

## **Short Form Base Shelf Prospectus**

*No securities regulatory authority has expressed an opinion about these securities and it is an offence to claim otherwise.*

*A copy of this preliminary short form base shelf prospectus has been filed with the securities regulatory authorities in each of the provinces and territories of Canada but has not yet become final for the purpose of the sale of securities. Information contained in this preliminary short form base shelf prospectus may not be complete and may have to be amended. The securities may not be sold until a receipt for the short form base shelf prospectus is obtained from the securities regulatory authorities.*

*This short form prospectus has been filed under legislation in all provinces and territories of Canada that permits certain information about these securities to be determined after this prospectus has become final and that permits the omission from this prospectus of that information. The legislation requires the delivery to purchasers of a prospectus supplement containing the omitted information within a specified period of time after agreeing to purchase any of these securities.*

*Information has been incorporated by reference in this prospectus from documents filed with securities commissions or similar authorities in Canada. Copies of the documents incorporated herein by reference may be obtained on request without charge from the Senior Vice-President, Chief Governance Officer and Corporate Secretary of Great-West Lifeco Inc. at 100 Osborne Street North, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 3A5, telephone (204) 946-1190 and are also available electronically at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).*

## **Preliminary Short Form Base Shelf Prospectus**

**New Issue**

**September 13, 2019**



**\$8,000,000,000**

**Debt Securities (unsecured)  
First Preferred Shares  
Common Shares  
Subscription Receipts**

Great-West Lifeco Inc. (“**Lifeco**” or the “**Corporation**”) may from time to time offer and issue the following securities: (i) senior, subordinated or junior subordinated debt securities (the “**Debt Securities**”); (ii) first preferred shares (the “**First Preferred Shares**”); (iii) common shares (the “**Common Shares**”) and (iv) subscription receipts (the “**Subscription Receipts**”), or any combination thereof. The Debt Securities, First Preferred Shares, Common Shares and Subscription Receipts (collectively, the “**Securities**”) offered hereby may be offered separately or together, in separate series, in amounts, at prices and on terms to be set forth in an accompanying shelf prospectus supplement (a “**Prospectus Supplement**”). All shelf information not included in this short form base shelf prospectus (the “**Prospectus**”) will be contained in one or more Prospectus Supplements that will be delivered to purchasers together with the Prospectus. Lifeco may sell up to \$8,000,000,000 in aggregate initial offering price of Securities (or the Canadian dollar equivalent thereof at the time of issuance if any of the Securities are denominated in a foreign currency or currency unit) during the 25-month period that this Prospectus, including any amendments hereto, remains valid.

The specific terms of the Securities in respect of which this Prospectus is being delivered will be set forth in the applicable Prospectus Supplement and may include, where applicable: (i) in the case of Debt Securities, the specific designation, aggregate principal amount, the currency or the currency unit for which the Debt Securities may be purchased, maturity, interest provisions, authorized denominations, ranking, offering price, covenants, events of default, any terms for redemption at the option of Lifeco or the holder, any exchange or conversion terms and any other specific terms; (ii) in the case of First Preferred Shares, the designation of the particular class and/or series, the aggregate principal amount, the number of shares offered, the issue price, the dividend rate, the dividend payment dates, any terms for redemption at the option of Lifeco or the holder, any exchange or conversion terms and any other specific terms; (iii) in the case of Common Shares, the number of shares and the offering price; and (iv) in the case of Subscription Receipts, the number of Subscription Receipts being offered, the offering price and the

conditions and procedures for the exchange of the subscription receipts for Debt Securities, First Preferred Shares or Common Shares, as the case may be. A Prospectus Supplement may include specific variable terms pertaining to the Securities that are not within the alternatives and parameters described in this Prospectus.

This Prospectus does not qualify for issuance Debt Securities in respect of which the payment of principal and/or interest may be determined, in whole or in part, by reference to one or more underlying interests including, for example, an equity or debt security, a statistical measure of economic or financial performance including, but not limited to, any currency, consumer price or mortgage index, or the price or value of one or more commodities, indices or other items, or any other item or formula, or any combination or basket of the foregoing items.

In connection with any offering of the Securities (unless otherwise specified in a Prospectus Supplement), the underwriters or agents may over-allot or effect transactions which stabilize or maintain the market price of the Securities offered at a higher level than that which might exist in the open market. These transactions may be commenced, interrupted or discontinued at any time. See "Plan of Distribution".

The outstanding Common Shares and the First Preferred Shares of the Corporation are listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange (the "TSX") under the stock symbol "GWO", and "GWO.PR.F", "GWO.PR.G", "GWO.PR.H", "GWO.PR.I", "GWO.PR.L", "GWO.PR.M", "GWO.PR.N", "GWO.PR.O", "GWO.PR.P", "GWO.PR.Q", "GWO.PR.R", "GWO.PR.S", and "GWO.PR.T", respectively.

The Securities may be sold through underwriters or dealers, by Lifeco directly pursuant to applicable statutory exemptions or through agents designated by Lifeco from time to time. See "Plan of Distribution". Each Prospectus Supplement will identify each underwriter, dealer or agent engaged in connection with the offering and sale of those Securities, and will also set forth the terms of the offering of such Securities including the net proceeds to Lifeco and, to the extent applicable, any fees payable to the underwriters, dealers or agents. The offerings are subject to approval of certain legal matters by Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP on behalf of Lifeco. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable Prospectus Supplement, Debt Securities will not be listed on any stock exchange.

Lifeco's registered and head office is located at 100 Osborne Street North, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 3A5.

Except as otherwise indicated, all dollar amounts in this Prospectus are expressed in Canadian dollars and references to "\$" are to Canadian dollars.

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### Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Information

This Prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference may contain forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements include statements that are predictive in nature, depend upon or refer to future events or conditions, or include words such as "expects", "anticipates", "intends", "plans", "believes", "estimates" and other similar expressions or negative versions thereof. These statements include, without limitation, statements about Lifeco’s operations, business, financial condition, expected financial performance (including revenues, earnings or growth rates), ongoing business strategies or prospects, and possible future actions by Lifeco, including statements made with respect to the expected benefits of acquisitions and divestitures, expected capital management activities and use of capital and expected cost reductions and savings. Forward-looking statements are based on expectations, forecasts, estimates, predictions, projections and conclusions about future events that were current at the time of the statements and are inherently subject to, among other things, risks, uncertainties and assumptions about Lifeco, economic factors and the financial services industry generally, including the insurance and mutual fund industries. They are not guarantees of future performance, and the reader is cautioned that actual events and results could differ materially from those expressed or implied by forward-looking statements.

Material factors and assumptions that were applied in formulating the forward-looking information contained herein include the assumption that the business and economic conditions affecting Lifeco’s operations will continue substantially in their current state, including, without limitation, with respect to customer behaviour, Lifeco’s reputation, market prices for products provided, sales levels, premium income, fee income, expense levels, mortality experience, morbidity experience, policy lapse rates, reinsurance arrangements, liquidity requirements, capital requirements, credit ratings, taxes, inflation, interest and foreign exchange rates, investment values, hedging activities, global equity and capital markets, business competition and other general economic, political and market factors in North America and internationally. Many of these assumptions are based on factors and events that are not within the control of Lifeco and there is no assurance that they will prove to be correct. Other important factors and assumptions that could cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in forward-looking statements include customer responses to new products, impairment of goodwill and other intangible assets, Lifeco’s ability to execute strategic plans and changes to strategic plans, technological changes, breaches or failure of information systems and security (including cyber attacks), payments required under investment products, changes in local and international laws and regulations, changes in accounting policies and the effect of applying future accounting policy changes, unexpected judicial or regulatory proceedings, catastrophic events, continuity and availability of personnel and third party service providers, Lifeco’s ability to complete strategic transactions and integrate acquisitions and unplanned material changes to Lifeco’s facilities, customer and employee relations or credit

arrangements. The reader is cautioned that the foregoing list of assumptions and factors is not exhaustive, and there may be other factors listed in other filings with securities regulators, including factors set out under “Risk Factors” in this Prospectus and under “Risk Management and Control Practices” and “Summary of Critical Accounting Estimates” in Lifeco’s Management’s Discussion and Analysis for the twelve months ended December 31, 2018, which, along with other filings, is available for review at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com). The reader is also cautioned to consider these and other factors, uncertainties and potential events carefully and not to place undue reliance on forward-looking statements.

Other than as specifically required by applicable law, Lifeco has no intention of updating any forward-looking statements whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

### **Non- IFRS Financial Measures**

This Prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference contain some non-International Financial Reporting Standards (“IFRS”) financial measures. Terms by which non-IFRS financial measures are identified include, but are not limited to, “operating earnings”, “adjusted net earnings”, adjusted return on equity”, “core net earnings”, “constant currency basis”, “impact of currency movement”, “premiums and deposits”, “sales” “assets under management”, “assets under administration” and other similar expressions. Non-IFRS financial measures are used to provide management and investors with additional measures of performance to help assess results where no comparable IFRS measure exists. However, non-IFRS financial measures do not have standardized meanings prescribed by IFRS and are not directly comparable to similar measures used by other companies. Please refer to the appropriate reconciliations of these non-IFRS financial measures to measures prescribed by IFRS where applicable.

### **Documents Incorporated by Reference**

The following documents filed with the securities commissions or similar authorities in each of the provinces and territories of Canada are specifically incorporated by reference into and form an integral part of this Prospectus:

- (a) the Annual Information Form of Lifeco dated February 6, 2019, including documents incorporated by reference therein;
- (b) the audited consolidated financial statements of Lifeco as at and for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017 and the report of the independent auditor thereon;
- (c) the Management’s Discussion and Analysis dated February 6, 2019 for the year ended December 31, 2018;
- (d) the Management Proxy Circular dated February 19, 2019 with respect to the annual meeting of shareholders of Lifeco held on May 2, 2019;
- (e) the condensed consolidated interim unaudited financial statements of Lifeco as at and for the three- and six-month periods ended June 30, 2019 and 2018; and
- (f) the related Management’s Discussion and Analysis dated July 30, 2019 for the three- and six- month period ended June 30, 2019.

All documents of Lifeco of the type described in Section 11.1 of Form 44-101F1 — *Short Form Prospectus* to National Instrument 44-101 — *Short Form Prospectus Distributions*, if filed by Lifeco with the provincial and territorial securities commissions or similar authorities in Canada after the date of this Prospectus and during the term of this Prospectus shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference into this Prospectus.

Any template version of any “marketing materials” (as such term is defined in NI 44-101) filed after the date of a Prospectus Supplement and before the termination of the distribution of the Securities offered pursuant to such

Prospectus Supplement (together with this Prospectus) is deemed to be incorporated by reference in such Prospectus Supplement.

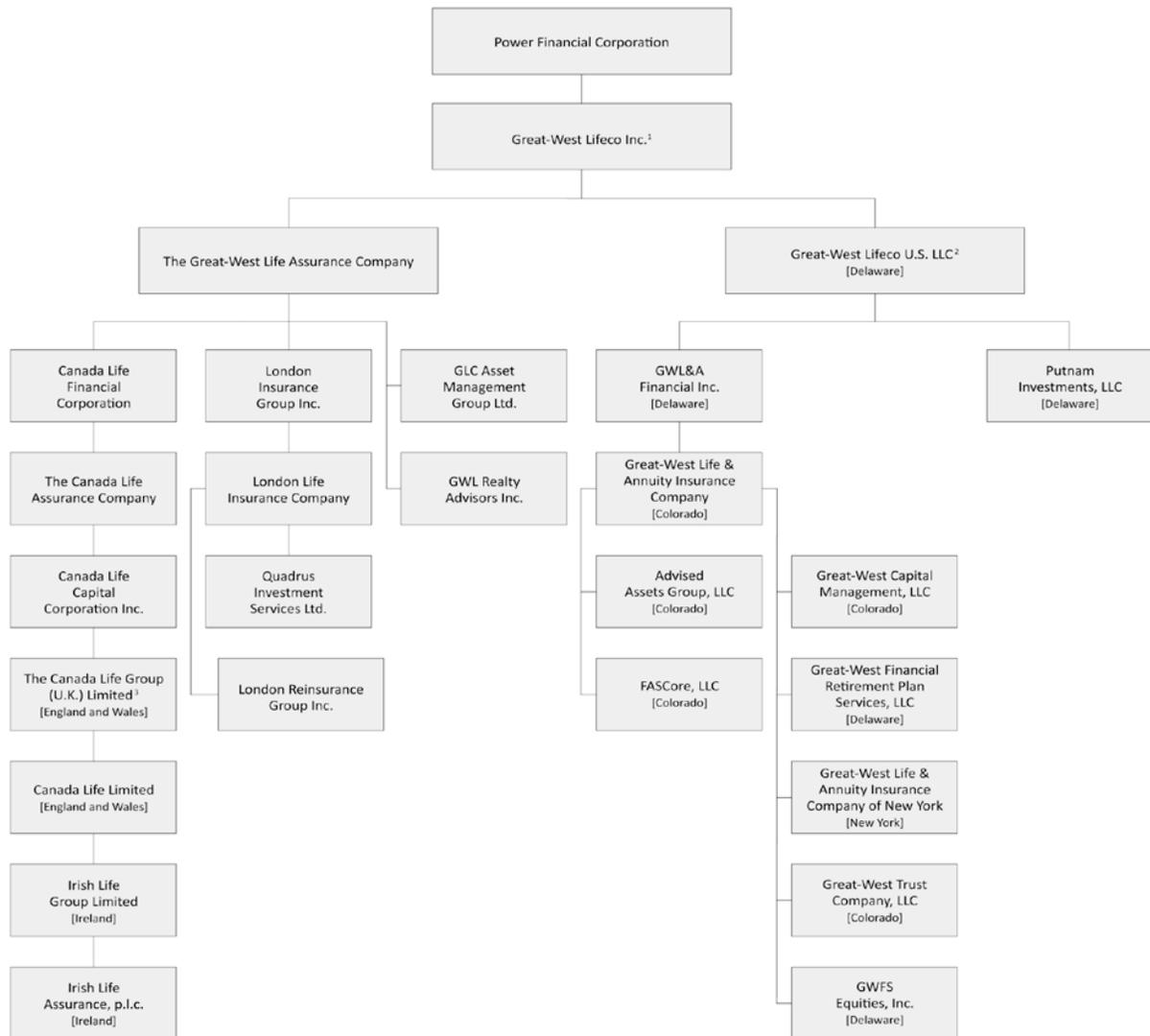
A Prospectus Supplement containing the specific terms in respect of any Securities will be delivered, together with this Prospectus, to purchasers of such Securities and will be deemed to be incorporated into this Prospectus for the purposes of securities legislation as of the date of the Prospectus Supplement, but only for the purposes of the distribution of the Securities to which such Prospectus Supplement pertains.

**Any statement contained in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded, for purposes of this Prospectus, to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any other subsequently filed document that also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statement. The modifying or superseding statement need not state that it has modified or superseded a prior statement or include any other information set forth in the document that it modifies or supersedes. The making of a modifying or superseding statement shall not be deemed an admission for any purposes that the modified or superseded statement, when made, constituted a misrepresentation, an untrue statement of a material fact or an omission to state a material fact that is required to be stated or that is necessary to make a statement not misleading in light of the circumstances in which it was made. Any statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this Prospectus.**

When Lifeco files a new annual information form and audited consolidated financial statements and related management's discussion and analysis with the applicable securities regulatory authorities during the time that this Prospectus is valid, the following documents will be deemed no longer incorporated by reference in this Prospectus for purposes of future offers and sales of Securities under this Prospectus: any previous annual information form; any previous audited consolidated financial statements and related management's discussion and analysis; all previous condensed consolidated interim unaudited financial statements and related management's discussion and analysis; all material change reports filed prior to the commencement of Lifeco's financial year in which the new annual information form is filed; and any information circular filed prior to the commencement of Lifeco's financial year in respect of which the new annual information form is filed.

#### **Great-West Lifeco Inc.**

The chart shown below depicts the corporate relationships among Lifeco and certain of its subsidiaries. Unless otherwise indicated, all such subsidiaries were incorporated or have been continued under the laws of Canada. Lifeco beneficially owns, or exercises control or direction over, 100% of the voting securities of each such subsidiary.



1. Power Financial Corporation controlled, directly or indirectly, 70.80% of the outstanding Common Shares of Great-West Lifeco, representing approximately 65% of the voting rights attached to all of the outstanding voting shares of Great-West Lifeco as of August 31, 2019.
2. 100 per cent of the voting securities of Great-West Lifeco U.S. LLC are owned by Great-West Financial (Nova Scotia) Co. (Nova Scotia), a wholly-owned indirect subsidiary of Lifeco. 100 per cent of the voting securities of Great-West Financial (Nova Scotia) Inc. are owned by Great-West Financial (Canada) Inc., a wholly-owned direct subsidiary of Lifeco.
3. 100 per cent of the voting securities of The Canada Life Group (U.K.) Limited are owned by Canada Life International Holdings Limited (Bermuda), a wholly-owned indirect subsidiary of Lifeco.

Lifeco is a financial services holding company with interests in the life insurance, health insurance, retirement savings, investment management and reinsurance businesses. Lifeco has operations in Canada, the United States and Europe through The Great-West Life Assurance Company (“**Great-West Life**”), London Life Insurance Company (“**London Life**”), The Canada Life Assurance Company (“**Canada Life**”), Great-West Life & Annuity Insurance Company (“**Empower Retirement**”), Putnam Investments, LLC (“**Putnam**”), Canada Life Limited and Irish Life Group Limited (“**Irish Life**”). Lifeco and its subsidiaries have approximately \$1.6 trillion in assets under administration as at June 30, 2019 and, at December 31, 2018, had approximately 24,200 employees worldwide. Lifeco currently has no other material holdings, and currently carries on no business or activities unrelated to its holdings in Great-West Life, London Life, Canada Life, Empower Retirement, Putnam, Canada Life Limited, Irish

Life and their subsidiaries. However, Lifeco is not restricted to investing in those companies, and may make other investments in the future.

Lifeco, through its operating subsidiaries, provides products and services under a number of brands, including the Great-West Life brand, London Life brand, the Canada Life brand, the Freedom 55 Financial™ brand, the Irish Life brand, the Empower Retirement brand and the Putnam Investments and PanAgora brands.

The businesses of Lifeco are grouped into reportable segments as follows:

### *Canada*

In Canada, Great-West Life, London Life and Canada Life offer a broad portfolio of financial and benefit plan solutions for individuals, families, businesses and organizations through two primary business units: Individual Customer and Group Customer. Through the Individual Customer business unit, Great-West Life, London Life and Canada Life provide life, disability and critical illness insurance products as well as wealth savings and income products and services to individual clients. Through the Group Customer business unit, Great-West Life, London Life and Canada Life provide life, accidental death and dismemberment, critical illness, health and dental protection and creditor insurance as well as accumulation and annuity products and other specialty products to group clients in Canada. The products are distributed through a multi-channel network of brokers, advisors, managing general agencies and financial institutions including Freedom 55 Financial and Wealth and Insurance Solutions Enterprise.

On April 3, 2019, the Corporation announced its three Canadian life insurance companies, Great-West Life, London Life and Canada Life, were moving to one brand in Canada: Canada Life. Canada Life became the brand under which the organization creates, delivers and communicates products and services in Canada across all of its lines of business. On July 19, 2019, the Corporation announced that the boards of directors of Great-West Life, London Life, Canada Life and their holding companies, Canada Life Financial Corporation and London Insurance Group Inc., have approved plans to proceed with the amalgamation of these five entities into one company: The Canada Life Assurance Company. This initiative is separate from, but aligned with, the move to one brand and will further simplify the business. Subject to regulatory and policyholder approval, the amalgamation is expected to be completed by January 1, 2020.

### *United States*

In the United States, Empower Retirement is a leading provider of employer-sponsored retirement savings plans in the public/non-profit and corporate sectors that offers employer-sponsored defined contribution plans, individual retirement accounts, enrollment services, communication materials, investment options and education services. Through its Great-West Investments business unit, Empower Retirement also offers fund management, investment and advisory services. Empower Retirement services and products are marketed nationwide through brokers, consultants, advisors, third-party administrators and financial institutions. Through its FASCore subsidiary, which is marketed under the Empower Institutional brand, Empower Retirement offers private-label recordkeeping and administrative services for financial institutions and other providers of defined contribution plans and associated defined benefit plans. Empower Retirement also offers group annuity products available within retirement savings plans.

Putnam provides investment management, certain administrative functions and distribution services. Putnam offers a broad range of investment products, including equity, fixed income, absolute return and alternative strategies, through the Putnam Funds, Putnam World Trust Funds and institutional portfolios. Revenue is derived from the value and composition of assets under management, performance fees, as well as service and distribution fees. Accordingly, fluctuations in the financial markets, and changes in the composition of assets or accounts affect revenues and results of operations. Individual retail investors are served through a broad network of distribution relationships with unaffiliated broker-dealers, financial planners, registered investment advisors and other financial institutions that distribute the Putnam Funds to their customers, which, in total, include approximately 143,000 advisors as at December 31, 2018. Institutional investors are supported by Putnam's dedicated account management, product management, and client service professionals.

Effective June 1, 2019, Empower Retirement completed the sale, through reinsurance, of substantially all of its individual life insurance and annuity business to Protective Life Insurance Company ("**Protective Life**"), the

primary subsidiary of Protective Life Corporation. The business sold includes bank-owned and corporate-owned life insurance, single premium life insurance, individual annuities and closed block life insurance and annuities. Empower Retirement retains a small block of participating life insurance policies which will be administered by Protective Life. The reinsurance transaction with Protective Life includes business written in the U.S. by Empower Retirement, Great-West Life & Annuity Insurance Company of New York and the U.S. branches of Canada Life and Great-West Life.

### *Europe*

The Europe segment is comprised of two distinct business units: (i) Insurance & Annuities, which offers protection and wealth management products, including payout annuity products, through subsidiaries of Canada Life in the United Kingdom (U.K.), Isle of Man (IoM), Ireland and Germany and through Irish Life in Ireland; and (ii) Reinsurance, which operates primarily in the United States, Barbados and Ireland. Reinsurance products are provided through Canada Life, London Life and their subsidiaries.

The core products offered in the U.K. are payout annuities, savings and group insurance. These products are distributed through independent financial advisors and employee benefit consultants. The U.K.'s international operations based in the IoM and Dublin, Ireland offer investment, savings and individual protection products that are sold through independent financial advisors and private banks in the U.K. and in other selected territories. The core products offered by Irish Life in Ireland are savings and investments, individual and group life insurance, health insurance and pension products. These products are distributed through independent brokers, a direct sales force and tied agent bank branches. The German operation focuses on pension, lifetime guaranteed minimum withdrawal benefit and individual protection products that are distributed through independent brokers and multi-tied agents.

Canada Life's and London Life's reinsurance business includes both reinsurance and retrocession business transacted directly with clients or through reinsurance brokers. As a retrocessionaire, the companies provide reinsurance to other reinsurers to allow those companies to manage their reinsurance risk. The product portfolio offered by the companies includes life, annuity, mortgage and property and catastrophe reinsurance, provided on both a proportional and non-proportional basis.

In addition to providing reinsurance products to third parties, Lifeco and its subsidiaries also utilize internal reinsurance transactions between companies in the Lifeco group. These transactions are undertaken in order to better manage insurance risks relating to retention, volatility and concentration and to facilitate capital management for Lifeco and its subsidiaries and branch operations. These internal reinsurance transactions may produce benefits that are reflected in one or more of Lifeco's and its subsidiaries' business units.

### *Corporate*

The Lifeco Corporate segment includes operating results for activities that are not specifically associated with other business units.

As at the date of this Prospectus, Power Financial Corporation controlled, directly or indirectly, approximately 71% of the outstanding Common Shares of Lifeco, representing approximately **65%** of the voting rights attached to all of the outstanding voting shares of Lifeco.

On April 17, 2019, Lifeco took up and purchased for cancellation 59,700,974 Common Shares at a purchase price of \$33.50 per Common Share under the Corporation's substantial issuer bid (the "**Offer**"), for aggregate consideration of \$2.0 billion. Common Shares purchased under the Offer represented approximately 6.04% of the issued and outstanding Common Shares on a non-diluted basis as at the time that the Offer was announced.

From time to time, Lifeco and its subsidiaries evaluate existing businesses, products and services, and such review could result in Lifeco or its subsidiaries disposing of or acquiring businesses or offering new, or discontinuing existing, products and services. In the ordinary course of their operations Lifeco and its subsidiaries consider and discuss with third parties the purchase or sale of companies, businesses or business segments. If effected, such transactions could be material to Lifeco in size or scope, and could result in changes in the value of the securities of Lifeco, including any Securities offered hereby.

## Description of Debt Securities

The following sets forth certain general terms and provisions of the Debt Securities. The particular terms and provisions of Debt Securities offered by a Prospectus Supplement, and the extent to which the general terms and provisions described below may apply to such Debt Securities, will be described in such Prospectus Supplement.

The Debt Securities will be direct unsecured obligations of Lifeco. The Debt Securities will be senior indebtedness, subordinated indebtedness or junior subordinated indebtedness of Lifeco as described in the relevant Prospectus Supplement. If the Debt Securities are senior indebtedness, they will rank equally and rateably with all other unsecured indebtedness of Lifeco from time-to-time issued and outstanding which is not subordinated indebtedness or junior subordinated indebtedness of Lifeco. If the Debt Securities are subordinated indebtedness, they will rank equally and rateably with all other subordinated indebtedness of Lifeco from time-to-time issued and outstanding which is not junior subordinated indebtedness of Lifeco. If the Debt Securities are junior subordinated indebtedness, they will rank equally and rateably with all other junior subordinated indebtedness of Lifeco from time-to-time issued and outstanding. In the event of the insolvency or winding-up of Lifeco, (a) the subordinated indebtedness of Lifeco, including the subordinated Debt Securities, will be subordinate in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all senior indebtedness of Lifeco, and (b) the junior subordinated indebtedness of Lifeco, including the junior subordinated Debt Securities, will be subordinate in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all senior indebtedness and all subordinated indebtedness (other than junior subordinated indebtedness) of Lifeco.

The Debt Securities will be issued under one or more indentures between Lifeco and a financial institution to which the *Trust and Loan Companies Act* (Canada) applies or a financial institution organized under the laws of any province of Canada and authorized to carry on business as a trustee (each, a “**Trustee**”), as supplemented and amended from time to time (each a “**Trust Indenture**” and, collectively, the “**Trust Indentures**”). The statements made hereunder relating to any Trust Indenture and the Debt Securities to be issued thereunder are summaries of certain anticipated provisions thereof and do not purport to be complete and are subject to, and are qualified in their entirety by reference to, all provisions of the applicable Trust Indenture.

Each Prospectus Supplement will set forth the terms and other information with respect to the Debt Securities being offered thereby, including: (i) the designation, aggregate principal amount, authorized denominations and ranking of such Debt Securities; (ii) the currency or currency units for which the Debt Securities may be purchased and the currency or currency units in which the principal and any interest is payable (in either case, if other than Canadian dollars); (iii) the percentage of the principal amount at which such Debt Securities will be issued; (iv) the date or dates on which such Debt Securities will mature; (v) the rate or rates per annum at which such Debt Securities will bear interest (if any), or the method of determination of such rates (if any); (vi) the dates on which such interest will be payable and the record dates for such payments; (vii) the Trustee under the Trust Indenture pursuant to which the Debt Securities are to be issued; (viii) any redemption term or terms under which such Debt Securities may be defeased; (ix) whether such Debt Securities are to be issued in registered form, “book-entry only” form, bearer form or in the form of temporary or permanent global securities and the basis of exchange, transfer and ownership thereof; (x) any exchange or conversion terms; and (xi) any other specific terms.

Debt Securities may, at the option of Lifeco, be issued in fully registered form, in bearer form or in “book-entry only” form. See “Book-Entry Only Securities”.

## Description of Share Capital

The authorized capital of the Corporation consists of an unlimited number of First Preferred Shares, an unlimited number of Class A Preferred Shares, an unlimited number of Second Preferred Shares and an unlimited number of Common Shares. As of September 12, 2019, there were 928,859,320 Common Shares issued and outstanding.

The First Preferred Shares of the Corporation may be issued in one or more series with such rights, privileges, restrictions and conditions as the Board of Directors of the Corporation designates. The Board of Directors of the

Corporation has designated 8,000,000 of the First Preferred Shares as Series F First Preferred Shares, 12,000,000 of the First Preferred Shares as Series G First Preferred Shares, 14,000,000 of the First Preferred Shares as Series H First Preferred Shares, 12,000,000 of the First Preferred Shares as Series I First Preferred Shares, 10,000,000 of the First Preferred Shares as Series L First Preferred Shares, 8,000,000 of the First Preferred Shares as Series M First Preferred Shares, an unlimited number of the First Preferred Shares as Series N First Preferred Shares, an unlimited number of the First Preferred Shares as Series O First Preferred Shares, 10,000,000 of the First Preferred Shares as Series P First Preferred Shares, 8,000,000 of the First Preferred Shares as Series Q First Preferred Shares, 8,000,000 of the First Preferred Shares as Series R First Preferred Shares, 8,000,000 of the First Preferred Shares as Series S First Preferred Shares and 8,000,000 of the First Preferred Shares as Series T First Preferred Shares, of which as at the date of this Prospectus 7,740,032 Series F First Preferred Shares, 12,000,000 Series G First Preferred Shares, 12,000,000 Series H First Preferred Shares, 12,000,000 Series I First Preferred Shares, 6,800,000 Series L First Preferred Shares, 6,000,000 Series M First Preferred Shares, 8,524,422 Series N First Preferred Shares, 1,475,578 Series O First Preferred Shares, 10,000,000 Series P First Preferred Shares, 8,000,000 Series Q First Preferred Shares, 8,000,000 Series R First Preferred Shares, 8,000,000 Series S First Preferred Shares and 8,000,000 Series T First Preferred Shares are issued and outstanding. In certain circumstances, the Series N First Preferred Shares are convertible into Series O First Preferred Shares and the Series O First Preferred Shares are convertible into Series N First Preferred Shares. As of the date of this Prospectus, no Class A Preferred Shares or Second Preferred Shares are outstanding.

### **Description of First Preferred Shares**

The following sets forth certain general terms and provisions of the First Preferred Shares. The particular terms and provisions of a series of First Preferred Shares offered by a Prospectus Supplement, and the extent to which the general terms and provisions described below may apply thereto, will be described in such Prospectus Supplement. First Preferred Shares may be issued in fully registered form or in “book-entry only” form. See “Book-Entry Only Securities”.

#### **Certain Provisions of the First Preferred Shares as a Class**

##### ***Priority***

With respect to the payment of dividends (which are payable if, as and when declared by the Board of Directors of Lifeco) and the distribution of assets in the event of the liquidation, dissolution or winding-up of the Corporation, whether voluntary or involuntary, or any other distribution of the assets of the Corporation among its shareholders for the purpose of winding-up its affairs, the First Preferred Shares of each series rank on a parity with the First Preferred Shares of every other series and with the Class A Preferred Shares and in priority to the Second Preferred Shares, the Common Shares and any other shares ranking junior to the First Preferred Shares. On such a distribution, the rights of the holders of the First Preferred Shares of each series will be subject to the prior satisfaction of all claims of all creditors of the Corporation and of holders of shares of the Corporation ranking prior to the First Preferred Shares.

##### ***Approval by First Preferred Shareholders***

In addition to any shareholder approvals required by applicable law, the approval of the holders of the First Preferred Shares as a class, given in the manner described under “Modification” below, is required to delete, add to or vary any right, privilege, preference, restriction or condition attaching to the First Preferred Shares as a class.

##### ***Voting Rights***

Subject to the temporary voting rights discussed below, the holders of First Preferred Shares of any series shall not be entitled to notice of or to attend or to vote at any meeting of the Corporation or of its shareholders except as may be specifically provided in the provisions attaching to the First Preferred Shares of such series.

### ***Modification***

The approval of all deletions from or additions to or variations of the provisions of the First Preferred Shares as a class and any other approval required to be given by the holders of the First Preferred Shares may be given by a resolution passed by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the votes cast at a general meeting of the holders of First Preferred Shares duly called for that purpose. On any vote held in respect of such a resolution, holders of First Preferred Shares will be entitled to one vote per share. The formalities to be observed in respect of the giving of notice of any such meeting or any adjourned meeting and the conduct thereof will be those from time to time prescribed by the *Canada Business Corporations Act* (as from time to time amended, varied or replaced) and the by-laws of the Corporation with respect to meetings of shareholders.

### ***Temporary Voting Rights and Restrictions and Constraints on Transfer***

Section 411 of the Insurance Companies Act (Canada) (the “ICA”) requires that Great-West Life, London Life and Canada Life have voting shares that carry at least 35% of the voting rights attached to all of their outstanding shares beneficially owned by persons who are not “major shareholders” or who are not entities controlled by a major shareholder (the “**Public Holding Requirement**”). The ICA provides that a person is a major shareholder of a company if the aggregate of the shares of any class of voting shares beneficially owned by the person and by entities controlled by the person exceeds 20% of all of the outstanding shares of that class.

As permitted by the ICA, the Public Holding Requirement applicable to Great-West Life, London Life and Canada Life has been satisfied by Lifeco through provisions in Lifeco’s articles that attach voting rights to the First Preferred Shares and that impose certain constraints on the issue and transfer of the First Preferred Shares. Such provisions currently apply to the First Preferred Shares and will continue to apply until the occurrence of certain events described in Lifeco’s articles (such period of time, the “**Temporary Period**”).

During the Temporary Period, holders of First Preferred Shares are entitled to receive notice of and to attend all meetings of Lifeco shareholders (other than meetings of holders of a class or series of shares at which such holders are entitled to vote separately as a class or series). Each First Preferred Share carries that number of votes calculated in accordance with a formula set out in Lifeco’s articles. The formula provides, in effect, that the number of votes attached to each First Preferred Share is such that the holders of Common Shares and the holders of First Preferred Shares who do not directly or indirectly own more than 10% of the Common Shares or 10% of the First Preferred Shares respectively will collectively exercise 35% of the voting rights attached to all voting shares of Lifeco.

During the Temporary Period, First Preferred Shares are not to be issued, or be registered in the securities register of Lifeco as transferred, where such issue or transfer would result in a person beneficially owning, directly or indirectly, more than 10% of the First Preferred Shares as a class. If, during the Temporary Period, First Preferred Shares are held by a person who owns more than 10% of the First Preferred Shares as a class, or an entity controlled by such a person owns any First Preferred Shares, the voting rights attached to the First Preferred Shares of such person or entity cannot be exercised.

### ***Declaration of Shareholder***

To facilitate the monitoring of compliance with the constraints on the issue, transfer and voting rights of the First Preferred Shares, the Board of Directors of the Corporation may, in certain circumstances, require any holder of First Preferred Shares to furnish a declaration as to matters relevant, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, to determine compliance with such share constraints.

### **Description of Common Shares**

Common Shares entitle the holders thereof to one vote per share at any meeting of shareholders of the Corporation. Holders of Common Shares are entitled to dividends (which are payable if, as and when declared by the Board of Directors of Lifeco), subject to the priority of payment of dividends attached to the First Preferred Shares, the Class A Preferred Shares, the Second Preferred Shares and any other shares ranking senior to the

Common Shares. After payment to holders of First Preferred Shares, Class A Preferred Shares, Second Preferred Shares and any other shares ranking senior to the Common Shares of amounts which they are entitled to receive in the event of the liquidation, dissolution or winding-up of the Corporation, the remaining assets of the Corporation will be paid to or distributed equally among the holders of Common Shares, without preference or distinction.

### **Description of Subscription Receipts**

The following sets forth certain general terms and provisions of the Subscription Receipts. The particular terms and provisions of Subscription Receipts offered by a Prospectus Supplement, and the extent to which the general terms and provisions described below may apply to such Subscription Receipts, will be described in such Prospectus Supplement.

Subscription Receipts may be offered separately or together with Debt Securities, First Preferred Shares or Common Shares, as the case may be, and may be exchanged by the holders thereof for Debt Securities, First Preferred Shares or Common Shares upon the satisfaction of certain conditions. Subscription Receipts will be issued under a subscription receipt agreement between Lifeco and an escrow agent. The statements below relating to any subscription receipt agreement and the Subscription Receipts to be issued thereunder are summaries of certain anticipated provisions thereof, are not complete and are subject to, and qualified by reference to all provisions of the applicable Subscription Receipts. The applicable Prospectus Supplement will include details of the subscription receipt agreement with respect to the Subscription Receipts being offered. Reference is made to the applicable Prospectus Supplement which will accompany this Prospectus for the terms and other information with respect to the offering of Subscription Receipts being offered thereby.

The particular terms and provisions of each issue of Subscription Receipts providing for the issuance of Debt Securities, First Preferred Shares or Common Shares on the exchange of Subscription Receipts will be described in the related Prospectus Supplement and may include the number of Subscription Receipts, the price at which they will be issued and whether the price is payable in instalments, any conditions to the exchange of Subscription Receipts into Debt Securities, First Preferred Shares or Common Shares, as the case may be, and the consequences of such conditions not being satisfied, the procedures for the exchange of the Subscription Receipts into Debt Securities, First Preferred Shares or Common Shares, as the case may be, the number of Debt Securities, First Preferred Shares or Common Shares, as the case may be, that may be exchanged upon exercise of each Subscription Receipt, the dates or periods during which the Subscription Receipts may be exchanged into Debt Securities, First Preferred Shares or Common Shares, as the case may be, whether such Subscription Receipts will be listed on any securities exchange, and any other rights, privileges, restrictions and conditions attaching to the Subscription Receipts.

### **Book-Entry Only Securities**

Securities issued in “book-entry only” form must be purchased, transferred or redeemed through participants (“**CDS Participants**”) in the depository service of CDS Clearing and Depository Services Inc. or a successor (collectively, “**CDS**”). Each of the underwriters, dealers or agents, as the case may be, named in a Prospectus Supplement will be a CDS Participant or will have arrangements with a CDS Participant. On the closing of a book-entry only offering, Lifeco may cause a global certificate or certificates representing the aggregate number of Securities subscribed for under such offering to be delivered to, and registered in the name of, CDS or its nominee. Except as described below, no purchaser of Securities will be entitled to a certificate or other instrument from Lifeco or CDS evidencing that purchaser’s ownership thereof, and no purchaser will be shown on the records maintained by CDS except through a book-entry account of a CDS Participant acting on behalf of such purchaser. Each purchaser of Securities will receive a customer confirmation of purchase from the registered dealer from which the Securities are purchased in accordance with the practices and procedures of that registered dealer. The practices of registered dealers may vary, but generally customer confirmations are issued promptly after execution of a customer order. CDS will be responsible for establishing and maintaining book-entry accounts for its CDS Participants having interests in the Securities. Reference in this Prospectus to a holder of Securities means, unless the context otherwise requires, the owner of the beneficial interest in the Securities.

If Lifeco determines, or CDS notifies Lifeco in writing, that CDS is no longer willing or able to discharge properly its responsibilities as depository with respect to the Securities and Lifeco is unable to locate a qualified successor, or if Lifeco at its option elects, or is required by law, to terminate the book-entry system, then the Securities will be issued in fully registered form to holders or their nominees.

### ***Transfer, Conversion or Redemption of Securities***

Transfer of ownership, conversion or redemption of Securities will be effected through records maintained by CDS or its nominee for such Securities with respect to interests of CDS Participants, and on the records of CDS Participants with respect to interests of persons other than CDS Participants. Holders who desire to purchase, sell or otherwise transfer ownership of or other interests in the Securities may do so only through CDS Participants.

The ability of a holder to pledge a Security or to otherwise take action with respect to such holder's interest in a Security (other than through a CDS Participant) may be limited due to the lack of a physical certificate.

### ***Payments and Notices***

Payments of principal, redemption price, if any, dividends and interest, as applicable, on each Security will be made by Lifeco to CDS or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered holder of the Security and Lifeco understands that such payments will be credited by CDS or its nominee in the appropriate amounts to the relevant CDS Participants. Payments to holders of Securities of amounts so credited will be the responsibility of the CDS Participants.

As long as CDS or its nominee is the registered holder of the Securities, CDS or its nominee, as the case may be, will be considered the sole owner of the Securities for the purposes of receiving notices or payments on the Securities. In such circumstances, the responsibility and liability of Lifeco in respect of notices or payments on the Securities is limited to giving notice or making payment of any principal, redemption price, if any, dividends and interest due on the Securities to CDS or its nominee.

Each holder must rely on the procedures of CDS and, if such holder is not a CDS Participant, on the procedures of the CDS Participant through which such holder owns its interest, to exercise any rights with respect to the Securities. Lifeco understands that under existing policies of CDS and industry practices, if Lifeco requests any action of holders or if a holder desires to give any notice or take any action which a registered holder is entitled to give or take with respect to the Securities, CDS would authorize the CDS Participant acting on behalf of the holder to give such notice or to take such action, in accordance with the procedures established by CDS or agreed to from time to time by Lifeco, any Trustee and CDS. Any holder that is not a CDS Participant must rely on the contractual arrangement it has directly, or indirectly through its financial intermediary, with its CDS Participant to give such notice or take such action.

Lifeco, the underwriters, dealers or agents and any Trustee identified in an accompanying Prospectus Supplement, as applicable, will not have any liability or responsibility for (i) records maintained by CDS relating to beneficial ownership interest in the Securities held by CDS or the book-entry accounts maintained by CDS; (ii) maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to any such beneficial ownership interest; or (iii) any advice or representation made by or with respect to CDS and contained herein or in any Trust Indenture with respect to the rules and regulations of CDS or at the directions of the CDS Participants.

### **Earnings Coverage Ratios**

Earnings coverage ratios will be provided as required in the Prospectus Supplement with respect to the issuance of Debt Securities or First Preferred Shares pursuant to such Prospectus Supplement.

## **Plan of Distribution**

Lifeco may sell the Securities (i) through underwriters or dealers, (ii) directly to one or more purchasers pursuant to applicable statutory exemptions or (iii) through agents. The Securities may be sold at fixed prices or non-fixed prices, such as prices determined by reference to the prevailing price of the Securities in a specified market, at market prices prevailing at the time of sale or at prices to be negotiated with purchasers, which prices may vary as between purchasers and during the period of distribution of the Securities. The Prospectus Supplement for any of the Securities being offered thereby will set forth the terms of the offering of such Securities, including the type of security being offered, the name or names of any underwriters, dealers or agents, the purchase price of such Securities, the proceeds to Lifeco from such sale, any underwriting discounts and other items constituting underwriters' compensation, any public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or re-allowed or paid to dealers. Only underwriters so named in the Prospectus Supplement are deemed to be underwriters in connection with the Securities offered thereby.

If underwriters are used in the sale, the Securities will be acquired by the underwriters for their own account and may be resold from time to time in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale, at market prices prevailing at the time of sale or at prices related to such prevailing market prices. The obligations of the underwriters to purchase such Securities will be subject to certain conditions precedent, and the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all the Securities offered by the Prospectus Supplement if any of such Securities are purchased. Any public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or re-allowed or paid to underwriters, dealers or agents may be changed from time to time.

The Securities may also be sold directly by Lifeco at such prices and upon such terms as agreed to by Lifeco and the purchaser or through agents designated by Lifeco from time to time. Any agent involved in the offering and sale of the Securities in respect of which this Prospectus is delivered will be named, and any commissions payable by Lifeco to such agent will be set forth, in the Prospectus Supplement. Unless otherwise indicated in the Prospectus Supplement, any agent is acting on a best efforts basis for the period of its appointment.

Lifeco may agree to pay the underwriters a commission for various services relating to the issue and sale of any Securities offered hereby. Any such commission will be paid out of the offering proceeds of any such issuance and sale of Securities or the general corporate funds of Lifeco. Underwriters, dealers and agents who participate in the distribution of the Securities may be entitled under agreements to be entered into with Lifeco to indemnification by Lifeco against certain liabilities, including liabilities under securities legislation, or to contribution with respect to payments which such underwriters, dealers or agents may be required to make in respect thereof.

In connection with any offering of the Securities (unless otherwise specified in a Prospectus Supplement), the underwriters or agents may over-allot or effect transactions which stabilize or maintain the market price of the Securities offered at a higher level than that which might exist in the open market. These transactions may be commenced, interrupted or discontinued at any time.

Unless otherwise specified in a Prospectus Supplement, the Securities will not be registered under the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

## **Risk Factors**

Before deciding whether to invest in any Securities, investors should consider carefully the risks set out in the documents incorporated by reference in this Prospectus including the disclosure under the heading "Risk Factors" of Lifeco's Annual Information Form dated February 6, 2019, and documents incorporated by reference therein, the disclosure in the Corporation's Management's Discussion and Analysis dated February 6, 2019 (specifically the "Risk Management and Control Practices" and "Summary of Critical Accounting Estimates"), which disclosure includes discussions concerning six broad categories of risks: market and liquidity risks, credit risks, insurance risks, operational risk, conduct risk and strategic risk, and all subsequently filed documents incorporated by reference.

Additional risk factors relating to a specific offering of Securities will be described in the applicable Prospectus Supplement.

#### **Use of Proceeds**

The use of proceeds of the sale of each series of Securities will be described in the Prospectus Supplement relating to the specific issuance of Securities.

#### **Enforceability of Certain Civil Liabilities**

Michael R. Amend, Elizabeth C. Lempres, Paula B. Madoff, T. Timothy Ryan, Jerome J. Selitto, James M. Singh and Brian E. Walsh, seven of Lifeco's directors, are resident outside of Canada. These individuals, as named below, have appointed the following agent(s) for service of process:

<b>Name of Individual Director</b>	<b>Name and Address of Agent</b>
Michael R. Amend	Jeremy Trickett c/o Great-West Lifeco Inc. 100 Osborne Street North, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 3A5
Elizabeth C. Lempres	Jeremy Trickett c/o Great-West Lifeco Inc. 100 Osborne Street North, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 3A5
Paula B. Madoff	Jeremy Trickett c/o Great-West Lifeco Inc. 100 Osborne Street North, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 3A5
T. Timothy Ryan	Jeremy Trickett c/o Great-West Lifeco Inc. 100 Osborne Street North, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 3A5
Jerome J. Selitto	Jeremy Trickett c/o Great-West Lifeco Inc. 100 Osborne Street North, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 3A5
James M. Singh	Jeremy Trickett c/o Great-West Lifeco Inc. 100 Osborne Street North, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 3A5
Brian E. Walsh	Jeremy Trickett c/o Great-West Lifeco Inc. 100 Osborne Street North, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 3A5

Purchasers are advised that it may not be possible for investors to enforce judgments obtained in Canada against any person or company that is incorporated, continued or otherwise organized under the laws of a foreign jurisdiction or resides outside Canada, even if the party has appointed an agent for service of process.

#### **Legal Matters**

Certain legal matters in connection with the Securities offered hereby will be passed upon by Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP on behalf of the Corporation. As of the date hereof, the partners and associates of Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP, as a group, beneficially own, directly or indirectly, less than 1% of the outstanding securities of Lifeco or any associated party or affiliate of Lifeco.

## **Auditor**

Deloitte LLP is the external auditor of Lifeco that prepared the Auditors' Report to Shareholders included with the consolidated annual financial statements of Lifeco for its most recently completed financial year. Deloitte LLP has advised Lifeco that it is independent of Lifeco within the meaning of the Rules of Professional Conduct of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Manitoba.

## **Purchasers' Statutory Rights of Withdrawal and Rescission**

Securities legislation in certain of the provinces and territories of Canada provides purchasers with the right to withdraw from an agreement to purchase securities. This right may be exercised within two business days after receipt or deemed receipt of a prospectus and any amendment. In several of the provinces and territories, the securities legislation further provides a purchaser with remedies for rescission or, in some jurisdictions, revision of the price or damages if the prospectus and any amendment contains a misrepresentation or is not delivered to the purchaser, provided that the remedies for rescission, revision of the price or damages are exercised by the purchaser within the time limit prescribed by the securities legislation of the purchaser's province or territory. The purchaser should refer to any applicable provisions of the securities legislation of the purchaser's province or territory for the particulars of these rights or consult with a legal adviser.

**CERTIFICATE OF GREAT-WEST LIFECO INC.**

Dated: September 13, 2019

This short form prospectus, together with the documents incorporated by reference, will, as of the date of the last supplement to this prospectus relating to the securities offered by this prospectus and the supplement(s), constitute full, true and plain disclosure of all material facts relating to the securities offered by this prospectus and the supplement(s) as required by the securities legislation of each of the provinces and territories of Canada.

By: (signed)    PAUL A. MAHON  
President and Chief Executive Officer

By: (signed)    GARRY MACNICHOLAS  
Executive Vice-President and  
Chief Financial Officer

On behalf of the Board of Directors

By: (signed)    DEBORAH J. BARRETT  
Director

By: (signed)    DONALD M. RAYMOND  
Director