

# Q1 2014 Results Conference Call

May 6, 2014



## Safe harbour notice

Certain statements made in the attached presentation, including, but not limited to, our 2014 financial guidance (including revenues, EBITDA, capital intensity, Adjusted EPS and free cash flow), our business outlook, objectives, plans and strategic priorities, BCE's 2014 annualized common share dividend, the sales of the final five Astral TV assets, our networks deployment plans, and other statements that are not historical facts, are forward-looking.

Forward-looking statements, by their very nature, are subject to inherent risks and uncertainties and are based on several assumptions, both general and specific, which give rise to the possibility that actual results or events could differ materially from our expectations expressed in or implied by such forward-looking statements. As a result, we cannot guarantee that any forward-looking statement will materialize and we caution you against relying on any of these forward-looking statements. For a description of such assumptions and risks, please consult BCE's 2013 Annual MD&A, dated March 6, 2014, as updated in BCE's 2014 First Quarter MD&A dated May 5, 2014, and BCE's news release dated May 6, 2014 announcing its financial results for the first quarter of 2014, all filed with the Canadian provincial securities regulatory authorities (available at <u>sedar.com</u>) and with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (available at <u>sec.gov</u>), and which are also available on BCE's website at <u>BCE.ca</u>.

The forward-looking statements contained in the attached presentation describe our expectations at May 6, 2014 and, accordingly, are subject to change after such date. Except as may be required by Canadian securities laws, we do not undertake any obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements contained in the attached presentation, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

The terms "EBITDA", "free cash flow" and "Adjusted EPS" are non-GAAP financial measures and do not have any standardized meaning under IFRS. Therefore, they are unlikely to be comparable to similar measures presented by other issuers. Refer to the section "Non-GAAP Financial Measures" in BCE's 2014 First Quarter MD&A for more details.





# **George Cope**

### **President & Chief Executive Officer**



### **Q1** overview



Strategic investments drive solid start to 2014



## **Wireless operating metrics**

Metrics	Q1'14	Y/Y
Postpaid gross additions	275k	(6.8%)
Postpaid net additions	34k	(42.9%)
Postpaid churn rate	1.24%	0.01 pts
Blended ARPU	\$57.90	3.5%
Retention (% of service revenue)	10.2%	0.1 pts
COA (per gross addition)	\$442	(9.4%)
Smartphones (% of postpaid base)	74%	9 pts
Mobile TV subscribers	1,335k	67.4%
LTE coverage (% of population)	81%	11 pts

- 34k postpaid net adds in line with plan
  - Slower industry growth as market adjusts to new pricing environment brought about by Wireless Code
  - No iconic handset launches in Q1
- Postpaid churn kept stable y/y
- 74% of postpaid base now on smartphones
- Mobile TV leader with 1,335k users, up 67.4% y/y
- Accelerated ARPU growth of 3.5% in Q1'14
- Retention spending held steady y/y at 10.2%
- COA up 9.4% y/y due to handset mix, higher sales commissions and Olympics advertising
- 4G LTE now covers 81% of Canadian population
  - Canada's first 700 MHz spectrum LTE network launched in Hamilton in early April using lower C-block
  - Deployment in rural communities underway

# Strong ARPU growth driven by data usage flow-through and postpaid subscriber quality/mix



### Wireline voice

# Residential NAS line losses



#### Business NAS line losses



# Annualized rate of decline in total NAS improves to 7.1% in Q1'14 from 7.8% in Q1'13

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- Residential NAS losses improve 21.4% y/y
  - Lower churn driven by growth in IPTV footprint and continued strong Fibe TV pull-through
  - Higher y/y activations in Quebec
  - Wireless substitution continues to steadily increase

#### Business NAS losses up 10.7k in Q1'14

- Fewer customer losses in small business and wholesale markets
- But higher y/y net loss in large Enterprise segment
- Slowing y/y rate of voice revenue decline, but aggressive competitor promotions continue

### **TV and Internet subscriber metrics**





#### TV

- Fibe TV net adds in Q1 up 15.2% y/y to 55K
  - Continued IPTV footprint expansion
- Fibe TV customer base up 81% y/y to 534k
- Total TV net adds double y/y to 29k
  - 22% fewer Satellite TV net losses y/y reflects product improvements and matching of competitor offers

#### Internet

- Four-fold increase in net adds reflects strong Fibe TV attach rate
- Lower residential churn due to Fibe TV growth and higher speeds enabled by FTTN deployment
- Residential ARPU up ~5% y/y on higher average bandwidth usage and subscriptions to \$10 unlimited option when purchasing a triple

### Continued strong Fibe TV momentum and Internet pull-through



## Improving residential Wireline RGU trajectory

#### **Bell Residential RGU net losses**



#### Fibe-TV ready homes



- Total residential RGU net losses in Q1'14 improve 40.5k y/y
  - ~75% of Fibe TV customers taking 3 products
  - 18% y/y increase in three-product households

# • Fibe TV service footprint now reaches 4.5M homes in Quebec and Ontario

- ~1M increase in homes covered since Q1'13
- Quebec: 65% of total homes passed
- Ontario: 59% of total homes passed

# • Fibe TV footprint growing to ~5M homes by end of 2014

 End-goal objective of ~6M by 2016, representing coverage of more than 80% of Bell households

#### Positive and growing residential net adds within IPTV footprint



### **Bell Media**





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- Revenues up y/y, despite soft advertising market and Olympics on CBC
  - But content costs continue to rise
- Programming driving strong audience levels
  - 12 of top 20 programs in winter season for CTV
  - TSN viewership up 8% y/y
  - Highly-rated Canadian programming: MasterChef Canada, Bitten, JUNO Awards
- Recognition for excellence in programming
  - The Amazing Race Canada, CTV National News, W5, MuchMusic Video Awards and TSN's coverage of the Grey Cup honoured at recent Canadian Screen Awards

#### Astral asset divestiture update

- Sales to Corus, Pattison and Newcap completed in Q1 for \$538M in total proceeds
- Remaining 5 TV station sales to DHX and V Media expected to be completed later this year, bringing total divestiture proceeds received to ~\$720M





## **Increasing contribution from growth services**



• Growth services revenue in Q1'14 up \$251M, or 7.2%, y/y

Growth services now represent 83% of total Bell revenues, up from 81% in Q1'13



# Siim Vanaselja

**EVP & Chief Financial Officer** 



## **Q1** financial review

Bell	Q1'14	Y/Y
Revenue	\$4,538M	4.4%
Service Product	\$4,188M \$350M	5.0% (3.1%)
EBITDA	\$1,708M	4.1%
Margin	37.6%	(0.1 pts)
Сарех	\$594M	0.0%
Capital Intensity	13.1%	0.6 pts
BCE		
Statutory EPS	\$0.79	8.2%
Adjusted EPS <sup>(1)</sup>	\$0.81	5.2%
Free cash flow (FCF) <sup>(2)</sup>	\$262M	6.1%

<sup>(1)</sup> Before severance, acquisition and other costs, net (gains) losses on investments and premiums on early redemption of debt

<sup>(2)</sup> Before BCE common share dividends and including dividends from Bell Aliant

#### • Service revenues up 5.0% y/y

 Reflects Astral contribution, strong wireless ARPU growth and positive Wireline residential revenue growth

#### • 4.1% higher y/y EBITDA with stable margin

- Strong Media and Wireless EBITDA growth
- Rate of Wireline EBITDA decline improving y/y
- Adjusted EPS growth of 5.2% driven by EBITDA
- FCF up 6.1% on healthy growth in EBITDA and positive change in working capital

#### Solid set of financial results in line with plan



### **Wireless financials**

(\$M)	Q1'14	Y/Y
Revenue	1,472	4.5%
Service	1,364	4.7%
Product	94	1.1%
Operating costs	844	(2.4%)
EBITDA	628	7.4%
Margin (service revenue)	46.0%	1.1 pts
Capex	117	4.1%
Capital intensity	7.9%	0.8 pts
EBITDA-Capex	511	10.4%
EBITDA-Capex margin	34.7%	1.8 pts

- Improving revenue growth trajectory with service revenues up 4.7% in Q1'14
  - Reflects strong data revenue growth of 17.5% driven by greater smartphone usage and mix
- EBITDA up 7.4% in Q1'14 on healthy y/y ARPU growth and price discipline
- Strong revenue flow-through to EBITDA of 70% yields 46% service revenue margin
- 10.4% growth in Wireless cash flow driven by higher EBITDA and lower y/y capex

Strong Q1 ARPU growth and cost discipline drive 7.4% higher EBITDA and 1.1 point increase in service margin to 46%



### **Wireline financials**

(\$M)	Q1'14	Y/Y
Revenues	2,462	(1.8%)
Data	1,463	2.1%
Voice	765	(7.8%)
Equipment & other	149	(9.1%)
Operating costs	1,532	1.2%
EBITDA	930	(2.9%)
Margin	37.8%	(0.4 pts)
Сарех	463	(0.7%)
Capital intensity	18.8%	(0.5 pts)

- Residential Services revenue growth positive in Q1'14, driven by y/y improvement in RGU net loss
- Data revenue reflects 4.8% increase in residential services driven by Fibe growth and price increases
- Business Markets revenue decline improving y/y
  - Results impacted by pricing pressures, reduced customer spending on ICT solutions and lower y/y data product sales
  - Moderated by 3.7% y/y increase in IP connectivity revenue
- Wireline EBITDA down 2.9% in Q1'14 vs. 4.5% decline in Q1'13
  - Margin held relatively stable at 37.8%, even while absorbing \$9M y/y EBITDA decrease at The Source, Olympics advertising, and higher network operating costs due to severe winter weather in central Canada
  - Offset by negative \$11M impact in Q1'13 from CRTC wholesale high-speed access services decision

#### Improving y/y rates of Wireline revenue and EBITDA decline



### **Media financials**

(\$M)	Q1'14	Y/Y
Revenues	722	40.7%
Operating costs	572	(37.8%)
<b>EBITDA</b> (reported) Margin	<b>150</b> 20.8%	<b>53.1%</b> 1.7 pts
PPA	(19)	(5.6%)
<b>EBITDA</b> (excl. PPA) Margin	<b>169</b> 23.4%	<b>45.7%</b> 0.8 pts
Сарех	14	(16.7%)
EBITDA-Capex (excl. PPA)	155	49.0%
EBITDA-Capex margin	21.5%	1.2 pts

#### • Total Media revenues up 40.7% y/y

- Including Astral in Q1'13 results, revenues up ~3% y/y

#### Advertising revenue up ~28% y/y

- Conventional and non-sports specialty TV advertising impacted by soft market and Sochi Winter Olympics
- Sports specialty up y/y with return of regular-season hockey and Olympics coverage on TSN/RDS

#### • Subscriber revenue up ~51% y/y

 Higher rates y/y for non-Astral specialty TV services, new mobile content deals and TV Everywhere

#### • EBITDA growth of 53.1% in Q1'14

- Including Astral in Q1'13 results, EBITDA stable y/y
- Higher TV programming and sports broadcast rights costs offset by Astral synergies
- Media cash flow up 49% y/y

#### Bell Media financial results for Q1'14 in line with plan

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## **Adjusted EPS**



<sup>(1)</sup> Before severance, acquisition and other costs, net (gains) losses on investments and premiums on early redemption of debt

Adjusted EPS walk down (\$)	<u>Q1'13</u>	<u>Q1'14</u>
EBITDA	1.69	1.75
Depreciation & amortization	(0.72)	(0.75)
Net interest expense	(0.20)	(0.21)
Net pension finance cost	(0.03)	(0.02)
Preferred share & NCI dividends	(0.05)	(0.05)
F/X and equity derivative gains	0.06	0.04
Astral asset divestiture dividend income	-	0.04
Pension surplus entitlement	0.03	-
Tax adjustments & Other	(0.01)	0.01
Adjusted EPS	0.77	0.81

- Higher y/y EBITDA contributes 6¢ of EPS growth
- Higher depreciation and amortization reflects growth in capital assets and Astral contribution
- Net pension finance cost down y/y due to lower pension obligation
- \$32M of after-tax earnings from Astral remedy assets in Q1'14
  - Offset by \$36M pension surplus entitlement in Q1'13 on partial wind-up of various subsidiary plans
  - \$10M asset impairment charge recorded in Q1'14
- Lower y/y mark-to-market gain on equity derivatives related to management LTIP
- F/X gain on U.S.-dollar hedges in Q1'14
- Effective tax rate of 24.4% in Q1'14
  - Reflects tax recoveries of \$0.01 per share vs. nil in Q1'13

Adjusted EPS growth in Q1 driven by higher y/y EBITDA from Bell's growth services



### Free cash flow



<sup>(1)</sup> EBITDA before post-employment benefit plans service cost

<sup>(2)</sup> Free cash flow before BCE common share dividends and including dividends from Bell Aliant

- FCF up 6.1% y/y in seasonally low quarter
- \$66M higher y/y EBITDA<sup>(1)</sup> driven by increased contribution from growth services
- Improved working capital position reflects lower A/R balance due to timing of collections and distributions from Astral remedy assets
- Net interest paid reflects higher level of long-term debt outstanding y/y due to Astral financing
- Lower cash pension funding due to timing of payments
- Cash taxes up y/y due to higher final instalment payment for 2013 and no special pension contribution tax benefit
- Bell Aliant dividend reflects change in its payment dates, resulting in three quarterly cash dividend payments in 2014 rather than four

Q1 free cash flow on track with plan



	February 6 <sup>th</sup> Guidance <sup>(1)</sup>	FY2014 Expectation
Revenue growth	2%-4%	On track
EBITDA growth	3%-5%	On track
Capital intensity	16%-17%	On track
Adjusted EPS <sup>(2)</sup> Growth	<b>\$3.10-\$3.20</b> ~4%-7%	On track
Free cash flow <sup>(3)</sup> Growth	<b>\$2,650M-\$2,750M</b> ~3%-7%	On track

• No fundamental changes in outlook for core businesses

- Continued y/y improvement in Wireline performance trajectory
- Astral synergies helping to offset impact of rising content costs as advertising market remains soft
- 6% common dividend increase to \$2.47 per share for 2014 effective with Q1 payment on April 15<sup>th</sup>

<sup>(1)</sup> Revenue, EBITDA and capital intensity guidance targets for Bell excluding Bell Aliant

<sup>(2)</sup> EPS before severance, acquisition and other costs, net (gains) losses on investments and premiums on early redemption of debt

(3) Free cash flow before BCE common share dividends and including dividends from Bell Aliant



**Reconfirming all 2014 financial guidance targets**