POWER FINANCIAL CORPORATION

ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

MONDAY, MAY 14, 2012

ADDRESS TO SHAREHOLDERS

BY

R. JEFFREY ORR
PRESIDENT AND
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Forward-Looking Statements

Certain statements in this document, other than statements of historical fact, are forward-looking statements based on certain assumptions and reflect the Corporation's current expectations, or with respect to disclosure regarding the Corporation's public subsidiaries, reflects such subsidiaries' disclosed current expectations. Forward-looking statements are provided for the purposes of assisting the reader in understanding the Corporation's financial performance, financial position and cash flows as at and for the periods ended on certain dates and to present information about management's current expectations and plans relating to the future and the reader is cautioned that such statements may not be appropriate for other purposes. These statements may include, without limitation, statements regarding the operations, business, financial condition, expected financial results, performance, prospects, opportunities, priorities, targets, goals, ongoing objectives, strategies and outlook of the Corporation and its subsidiaries, as well as the outlook for North American and international economies for the current fiscal year and subsequent periods. 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", "plans", "believes", "estimates", "seeks", "intends", "targets", "projects", "forecasts" or negative versions thereof and other similar expressions, or future or conditional verbs such as "may", "will", "should", "would" and "could".

By its nature, this information is subject to inherent risks and uncertainties that may be general or specific and which give rise to the possibility that expectations, forecasts, predictions, projections or conclusions will not prove to be accurate, that assumptions may not be correct and that objectives, strategic goals and priorities will not be achieved. A variety of factors, many of which are beyond the Corporation's and its subsidiaries' control, affect the operations, performance and results of the Corporation and its subsidiaries and their businesses, and could cause actual results to differ materially from current expectations of estimated or anticipated events or results. These factors include, but are not limited to: the impact or unanticipated impact of general economic, political and market factors in North America and internationally, interest and foreign exchange rates, global equity and capital markets, management of market liquidity and funding risks, changes in accounting policies and methods used to report financial condition (including uncertainties associated with critical accounting assumptions and estimates), the effect of applying future accounting changes, business competition, operational and reputational risks, technological change, changes in government regulation and legislation, changes in tax laws, unexpected judicial or regulatory proceedings, catastrophic events, the Corporation's and its subsidiaries' ability to complete strategic transactions, integrate acquisitions and implement other growth strategies, and the Corporation's and its subsidiaries' success in anticipating and managing the foregoing factors.

The reader is cautioned to consider these and other factors, uncertainties and potential events carefully and not to put undue reliance on forward-looking statements. Information contained in forward-looking statements is based upon certain material assumptions that were applied in drawing a conclusion or making a forecast or projection, including management's perceptions of historical trends, current conditions and expected future developments, as well as other considerations that are believed to be appropriate in the circumstances, including that the foregoing list of factors, collectively, are not expected to have a material impact on the Corporation and its subsidiaries. While the Corporation considers these assumptions to be reasonable based on information currently available to management, they may prove to be incorrect.

Other than as specifically required by applicable Canadian law, the Corporation undertakes no obligation to update any forward-looking statement to reflect events or circumstances after the date on which such statement is made, or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events, whether as a result of new information, future events or results, or otherwise.

Additional information about the risks and uncertainties of the Corporation's business and material factors or assumptions on which information contained in forward-looking statements is based is provided in its disclosure materials, including its most recent Management's Discussion and Analysis and Annual Information Form, filed with the securities regulatory authorities in Canada and available at www.sedar.com.

Non-IFRS Financial Measures

In analyzing the financial results of the Corporation and consistent with the presentation in previous years, net earnings are subdivided into the following components:

- operating earnings attributable to common shareholders; and
- other items or non-operating earnings, which include the after-tax impact of any item that management considers to be of a non-recurring nature or that could make the period-over-period comparison of results from operations less meaningful, and also include the Corporation's share of any such item presented in a comparable manner by its subsidiaries.

Management has used these financial measures for many years in its presentation and analysis of the financial performance of Power Financial, and believes that they provide additional meaningful information to readers in their analysis of the results of the Corporation.

Operating earnings attributable to common shareholders and operating earnings per share are non-IFRS financial measures that do not have a standard meaning and may not be comparable to similar measures used by other entities.

The visual presentation accompanying Mr. Orr's remarks is available on the Corporation's website at www.powerfinancial.com.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS TO THE ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

POWER FINANCIAL CORPORATION

May 14, 2012

It is my pleasure to address you this morning and to report to you on the results of the Power Financial Corporation group of companies for the year 2011.

2011 was truly a year of two halves. When we met last May at this meeting, stock market levels had been increasing for close to a year, individual investors were beginning to increase their purchases of investment funds, and there was a degree of cautious optimism beginning to take hold, even though there were still many global economic issues to resolve.

In the months that followed, the focus turned to economic problems in Europe, resulting in a full-scale liquidity crisis for many European institutions last fall, which impacted markets around the globe.

Progress has been made since, but a lot of uncertainty remains. As a result, investors are once again very nervous and interest rates remain near historic low levels.

These conditions not only make it difficult for investors, they make it very challenging to grow assets and earnings in the insurance and investment businesses.

In spite of these challenges, Power Financial continued to grow its earnings in 2011.

Power Financial's operating earnings attributable to common shareholders were $1,729 million in 2011, compared with $1,625 million in 2010, an increase of 6%.

Earnings growth was driven by higher earnings at both Great-West Lifeco and IGM Financial.

Net earnings attributable to common shareholders, including other items, were $1,722 million, compared with $1,468 million in 2010.

Power Financial's earnings are very well diversified, reflecting the scale and scope of its activities. Earnings are diversified by geography, by product and by distribution channel.

In total, Power Financial's subsidiaries have over $600 billion under management or administration in mutual funds, segregated funds, institutional mandates, retirement programs as well as assets managed for our companies' own balance sheets.

Our group has always been and remains focused upon building value over the long term. In this regard, 15-year performance remains outstanding. Compounded annual rates of return to Power Financial shareholders are 14.1% over 15 years at March 31, 2012.

Put another way, $100 invested in Power Financial shares 15 years ago would be worth $727 at March 31, 2012, compared to $290 if invested in the TSX index and $307 if invested in the TSX Financial Services sub-index.

Our return to shareholders has clearly outperformed over the long term.

While Power Financial and its group companies have faced much more challenging conditions in recent years, a little perspective is warranted. Over the past four years, through the worst financial crisis in 70 years, Power Financial has earned a total of $5.8 billion for its common shareholders and has paid them dividends of $3.9 billion.

This stable performance is in contrast to most of our peers in the insurance and investment businesses.

Great-West Lifeco and IGM make up 94% of Power Financial's operating earnings. On a relative basis, Great-West Lifeco's total shareholder returns have materially outperformed its Canadian and U.S. life insurance peers over the past four years.

The same can be said for IGM Financial, and its asset management peers.

Our group has outperformed over the long term, but the last four years have demonstrated that this historic performance was built on a solid foundation of prudent balance sheet management and controlled risk taking.

From this position of strength, we continue to invest and build upon our market leadership positions across the company.

We have confidence in the long-term future of our businesses. That confidence is rooted in some very strong fundamentals.

It starts with the knowledge that our business provides a vital service to society.

We are in the business of helping people prepare for their retirement. We help provide the financial security they need to live comfortably once they are in retirement. We allow people to be financially prepared for major life events, both expected and unexpected.

We provide a vital service to society, the need for which we believe will continue to grow in the future.

In addition, most of our products and services are distributed by financial advisors. People who use a financial advisor accumulate far higher levels of financial assets and are better prepared for retirement than those who don't, at all income and age levels. I'll come back to this point later in my remarks.

Our confidence is also rooted in the strength of our companies. We have leading franchises across most of our businesses, with the size, scale and profitability to continue to invest to remain competitive in the future.

We have the financial strength, the shareholder base and the vision to pursue the opportunities in front of us with a long-term view.

So with that perspective on our recent and historical performance, and on our future, let me now turn to the results of our subsidiaries.

GREAT-WEST LIFECO

Power Financial holds a 71% economic interest in Great-West Lifeco, which has operations in Canada, the United States and Europe.

Great-West Lifeco's financial condition remains very solid as a result of its continued strong performance in 2011.

Great-West Lifeco reported operating earnings attributable to common shareholders of $1,898 million in 2011, compared with $1,819 million in 2010.

Great-West Lifeco's earnings stability leads the industry and its balance sheet remains as strong as ever.

Great-West Lifeco's return on equity in 2011 was an industry-leading 16.6%, up from the 2010 level. Great-West Lifeco continues to outpace its peer group of major Canadian banks and life insurance companies. As you can see from the slide which covers the last 12 years, Great-West Lifeco has again opened up the gap against these companies since the financial turbulence began.

The Great-West Lifeco operating companies continue to enjoy strong ratings for financial strength and claims-paying ability from all major credit rating agencies. The company's ratings remain among the highest for stock life companies globally.

GREAT-WEST LIFECO — CANADA

In Canada, one of Great-West Lifeco's strengths and a key differentiator is its deep commitment to building and sustaining the advisor channel. This strategy is further leveraged by the strength of its Canadian insurance brands — Great-West Life, London Life and Canada Life.

Great-West Lifeco's Canadian operations generated net income of $986 million in 2011, compared to $975 million the previous year.

Great-West Lifeco's companies maintained leading market positions in their individual and group businesses in 2011.

Great-West enjoyed a 22% market share in the Canadian Group Life and Health market, with the strongest share in the more profitable fully insured small and medium-sized segments.

Great-West built its share of the Canadian Individual Life Insurance market to over 30% in 2011 by leveraging its multiple brands, diversified channels and broad range of products.

In addition, Great-West is the leader in the Living Benefits market in Canada, with a 30% market share in Individual Disability insurance and a 20% market share in Critical Illness insurance.

Great-West Lifeco's Canadian Operations are very well positioned for solid growth in the current economic environment and are poised to take advantage of higher growth opportunities as they emerge.

GREAT-WEST LIFECO — EUROPE

In Europe, Great-West Lifeco has operations through Canada Life in the United Kingdom, Isle of Man, Ireland and Germany.

Net income in Europe for 2011 was $562 million, 5.6% higher than in 2010. The European segment includes our Reinsurance operations, and our 2011 results include catastrophe provisions relating to the earthquake events in Japan and New Zealand. In fact, excluding catastrophe provisions, earnings increased by 17.5% compared to 2010 results. This was accomplished despite the ongoing challenges in the European markets where we operate.

In the United Kingdom, Canada Life is the leading provider of group life insurance, the second largest provider of group disability insurance, and a major supplier of payout annuities. The company also has a growing wealth management business.

In Germany, Canada Life is a leading provider of unit-linked investment and retirement products to the independent advisor channel. In 2011, sales grew by 13%. Canada Life's assets in Germany measured in euros grew by 5%, to €2.0 billion, despite significant declines in German equity markets.

In Ireland, industry sales volumes declined further, although there are signs of positive progress on overall economic and fiscal recovery. Canada Life's exclusive tied agent sales force performed well. Distribution through independent brokers was challenged by intense price competition, although early sales results for an innovative retirement savings product which we launched last fall are very promising.

GREAT-WEST LIFECO — UNITED STATES

I will now turn to Great-West Lifeco's business in the United States.

Great-West Life and Annuity continued to post solid results in 2011, with net income of $355 million. Key initiatives to boost sales, enhance service, increase assets under management, and launch new products laid the groundwork for accelerated growth of the business.

Great-West Life & Annuity is the 4th largest provider of defined contribution employer-sponsored retirement savings plans, such as 401(k) plans, in the United States. Great-West offers fund management, investment and advisory services, as well as record-keeping and administrative services for other plan providers. It also offers business-owned life insurance, executive benefits products, individual retirement accounts, life insurance and annuities. The company markets its products and services nationwide through its sales force and distribution partners.

Expanded distribution and diverse products contributed to a 23% increase in 401(k) plan sales and a 57% increase in community bank business-owned life insurance sales.

PUTNAM INVESTMENTS

This year, Putnam celebrates 75 years of managing money for individual and institutional investors. The firm has practised an active, risk-conscious approach to pursuing client mandates since the launch of the George Putnam Balanced Fund in 1937. Putnam today provides investment services across a range of equity, fixed income, absolute return and alternative strategies. It distributes those services largely through intermediaries via its offices and strategic alliances in North America, Europe and Asia.

Putnam made significant progress in 2011 as the firm continued to focus on further bolstering its investment and distribution capabilities, retirement offerings, brand strength in the marketplace, state-of-the-art technology and innovative product offerings, while maintaining award-winning customer service.

Average assets under management expanded by 6% to US$123 billion while new sales increased by US$5.2 billion. Core operating earnings improved, driven by lower operating expenses.

In 2011, Putnam was recognized by a number of industry observers for strong investment results, service and business leadership. The firm received six Lipper Fund Awards based on performance excellence across multiple asset classes for periods of three years or more. Additionally, Putnam won the DALBAR Service Award for the 22nd consecutive year for providing the highest levels of investor service to mutual fund shareholders, and was named Retirement Leader of the Year by a major industry publication.

IGM FINANCIAL

Power Financial's other significant financial services subsidiary is IGM Financial, in which it holds a 60% economic interest.

IGM is one of Canada's premier personal financial services companies, and one of the country's largest managers and distributors of mutual funds and other managed asset products, with over $118 billion in total assets under management at December 31, 2011. The company serves the financial needs of Canadians through multiple distinct businesses, including Investors Group, Mackenzie Financial and Investment Planning Counsel. Fundamental to its activities is the belief in the value of advice in contributing to the advancement of the financial literacy and financial security of Canadians.

IGM Financial and its operating companies experienced an increase in net earnings in 2011, as average total assets under management increased year over year. Operating net earnings for 2011 was $833 million compared to $759 million in 2010, an increase of almost 10%. Investors Group Inc. and Mackenzie Financial Corporation, the company's principal businesses, continued to generate business growth through product innovation, investment management, resource management, and distribution expansion throughout the year. While average assets were up in 2011, year-end assets decreased to $118.7 billion, down 8.3% from $129.5 billion at the end of 2010. The decrease was driven primarily by declining stock market levels in the last half of the year.

Return on equity for IGM Financial was 19.7% in 2011, compared with 18.2% in 2010.

INVESTORS GROUP

Turning to IGM Financial's operating subsidiaries, Investors Group is committed to comprehensive planning delivered through long-term client and consultant relationships. Investors Group provides advice and services to nearly one million Canadians through a network of approximately 4,600 consultants.

The Investors Group Consultant network continued to expand by opening five new region offices during 2011. The company now has 106 region offices across Canada, compared to 67 just 8 years ago. There were 4,608 Consultants at December 31, 2011, an increase of 44% from 2004.

Investors Group has a strong history of delivering effective investment fund management. With portfolio managers situated in offices across the globe — from Winnipeg to Toronto, Montreal, Dublin and Hong Kong — it has people in key locations worldwide with access to public markets around the clock.

Investors Group mutual fund assets under management were $57.7 billion at the end of 2011, compared with $61.8 billion in 2010. Mutual fund sales were $6.0 billion, an increase of 4.8% over 2010. The redemption rate on long-term mutual funds for 2011 was 8.8%, compared to 8.3% at December 31, 2010, but still well below the redemption rate for the rest of the industry.

MACKENZIE FINANCIAL

IGM owns Mackenzie Financial, one of Canada's leading providers of mutual funds through financial advisors.

Mackenzie provides investment advisory services utilizing proprietary investment research and an experienced team of investment professionals. Mackenzie reaches more than 30,000 independent advisors and serves 1.1 million investors across Canada.

Total sales were $10.3 billion in 2011, compared with $12.2 billion in 2010.

As at December 31, 2011, total assets under management were $61.7 billion, down 9.8% from the prior year-end, as a result of lower stock market levels and net redemptions in its primary distribution channels.

At year-end, investment performance results were excellent, and improved even further to March 31 of this year. At the end of March 2012, 62% of assets under management were in the top two quartiles on a 3-year basis, 72% over five years and 66% over 10 years — representing very strong investment performance for Mackenzie's clients across all time periods.

Mackenzie was also recognized by Lipper and Morningstar for superior investment performance.

Mackenzie received eight Lipper Awards in various categories, including the best fund in the Canadian Fixed Income Balanced category over the past 10-year period for the fourth year in a row, an outstanding achievement.

PARGESA HOLDING

I will now turn to the Pargesa group in Europe. Together with the Frère group of Belgium, Power Financial holds a 56.5% equity interest in Pargesa. At December 31, 2011, Pargesa held a 50% equity interest in the Belgian holding company Groupe Bruxelles Lambert, or GBL.

Pargesa reported operating earnings of SF342 million in 2011, compared with SF466 million in 2010. This decrease of 26% is mainly due to a weakening of the euro against the Swiss franc.

For Power Financial, this translated into a contribution of $110 million to operating earnings in 2011, compared with $121 million in 2010.

One of the most notable group developments in 2011 was the sale of Pargesa's 25.6% stake in Imerys to GBL, completed in April for €1,087 million. GBL now owns 57.0% of Imerys directly. This repositioning concentrates all of the oversight of Imerys within GBL, and provides Pargesa with greater flexibility in its cash management.

In March 2012, GBL sold part of its investment in Pernod Ricard and all of its investment in Arkema for total cash proceeds of €931 million. These transactions are expected to allow GBL to reinforce its financial and strategic flexibility.

I will now provide a brief overview of the leading companies in the Pargesa portfolio and their contribution to Pargesa's operating earnings.

IMERYS

Imerys is a world leader in minerals processing. In 2011, the end markets for Imerys' products held up well overall compared with 2010. Operating income was €487 million, up 15.5% from 2010. Pargesa's share was SF122 million.

LAFARGE

The Pargesa group holds a 21% equity interest in Lafarge, a world leader in building materials.

Growth in emerging countries continued in 2011. Developed markets showed contrasting trends with higher volumes in France and the United Kingdom, a deterioration in southern Europe and a slight activity increase in North America.

Operating income for the year was €2,179 million, a decrease of 9% compared to 2010. Pargesa's share was SF56 million.

TOTAL

The Pargesa group holds a 4.0% equity interest in Total, one of the leading international oil and gas groups, with a presence in the chemical industry. Its activities are based in more than 130 countries and cover the entire oil industry chain.

Pargesa's share of the dividends received from Total was SF164 million in 2011.

GDF SUEZ

The Pargesa group holds a 5.2% equity interest in GDF Suez, an international industrial and services group active across the entire energy value chain in electricity and natural gas, upstream to downstream. GDF Suez holds a leading position in the European and global energy markets.

Pargesa's share of the dividends received from GDF Suez was SF114 million in 2011.

SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT

GBL holds a 7.2% equity interest in Suez Environnement, a global leader in the water and waste sectors.

Pargesa recorded dividends of SF15 million from Suez Environnement in 2011.

PERNOD RICARD

The Pargesa group also held at December 31, 2011 a 9.8% equity interest in Pernod Ricard, a joint world leader in wines and spirits.

Pargesa recorded dividends of SF24 million in 2011 from Pernod Ricard.

FIRST QUARTER 2012 EARNINGS

I will now turn to the financial results of Power Financial Corporation for the first quarter of 2012.

Operating earnings attributable to common shareholders were $372 million or $0.52 per share, the same as in 2011.

The increased contribution to earnings from Lifeco in 2012 was partially offset by a somewhat lower contribution from IGM and the recognition of a tax benefit in 2011.

After taking into account gains recognized by Pargesa from the sale of shares of Pernod Ricard and Arkema which I mentioned earlier, net earnings attributable to common shareholders, including other items, were $455 million or $0.64 per share, compared with $370 million or $0.52 per share in the first quarter of 2011.

QUARTERLY DIVIDEND

At the meeting of the Board which was held earlier today, the Directors, in addition to declaring the regular dividends on the preferred shares, declared a quarterly dividend of 35 cents per share on the Common Shares of the Corporation.

CANADA'S RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND THE VALUE OF ADVICE

As I did at our last annual meeting, I would like to comment on two topics which impact the well-being of Canadians and the financial services industry: Canada's retirement system and the value of advice.

The evolving savings and retirement readiness of Canadians are matters of vital importance given the demographic pressures of an aging work force, longer life expectancies and shorter working careers.

Studies show that Canada's retirement system is among the strongest in the world. A study by the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in 2010 found that Canada's retirement system ranked second in its financial sustainability among all developed countries in the world. One of its key strengths is that it is well balanced between government-provided programs, employer-sponsored plans and individual savings. Government programs, such as Old Age Security and the Canada and Quebec Pension Plans, provide Canadians with a solid base level of retirement income, and underpin the system. These programs don't have a large amount of assets backing them, as they are mostly "pay as you go" systems, meaning that retired Canadians are supported by the contributions of younger generations of Canadians who are in the workforce.

Workplace savings plans, such as traditional defined benefit pension plans and defined contribution plans, have over a trillion dollars invested to support the future retirement needs of Canadians. Research has shown that Canadians employed where a workplace plan exists are better prepared for retirement than those whose employers don't have a plan. It stands to reason that increasing the access to workplace plans would help more Canadians be prepared.

The Canadian and Quebec governments' recent legislation to create Pooled Registered Pension Plans is a worthy initiative to increase access to workplace savings plans, and our companies intend to participate by offering such plans to Canadians.

By far the largest component of the assets Canadians have to support their future retirement needs are their individual savings. They hold over $2.5 trillion dollars in financial assets. About a third of this is in registered plans, such as RRSPs and TFSAs, and the balance is non-registered.

Canadians also have an additional $2.3 trillion of value in their homes, other real estate holdings and equity in private businesses. At least a portion of this value will also be available to provide financial support in retirement.

The Canadian system is strong, but not perfect. Studies show that while most Canadians are on track to have sufficient income in retirement, a substantial minority of Canadian households are not. Enhancements to the system can and should be made.

Any enhancements should build upon what is already working well, and they should maintain the strength of our balanced system, with governments playing an important role, but where employers and individuals also take responsibility for saving for the future. The balance and shared responsibility are the keys to a system that will endure over time.

One of the great strengths of our system is the use by Canadians of financial advisors.

The value of advice is based upon the impact of a long-term relationship between an individual or household and a financial advisor, where saving habits and discipline are built over time.

When Canadians work with a financial advisor there is a marked increase in their accumulated wealth.

The differences in average invested assets at each age is truly amazing with huge multiples from 3.2 times among the less than 45 age group to 4.1 times asset levels among the over 65 age group. The beneficial impact of an advisor also holds true at every level of household income. The impact that a financial advisor has on helping people to save and keep saving is truly remarkable.

The Investment Fund Institute of Canada has been publishing research on the Value of Advice now for 2 years. In their 2011 report, two independent studies identified that on average Canadians had very little invested assets when they first met their advisor and by implication, the advisor played a significant role in helping them outpace those who do not use advisors.

Of those who use advisors, 76% had less than $50,000 of invested assets when they first met their advisors and 37% had less than $10,000.

It has been suggested that financial advisors find the clients with money, they don't help them create the money. The research suggests that in most cases, that simply isn't true.

The future of Canada's retirement system is a matter of upmost importance to all Canadians. We have a strong system to build upon. Making intelligent enhancements which are additive and don't detract from what we already have will be critical.

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

I would like to say a few words about our group companies' roles as responsible corporate citizens.

Our group companies have a long and proud history of contributing to the well-being of the communities in which they operate. They strive to treat all of their stakeholders, including their clients, employees and business partners, fairly, ethically and with integrity,

Through our parent corporation, Power Corporation of Canada, and through our subsidiaries Great-West Lifeco and IGM Financial, literally thousands of non-profit organizations are being supported financially. Our efforts tend to focus on community development, health, education, arts and culture and the environment. In addition, our employees and executives across our group willingly and generously volunteer their time to numerous organizations.

This year, this important aspect of our corporate culture was formalized when our Board adopted a Corporate Social Responsibility Statement, which can be found on our website. At our headquarters located here in Montréal, even though our environmental impact is minimal given the nature of our business as a holding company, we have begun reporting on our carbon emissions to appropriate agencies. In one such initiative, we are working with the Carbon Disclosure Project, known as the CDP, to formalize reporting of our carbon footprint. This will be the first time we will be reporting to the CDP.

We will continue to enhance our disclosure to better communicate our responsible management activities. We realize this is an area that continues to grow in importance for our stakeholders.

BOARD AND MANAGEMENT CHANGES

The Chairman has earlier acknowledged the nine Directors who are not standing for re-election today. I want to add my own words of appreciation to each and every one of them for their outstanding contribution to our groups' success over many years, and for their support and wise counsel. I will, of course, continue to work closely with those Directors who are not standing for re-election but who are remaining as senior officers of Power Corporation and Power Financial.

I would also like to say a few words about Mr. Philip K. Ryan, who is stepping down as Executive Vice-President and Chief Financial Officer. During his four years with the Power group of companies, he has made a significant contribution to Power Financial and its subsidiaries. We express our great appreciation and personal thanks to Phil, and we wish him the very best with his upcoming projects in the United States, which will include board-related work and teaching. Phil, would you please stand and be recognized.

We also announced in April this year the appointment of Gregory D. Tretiak as Executive Vice-President and Chief Financial Officer of Power Financial to replace Mr. Ryan. Mr. Tretiak has been with IGM Financial Inc. for 24 years, where he was most recently the Executive Vice-President and Chief Financial Officer. As a result, we know Mr. Tretiak very well. His experience and his knowledge of the Power group make him ideally suited for his new role with the Corporation. Allow me to extend a warm welcome to Mr. Tretiak as he joins our team. Greg, would you stand to be recognized.

CONCLUSION

The last several years have been extremely challenging for the developed economies of the world and for the financial services industry in particular. Despite great progress on many fronts, many structural imbalances remain to be resolved, including the large fiscal or trade deficits in many countries. In the financial services industry, there is the added risk that the regulatory reform pendulum may swing back so hard that it exacerbates the resolution of these problems. Despite the obstacles, the need for products and services that help individuals prepare for and live comfortably in retirement will continue to grow in the future. Against this backdrop, Power Financial continues to pursue its strategy based on a long-term view of the opportunities that lie ahead for our group companies.

We do so with confidence in the future.

In a world of constant change and difficult challenges, it can often seem that having confidence in the future requires a leap of faith. Yet, what it really requires is good preparation. This is as true for our company, as it is for our clients.

The companies in the Power Financial group, through the efforts of thousands of employees and financial advisors, working one-on-one with individual clients or through workplace group programs, provide the services, the products and the discipline to help millions of people be well prepared. This is our commitment, and we take it very seriously.

Ladies and gentlemen, allow me to express our thanks to you, our shareholders, for your continuing support, as well as to the management teams and to all the employees and representatives of our group companies for their outstanding work and for their active involvement in their communities. We thank them, and we thank our clients for the trust they have shown in our companies.

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