

Governance program

To ensure sound and prudent management and compliance with regulatory requirements, the Board of Directors (the "Board") of Desjardins Financial Security Life Assurance Company (the "Company") adopted a mandatory governance policy for all its subsidiaries. The policy is the cornerstone of the governance program, which covers frameworks, governance and reporting mechanisms and independent verification specific to the Company, taking into account all applicable legal and regulatory standards.

Responsibilities of the Board of Directors

The Board is composed of a majority of independent directors. The Board of Directors is responsible for setting up and evaluating the governance program. It ensures that the ongoing strategic and financial planning process is accomplished with a focus on achieving the Company's mission.

The Board oversees the allocation of responsibilities between itself and senior management and ensures accountability. The Board forms any committees needed to meet legal requirements or fulfill its own responsibilities. It establishes and reviews the mandates, enhanced group profiles and selection criteria for any such committees, appoints their members and receives regular reports from committee chairs. The Board also adopts the mandate of the Company's Management Committee and oversees the succession plan for Company executives.

The Board is responsible for ensuring that senior management provides effective and ongoing independent oversight of activities and of management and control. This oversight enables the Board to verify the effectiveness of control mechanisms and the reliability of reports and financial results.

Within the scope of its oversight, control and accountability responsibilities, the Board approves the charter of the Audit and Risk Management Committee, which is responsible for overseeing the financial reporting process. It also recommends the choice of external auditor at the annual general meeting.

The Board adopts a risk governance framework that includes the policies needed to ensure effective management, an efficient operational management system, and a proactive and integrated risk assessment program. It appoints the Chief Risk Officer and approves and enforces risk tolerance levels and limits established according to the Company's risk appetite.

The Board maintains a compliance management program that includes policies and procedures to identify, assess, quantify, control, mitigate and monitor non-compliance risk. To that end, it approves a compliance policy and appoints a Chief Compliance Officer.

The Board introduces mechanisms to ensure that members remain independent and impartial in the evaluation of the Board and its committees. Onboarding and training programs are in place to ensure Board members are aware of their duties and responsibilities to the Company and to continually improve their knowledge.

Responsibilities of the Executive Committee

Further to its delegated authority from the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee has all the powers of the Board over the Company's affairs, except for any which the Board has reserved for itself or that it must carry out according to relevant legislation.

The Executive Committee recommends Board member duties and responsibilities to the Board. It ensures that the Company's corporate governance program is complied with, overseen and updated and it reviews the internal auditor's related findings as required. It assesses the performance of the Board and committees and evaluates their members'

skills. It recommends and monitors the annual objectives of the Board and its members and receives the report on the independence of Board members. It makes recommendations to the Board regarding the implementation and development of the frameworks under its responsibility, including the Company's Governance Policy. It also submits policies and provides broad direction to the Board on human resources. The Executive Committee reviews and monitors the corporate governance practices and reports of regulatory bodies..

Responsibilities of the Audit and Risk Management Committee

The Audit and Risk Management Committee oversees the financial reporting and risk management processes. It sees to the quality and integrity of the financial information presented and published according to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and ensures that proper accounting practices are followed.

It ensures the efficiency of risk management practices, the internal control system, and internal and external auditing processes.

It is also responsible for ensuring that management has an effective internal control system in place for financial reporting, safeguarding of assets, fraud detection and compliance.

The Audit and Risk Management Committee assists the Board in its role of directing, planning and monitoring risk management activities. It ensures that the Company adheres to sound and prudent management practices and that situations contrary to such practices are detected.

The Audit and Risk Management Committee also monitors the independence and objectivity of the External Auditor, the Desjardins Group Chief Monitoring Officer (together with the Audit and Inspection Commission and the Desjardins Group Board of Ethics and Professional Conduct), the Chief Risk Officer and the Appointed Actuary.

Responsibilities of the Ethics Committee

The Ethics Committee is responsible for drafting rules of professional conduct and for ensuring adherence to ethical standards, professional conduct, compliance and sound commercial practices at the Company.

It adopts the rules set out in the Company's Code of Professional Conduct and ensures that they are applied. The Ethics Committee is required to immediately advise the Board in writing of any violation of these rules and to ensure that all violations are dealt with to its satisfaction. It must assess situations and dilemmas that are brought to its attention according to the values, principles and rules of ethics and professional conduct and may issue notices, observations and recommendations on how to proceed. It reviews transactions with entities associated with the Company and ensures that they are conducted at arm's length. It reports every year to the Autorité des marchés financiers on its performance with respect to its mandate and responsibilities.

The Ethics Committee verifies that the Company adheres to sound commercial practices and ensures that situations contrary to such practices are detected.

The Ethics Committee also ensures that the Company has and makes use of a compliance management framework that allows the Chief Compliance Officer to obtain reasonable assurance that the Company is in compliance with regulations and that regulatory risks are being effectively managed. To that end, it monitors the independence of the Chief Compliance Officer.

Responsibilities of the Investment Committee

The Investment Committee takes an active role in reviewing and approving the Company's investment strategy and any associated risks. It oversees the monitoring and control mechanisms that ensure investments are handled in a proactive and prospective manner. It determines and periodically reviews the Company's investment risk tolerance levels based on stated objectives. It examines and recommends the Company's investment policies to the Board, ensures the policies are enforced and reviews their effectiveness, and sees to it that management reviews the policies periodically and as needed. The Investment Committee must also ensure that investment policies cover all types of investments made by the Company. It verifies that proper internal control mechanisms are in place to ensure that investments comply with the Company's policies and procedures and with legal and regulatory requirements. It also verifies that the Company adheres to sound and prudent investment management practices and ensures that situations contrary to such practices are detected. It notifies the Board in writing as soon as it detects a situation that is contrary to sound and prudent investment management practices.

Responsibilities of the Management Committee

The Management Committee assists the Board, its committees and the President and Chief Operating Officer of the Company in carrying out their responsibilities under the Company's Governance Policy.

It administers, plans, directs and controls the Company's activities and operations. It monitors the governance program and implements mechanisms to ensure the Company is managed according to sound principles of financial and risk management, including internal controls, compliance, sound business practices, fair treatment of clients and sustainable insurance. The Management Committee also ensures implementation of the Board's agenda and decisions.

Notable events in 2021

The Company's governance policy was revised in 2021 and a process for internal control and annual review of mandates was implemented for committees reporting to the Board. The mandates of the Management Committee, the Ethics Committee, the Investment Committee and the Executive Committee were updated along with the charter of the Audit and Risk Management Committee.