

# **Morning Letter**

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# **Market Summary**

DOW	18211.48	+94.44	PEYTO ENERGY	35.82	03	POLARIS	2.54	+.04
TSE	15253.25	+52.99	WESTERN FOREST	2.28	+.05	CANADIAN \$	0.7937	0018
S&P	2115.93	+6.27	CATALYST	5.65		EURO	1.1323	0005
NASDAQ	4967.66	+6.65	CANFOR	30.83	+.56	COPPER	2.66	+.07
TSX VENTURE	690.14	-2.09	REDSTAR GOLD	0.035		BRENT CRUDE	59.84	+.94
SILVER	16.32	+.02	LUMBER	391.20	-6.60	NATURAL GAS	2.92	+.03
GOLD	1198.30	-2.50	FIRST MAJESTIC	6.34	+.04	PRIME RATE	2.85%	

## Market Commentary

### Bank of Montreal reports smaller first-quarter profit

Bank of Montreal posted a smaller first-quarter profit, largely due to the impact of declining long-term interest rates on its insurance unit and lower investment and corporate banking revenues.

## Home Depot sets \$18 bln buyback, profit beats estimates

Home Depot Inc, the world's No.1 home improvement chain, reported a better-than-expected rise in quarterly same-store sales said it would buy back \$18 billion of its shares.

#### US home prices rise

The Case Schiller 20 city home price review rose 4.62% in December year over year and were up 0.87% in Dec. over Nov.

**TSX** saw a slightly higher open despite BMO earnings miss, as markets focused on what the **U.S. Federal Reserve** chair **Janet Yellen** might testify before Congress about the likely lift-off date for rate hikes. DH Corp, First National Financial and Novadaq Technologies are some of the major companies scheduled to report quarterly results after market close. **U.S. stock indexes** open a little higher also. **European markets** were higher on relief that Greece had submitted reform plans. **Asian markets** closed higher. **Brent** steadied around \$59 a barrel ahead of key industry data expected to show further builds in U.S. inventories, while **gold** dipped.

- Agrium Inc (AGU). The fertilizer and farm retail dealer reported a better-than-expected fourth-quarter profit helped by higher prices for most grains and oilseeds. The company also forecast 2015 profit to be \$7 to \$8.50 per share. Excluding one-time items, the company earned 77 cents per share. Revenue fell 5.6 percent to \$2.71 billion. Analysts on average expected a profit of 61 cents and revenue of \$2.93 billion.
- Bank of Montreal (BMO). The bank posted a smaller first-quarter profit on Tuesday, largely due to the impact of declining long-term interest rates on its insurance unit and lower investment and corporate banking revenues. Net income was C\$1 billion, or C\$1.46 a share, for the first quarter ended Jan 31, compared with C\$1.06 billion, or C\$1.58 a share, a year earlier. On an adjusted earnings its earnings slipped to C\$1.04 billion, or C\$1.53 a share, down from C\$1.08 billion, or C\$1.61 a share, a year ago.
- Barrick Gold (ABX). Workers at the company's Lumwana Copper Mine in Zambia called off their strike after the government said they would not lose their jobs, an official said. "I addressed the workers at Lumwana last night and assured them that the government position is that no job should be lost. They agreed to resume normal duties this morning and as we speak the strike has ended," North-Western province permanent secretary, Amos Malupenga told Reuters.
- Canadian National Railway Co (CNR). The railway reached a last-minute tentative agreement with one of its unions on Monday, averting a lockout that threatened to delay imports from Asia and compound a U.S. West Coast port logjam. "I'm delighted to say that Unifor and Canadian National Railway have been able to come to a tentative agreement," Canadian Labour Minister Kellie Leitch told Reuters outside the bargaining room. "CN will be running at full capacity tonight and tomorrow."
- Onex Corp (OCX). The private equity firm is looking to sell Sitel Worldwide Corp in a deal that could value one of the world's largest call center operators at close to \$1 billion, including debt, according to people familiar with the matter. Onex is working with investment bank Goldman Sachs Group Inc on an auction for Sitel, two of the people said, asking not to be identified because the deliberations are private. Onex and Sitel did not respond to requests for comment while Goldman Sachs declined to comment.

• Husky Energy Inc (HSE). Canada's No.3 integrated oil company said it filed a shelf offering to raise up to C\$3 billion. The company, controlled by billionaire Hong Kong investor Li Ka-shing, said the offering will remain in effect until March 22, 2017.

#### **ANALYSTS' RECOMMENDATION**

- Artek Exploration (RTK). NBF revises rating to tender from outperform has entered into an arrangement whereby Kelt Exploration will acquire the company by way of plan of arrangement.
- **Kelt Exploration** (KEL). CIBC raised price target to C\$10.25 from C\$9 after company's announcement to acquire Artek Exploration which would classify Kelt's NEBC Montney as one of the strongest plays in the company's drilling portfolio.
- **Timmins Gold** (TMM). Numis cut price target to C\$1.60 from C\$1.90; rating buy due to equity dilution, after company agreed to acquire Newstrike Capital and its Ana Paula PEA-stage development project.
- Transat AT Inc (TRZb). NBF cut price target to C\$8.50 from C\$10 citing challenging pricing and a weaker Canadian dollar as major headwinds for the company.

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