

Sagicor increases quarterly dividend by 12.5%

SAGICOR Financial Company Ltd (SFC) has announced a 12.5% increase in its quarterly dividend, raising it to US\$0.0675 for the three months ended December 31, 2024, compared to US\$0.06 in the previous quarter.

'On March 13, 2025, the Board of Directors of Sagicor Financial Company Ltd. approved and declared a quarterly dividend of US\$0.0675 per common share, an increase of 12.5%. This quarterly dividend will be paid on April 17, 2025, to shareholders of record at the close of business on March 27, 2025,' SFC stated.

SFC's annualised dividend payment stands at US\$0.27.

President and chief executive officer, Andre Mousseau, said that SFC's increased projected core earnings, strong capitalisation and liquidity, and reduced share count enabled the 12.5% increase in its quarterly dividend to shareholders.

'At this payment level we anticipate we will be at approximately the midpoint of our 30% to 40% target core dividend payout ratio(1) range for 2025. We are also issuing new guidance for 2025. While economic uncertainty may cloud certain macroeconomic variables, we believe our core initiatives will enable us to continue to grow our return on shareholders' equity(1) in 2025 and beyond,' Mousseau stated.

Mousseau said that SFC recorded 'another solid quarter to end 2024.'

'In our first full year of earnings including our Canadian segment, we recorded core earnings to shareholders consistent with our guidance and reported net income to shareholders in excess of core earnings to shareholders,' Mousseau stated.

SFC recorded core earnings to shareholders of US\$28 million for the fourth quarter of last year, a 28% increase from US\$21.8 million in the fourth quarter of 2023.

For the full year, core earnings to shareholders reached US\$90.9 million, an 84% rise from the US\$49.3 million recorded in 2023.

Mousseau stated that SFC's annualized core return on shareholders' equity (ROE) in the fourth quarter highlights its potential for continued earnings growth in 2025 and the medium term.

'We continue to make meaningful progress on our strategic initiatives, including collaboration between our operating segments, refreshing our technology, and improving our access to and cost of capital, all with the aim to reduce costs, drive growth, and ultimately expand our return on shareholders' equity,' he stated.

'We are also pleased to continue to expand our return of capital to shareholders. We repurchased 3.0 million shares in 2024 at a significant discount to book value, contributing to a 4% net reduction in share count for the year. This helped drive our book value per share higher than the rate of our retained earnings,' he stated.

Sagicor has four main reporting operating segments: Sagicor Canada (ivari), Sagicor Life USA, Sagicor Jamaica (of which the Company owns 49.1% and is consolidated by the Company), and Sagicor Life, which includes Trinidad and Tobago.

Sagicor Life reported net income to shareholders of US\$38.5 million for 2024.

SFC's annual meeting of shareholders will be held on May 13.