc.
Form 425
July 23, 2014

BCE to Privatize Affiliate
Bell Aliant
Analyst Conference Call
July 23, 2014
Filed by BCE Inc.
Pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act of 1933
Subject Company: Bell Aliant Inc.
Commission File Number of Bell Aliant Inc. 132-02786

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Safe Harbour Notice

Certain statements made in this presentation are forward-looking statements. These statements include, without limitation, statements issued

and

outstanding

common

shares

of

Bell

Aliant

Inc.

(Bell

Aliant)
that
it
does
not
already
own
(the
Proposed
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and
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of
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and
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preferred
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of
Bell
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Preferred
Equity
Inc.
(Prefco)
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Proposed
Preferred
Share
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Proposed
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and
free
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flow accretion) and operational, competitive and cost efficiencies expected to result from the Proposed Privatization, the anticipated strategic imperatives, the expected sources of funding of the Proposed Privatization, Bell Canada's updated net leverage ratio within the new updated target range, the nature and value of investments expected to be made in Atlantic Canada over the markets following the Proposed Transactions, our network deployment plans, BCE's common share dividend yield, our business outlook, objectives, plans and strategic priorities,

and
other
statements
that
are not historical facts. All such forward-looking statements are made pursuant to the safe harbour provisions of applicable Canadian Securities
Reform
Act
of
1995.
Several
assumptions
were
made
by
BCE
in
preparing
these
forward-looking
statements
and
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are
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that
actual
results
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materially
from
those
contemplated
by
our
forward-looking statements. As a result, we cannot guarantee that any forward-looking statement will materialize and we caution
The
completion
of
the
Proposed
Transactions
is
subject
to
certain
conditions
including,
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the

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of
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Proposed
Privatization,
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percentage
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common
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of
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Aliant,
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of the Proposed Preferred Share Exchange, that a sufficient percentage of preferred shares of Prefco, are deposited by the holder of the Exchange is conditional upon the successful completion of the purchase by BCE of Bell Aliant's common shares pursuant to the achievement

of
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expected
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competitive,
operational
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are
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conditions,
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risks
and

uncertainties including, without limitation, any required regulatory approvals or notifications. Accordingly, there can be no assurance

terms and conditions contemplated in this presentation. In addition, there can be no assurance that the strategic and financial benefits that will result from the Proposed Transactions will be fully realized. The Proposed Transactions could be modified, restructured or terminated. The expected return of Bell Canada's pro forma net leverage ratio within its updated policy target range assumes, in particular, that the Proposed Transactions will reduce Bell Canada's level of indebtedness. Free cash flow generation is subject to the risk factors and assumptions disclosed in our 2013 Annual Report) as updated in BCE's 2014 first quarter MD&A dated May 5, 2014. Furthermore, the value of investments expected to be made at current levels. However, there can be no assurance that such investment levels will be maintained with the result that actual investment levels may differ. For additional information on assumptions and risks underlying certain of the forward-looking statements made in this presentation, see our Proposed Transactions, as well as BCE's above-mentioned 2013 annual and 2014 first quarter MD&As, and BCE's press releases and other Canadian securities regulatory authorities and with the SEC and which are also available on BCE's website. Forward-looking statements made on May 23, 2014, and, accordingly, are subject to change after such date. Except as may be required by Canadian securities laws, we do not intend to make a statement,

whether

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The

terms

EBITDA ,

EBITDA

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Refer
to
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section

Non-GAAP
Financial
Measures
in
BCE's
2014
First
Quarter
MD&A
for
more
details.

Notice to U.S. Securityholders

The
exchange
offers
contemplated
by
this
presentation

are
for
the
securities
of
a
Canadian
company.

The
offers
will
be
subject
to

Canadian disclosure requirements that are different from those of the United States.

Financial statements included or incorporated by reference in the offer documents, if any, will have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards and may not be comparable to the financial statements of United States companies.

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well
as
other
filings
containing
information
about
BCE,
at
the
SEC's
Internet
site
(www.sec.gov).

George Cope
President & Chief Executive Officer
BCE and Bell Canada
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Transaction overview

Acquiring Bell Aliant's public minority common shares for \$3.95B or \$31 per common share

Implied transaction multiple of ~8.3x LTM EBITDA

Immediately accretive to FCF per share and EPS

Simplifies corporate operating structure and eliminates duplicate public company costs

Consistent with capital markets strategy

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CRTC and Industry Canada approvals are not required because there is no change in control of Bell Aliant, and no transfers of wireless spectrum licences

Closing of transaction expected by November 30, 2014
Acquiring the public minority common shares of Atlantic
Canada's leading communications provider

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Represents 11.6% premium to Bell Aliant's weighted-average closing share price on the TSX for the 20-day period ending July 22, 2014

Bell Aliant Q3 dividend that would otherwise have been payable on October 6, 2014 not being declared

Recommended unanimously by Independent Committee of Bell Aliant Board

~\$200M in annual run-rate FCF accretion after dividends

Supports dividend growth model

Strong investment grade credit rating maintained

Notification under the Competition Act

Privatization of Bell Aliant enables expedited broadband investment across Canada
Transaction supports a number of Bell's strategic imperatives
Invest in Broadband
Networks & Services

FCF accretion enables accelerated broadband investment across Canada

Investment of \$2.1B in Atlantic Canada over next 5 years

Improves efficiency of capital spend allocation

Significantly expands Bell's FTTH and IPTV footprints

~70% of total households with access to fibre-based broadband services

Increases number of IPTV-ready homes by 1M to reach 6M by YE2014

Expands Bell's FTTH footprint from 1M to ~2M homes

~\$100M of pre-tax annual operating and capital synergies

Eliminates duplicate public company costs, increasing productivity

Two most efficiently-run Canadian ILECs with combined wireline EBITDA margin of 39%

Improve Customer Service

Leverage Bell Aliant's excellent service reputation and Bell's scale to deliver advanced next generation services and applications to customers

Today announced acquisition of 2 new call centres, bringing 700 jobs to Bell Accelerate Wireless

Today announced next phase of national 4G LTE wireless rollout to more than 100 additional communities across the Atlantic region

Leverage Wireline

Momentum

Achieve a Competitive

Cost Structure

5

BCE revenue mix

(1)

(1)

Based on proportionate consolidation of Bell Aliant revenues (2014E)

Wireless

30%

Pro forma BCE revenue mix

(2)

Maintaining a high mix of growth services

(2)

Pro forma 100% of Bell Aliant (2014E)

Wireline

voice

18%

Wireless

31%

Wireline

Broadband

& TV

37%

Business

9%

Consumer

9%

Media

14%

Wireline

voice

20%

Wireline

Broadband

& TV

37%

Business

10%

Consumer

10%

Media

13%

~82%

Privatization of Bell Aliant maintains BCE's revenue mix of growth services essentially unchanged at ~80%, while moderating pace of overall NAS decline

~80%

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Building on Bell Aliant's strong legacy in Atlantic Canada

\$2.1B planned investment in Atlantic regions over next 5 years to enable the continued rollout of broadband wireline and wireless for consumers and business users

Bell Aliant to maintain regional headquarters in Halifax with significant employee presence

Bell Aliant brand being maintained in Atlantic Canada

Significant ongoing investment

Fibre roll-out to continue for consumers and business customers

Deployment of 4G LTE wireless network to more than 100 additional communities announced today

Expansion of call centre footprint announced today

Regional telecom operations in rural Ontario and rural Québec to benefit from ongoing investments in broadband networks, data hosting and service initiatives

BCE committed to maintaining a strong local presence and significant investment in Bell Aliant territories

Karen Sheriff
President & Chief Executive Officer
Bell Aliant
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Significant value crystallized for Bell Aliant shareholders

Transaction creates immediate value

\$31 offer price represents 11.6% premium to Bell Aliant's weighted-average closing share price on the TSX for the 20-day period ending July 22, 2014

Attractive valuation multiple of ~8.3x LTM EBITDA

Tax-free roll-over election for taxable Canadian resident Bell Aliant shareholders

Enhances

long-term
value
potential
through
opportunity
to
acquire
ownership
in
BCE

Enables participation in superior growth potential of a company with a strong mix of growth assets

BCE dividend with ~5% yield with a track record of annual dividend growth

Attractive investment-grade credit profile underpinned by strong BCE balance sheet

\$31 offer price at the high end of independent valuation range of \$27 to \$31.50 per share

Independent directors unanimously recommend Bell Aliant shareholders tender their shares to the offer
Transaction crystallizes attractive valuation and provides Bell
Aliant shareholders opportunity to benefit from BCE growth

Siim Vanaselja
Executive Vice-President & Chief Financial Officer
BCE and Bell Canada
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\$3.95B total value for Bell Aliant public
minority common shares

Represents a \$410M premium to the 20-day
volume weighted average price as of July 22

Transaction multiple of ~8.3x LTM EBITDA

Aggregate consideration a combination of
cash
(25%)

and
BCE
common
equity
(75%)

Aggregate cash component of ~\$1B

Fixed exchange ratio for equity component of
0.4778 of a BCE share per Bell Aliant share
Accretive transaction that supports BCE's dividend growth model
and strategic imperatives
Key transaction details

Bell Aliant public minority shareholders to
receive ~61M BCE common shares

Bell Aliant shareholders to own ~7% of pro forma
BCE common equity

Bell Aliant preferred shareholders to also
be offered an exchange for BCE preferred
shares on equivalent financial terms

Completion of privatization not conditional upon
Preferred Equity exchange transaction

Transaction subject to more than 50% of
common shares held by public minority
shareholders being tendered and
notification under the Competition Act

Tax-free rollover election afforded to
Canadian resident Bell Aliant shareholders

Tender Offer

Election

Per Bell Aliant

common share

Option 1*

\$31 in cash

Option 2*

0.6371 of a BCE common share

Option 3

\$7.75 in cash and 0.4778 of a

BCE common share

* Subject to proration

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Financing structure overview

Financing structure maintains strong liquidity position and financial flexibility

Uses

Bell

Aliant

net

debt

rollover

(1)

2,888

Bell Aliant preferred shares

618
BCE equity rollover stake (100.4M shares @ \$31/share)
3,112
Minority common shares (127.5M shares @ \$31/share)
3,951
Total uses
10,569
Sources
Bell Aliant net debt rollover
2,888
Bell Aliant/BCE preferred share exchange
618
BCE equity stake rollover
3,112
Cash & available liquidity
988
Issuance of BCE common equity
2,963
Total funding
10,569
Estimated financing structure (\$M)

\$3.95B funding requirement for
acquisition of public minority common
shares

~\$1B of debt to fund cash component

~61M BCE common shares to be issued

~840M post-closing BCE common shares
outstanding

(1)

Net of cash on hand

13

(1)

YE2014 estimates

(2)

Net Debt includes capital leases, 50% of preferred shares and A/R securitization

(3)

Standalone EBITDA is inclusive of Bell Aliant dividends to BCE

(4)

Net interest includes 50% of preferred share dividends and A/R securitization costs

Balanced transaction financing structure

Strong investment grade credit profile preserved

Significant additional debt capacity available within current investment grade ratings category

Strong liquidity position

Liquidity in excess of \$3B

Ease of access to capital markets

Increasing net leverage ratio target range to 1.75x-2.25x from 1.5x-2.0x

Aligned to strong investment-grade ratings and peers

Rating agency thresholds have also increased since original targets were established in 2009

Supported by Bell's improved business risk profile, larger scale and strong FCF generation

Pro forma net leverage of ~2.55x at closing expected to return within revised target range through growth in FCF and applying FCF after dividends to deleveraging

No change to interest coverage ratio, which remains very strong and well above target range of >7.5x
Strong investment grade credit profile maintained
Maintaining a strong credit profile with significant financial flexibility

Standalone

Pro forma

Net debt

(2)

\$17.0B

~\$21.2B

Net leverage

(3)

~2.35x

~2.55x

Interest coverage

8.8x

~8.1x

Bell credit profile

(1)

Bell credit metrics	Current	Revised
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Net debt/Adj. EBITDA		
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(2), (3)

1.5x-2.0x

1.75x-2.25x

Adj.

EBITDA/Net
interest
(4)
>7.5x
No change

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Significant free cash flow benefit

Run-rate annual FCF accretion after dividends
of ~\$200M, excluding integration costs

~\$100M in expected pre-tax annual synergies

Enables capital allocation efficiencies

No impact on 2014 financial guidance

No change to Bell revenue growth, EBITDA growth

or capital intensity

No change to BCE Adjusted EPS as we already fully consolidate Bell Aliant

No change to BCE FCF guidance; however, with this transaction BCE's FCF will include 100% of Bell Aliant's FCF rather than just its share of Bell Aliant dividends received

FCF accretion

(1)

(\$M)

Bell Aliant standalone FCF

~500

Bell Aliant dividends to Bell

~(190)

Incremental FCF acquired

~310

Synergies (after-tax)

~75

Interest on transaction financing (after tax)

~(35)

FCF accretion (before dividends)

~350

Dividends on BCE shares issued

~(150)

FCF accretion (after dividends)

~200

(1)

2015 analyst consensus estimate for Bell Aliant standalone FCF; run-rate 2015 annualized amounts for all other items.

Transaction provides significant FCF benefit, supporting continued capital investment and dividend growth model

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Next steps

Mid-August

Mailing of Bell tender offer and Bell Aliant director circulars

2

nd

half of September

Tender offer expiration

Take-up and payment by BCE of tendered shares if more than 50% of public minority shares tendered

Offer may be extended if less than 90% of shares tendered

Expected completion of Bell Aliant privatization if more than 90% of public minority shares tendered
Early October

Mailing
of
Bell
Aliant
proxy
circular
if
more
than
50%,
but
less
than
90% of public minority shares tendered
Mid-November

Bell Aliant shareholder meeting to approve privatization (if necessary)

BCE to vote its shares, including those tendered, in favour of the privatization of Bell Aliant
By November 30

Expected completion of Bell Aliant privatization transaction

* Above steps for common share offer. Similar timeline for preferred share offer.