

ROYAL BANK OF CANADA
Form 424B2
April 10, 2018

RBC Capital Markets® Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2)
Registration Statement No. 333-208507

The information in this preliminary pricing supplement is not complete and may be changed.

Preliminary Pricing
Supplement

Subject to Completion:

Dated April 10, 2018 \$ _____
To the Product Redeemable Step Up Notes,
Prospectus Supplement Due April 30, 2025
FIN-1 dated January 14, Royal Bank of Canada
2016, and the Prospectus
Supplement and
Prospectus, each dated
January 8, 2016

Royal Bank of Canada is offering the Redeemable Step Up Notes (the “Notes”) described below.
The CUSIP number for the Notes is 78014RAJ9.

The Notes will accrue interest at the following rates during the indicated year of their term:

- Years 1-3: 3.00% per annum
- Years 4-7: 4.00% per annum

We will pay interest on the Notes on April 30 and October 30 of each year (each an “Interest Payment Date”), commencing on October 30, 2018.

We may call the Notes in whole, but not in part, on April 30, 2021 with 10 business days’ prior written notice. All payments on the Notes are subject to our credit risk.

The Notes will not be listed on any U.S. securities exchange.

Investing in the Notes involves a number of risks. See “Risk Factors” beginning on page S-1 of the prospectus supplement dated January 8, 2016, “Additional Risk Factors Specific to the Notes” beginning on page PS-5 of the product prospectus supplement FIN-1 dated January 14, 2016 and “Additional Risk Factors” on page P-5 of this pricing supplement.

The Notes will not constitute deposits insured by the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation, the U.S. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (the “FDIC”) or any other Canadian or U.S. government agency or instrumentality.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined that this pricing supplement is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

RBC Capital Markets, LLC will offer the Notes at varying public offering prices related to prevailing market prices, and will purchase the Notes from us on the Issue Date at purchase prices that are expected to be between 99.15% and 100.00% of the principal amount. See “Supplemental Plan of Distribution (Conflicts of Interest)” on page P-5 below. We will deliver the Notes in book-entry only form through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company on or about April 30, 2018, against payment in immediately available funds.

RBC Capital Markets, LLC

Redeemable Step Up Notes,
Due April 30, 2025

SUMMARY

The information in this “Summary” section is qualified by the more detailed information set forth in this pricing supplement, the product prospectus supplement FIN-1, the prospectus supplement, and the prospectus.

Issuer: Royal Bank of Canada
 (“Royal Bank”)

Issue: Senior Global Medium-Term
 Notes, Series G

Underwriter: RBC Capital Markets, LLC

Currency: U.S. Dollars

Minimum Investment: \$1,000 and minimum
 denominations of \$1,000 in
 excess of \$1,000

Pricing Date: April 26, 2018

Issue Date: April 30, 2018

Maturity Date: April 30, 2025

CUSIP: 78014RAJ9

Type of Note: Step Up Note

Interest Rate: Years 1-3: 3.00% per annum
 Years 4-7: 4.00% per annum
 Semi-annually, on April 30
 and October 30 of each year,
 commencing on October 30,
 2018. If an Interest Payment
 Date is not a New York
 business day, interest shall
 be paid on the next New
 York business day, without
 adjustment for period end
 dates and no interest shall be
 paid in respect of the delay.
 Redeemable at our option. If
 we redeem the Notes, we
 will pay you the principal
 amount, together with the
 applicable interest payment.
 The Notes are callable, in
 whole, but not in part, on
 Call Dates: April 30, 2021 upon 10
 business days’ prior written
 notice.

Survivor’s Option: Applicable. See “General
 Terms of the Notes—Survivor’s
 Option” beginning on page
 PS-17 of the product

prospectus supplement
FIN-1 dated January 14,
2016.

Please see the discussion
(including the opinion of our
counsel Morrison & Foerster
LLP) in the product
prospectus supplement
FIN-1 dated January 14,
2016 under “Supplemental
Discussion of U.S. Federal
Income Tax Consequences”
and specifically the
discussion under
“Supplemental Discussion of
U.S. Federal Income Tax
Consequences—Supplemental
U.S. Tax

U.S. Tax
Treatment:

Considerations—Where the
term of your notes will
exceed one year—Fixed Rate
Notes, Floating Rate Notes,
Inverse Floating Rate Notes,
Step Up Notes, Leveraged
Notes, Range Accrual Notes,
Dual Range Accrual Notes
and Non-Inversion Range
Accrual Notes,” and
“Supplemental Discussion of
U.S. Federal Income Tax
Consequences—Supplemental
U.S. Tax
Considerations—Where the
term of your notes will
exceed one year—Sale,
Redemption or Maturity of
Notes that Are Not Treated
as Contingent Payment Debt
Instruments,” which applies
to your Notes. These
discussions do not address
the tax consequences
applicable to holders subject
to section 451(b) of the
Code.

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Redeemable Step Up Notes,
Due April 30, 2025

Calculation Agent: RBC Capital Markets, LLC

Listing: The Notes will not be listed on any securities exchange.

Clearance and Settlement: DTC global (including through its indirect participants Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg as described under “Description of Debt Securities—Ownership and Book-Entry Issuance” in the prospectus dated January 8, 2016).

Terms Incorporated in the Master Note: All of the terms appearing above the item captioned “Listing” on page P-2 of this pricing supplement and the terms appearing under the caption “General Terms of the Notes” in the product prospectus supplement FIN-1 dated January 14, 2016, as modified by this pricing supplement.

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Redeemable Step Up Notes,
Due April 30, 2025

ADDITIONAL TERMS OF YOUR NOTES

You should read this pricing supplement together with the prospectus dated January 8, 2016, as supplemented by the prospectus supplement dated January 8, 2016 and the product prospectus supplement FIN-1 dated January 14, 2016, relating to our Senior Global Medium-Term Notes, Series G, of which these Notes are a part. Capitalized terms used but not defined in this pricing supplement will have the meanings given to them in the product prospectus supplement FIN-1. In the event of any conflict, this pricing supplement will control. The Notes vary from the terms described in the product prospectus supplement FIN-1 in several important ways. You should read this pricing supplement carefully.

This pricing supplement, together with the documents listed below, contains the terms of the Notes and supersedes all prior or contemporaneous oral statements as well as any other written materials including preliminary or indicative pricing terms, correspondence, trade ideas, structures for implementation, sample structures, brochures or other educational materials of ours. You should carefully consider, among other things, the matters set forth in “Risk Factors” in the prospectus supplement dated January 8, 2016, “Additional Risk Factors Specific to the Notes” in the product prospectus supplement FIN-1 dated January 14, 2016 and “Additional Risk Factors” in this pricing supplement, as the Notes involve risks not associated with conventional debt securities. We urge you to consult your investment, legal, tax, accounting and other advisors before you invest in the Notes. You may access these documents on the SEC website at www.sec.gov as follows (or if that address has changed, by reviewing our filings for the relevant date on the SEC website):

Prospectus dated January 8, 2016:

<http://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1000275/000121465916008810/j18160424b3.htm>

Prospectus Supplement dated January 8, 2016:

<https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1000275/000121465916008811/p14150424b3.htm>

Product Prospectus Supplement FIN-1 dated January 14, 2016:

<https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1000275/000114036116047762/form424b5.htm>

Our Central Index Key, or CIK, on the SEC website is 1000275. As used in this pricing supplement, “we,” “us”, or “our” refers to Royal Bank of Canada.

Royal Bank of Canada has filed a registration statement (including a product prospectus supplement, a prospectus supplement, and a prospectus) with the SEC for the offering to which this pricing supplement relates. Before you invest, you should read those documents and the other documents relating to this offering that we have filed with the SEC for more complete information about us and this offering. You may obtain these documents without cost by visiting EDGAR on the SEC website at www.sec.gov. Alternatively, Royal Bank of Canada, any agent or any dealer participating in this offering will arrange to send you the product prospectus supplement FIN-1, the prospectus supplement and the prospectus if you so request by calling toll-free at 1-877-688-2301.

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Redeemable Step Up Notes,
Due April 30, 2025

ADDITIONAL RISK FACTORS

The Notes involve risks not associated with an investment in ordinary fixed rate notes. This section describes the most significant risks relating to the terms of the Notes. For additional information as to these risks, please see the product prospectus supplement FIN-1 dated January 14, 2016 and the prospectus supplement dated January 8, 2016. You should carefully consider whether the Notes are suited to your particular circumstances before you decide to purchase them. Accordingly, prospective investors should consult their financial and legal advisors as to the risks entailed by an investment in the Notes and the suitability of the Notes in light of their particular circumstances.

Early Redemption Risk. We have the option to redeem the Notes on the Call Dates set forth above. It is more likely that we will redeem the Notes prior to their stated maturity date to the extent that the interest payable on the Notes is greater than the interest that would be payable on our other instruments of a comparable maturity, terms and credit rating trading in the market. If the Notes are redeemed prior to their stated maturity date, you may have to re-invest the proceeds in a lower rate environment.

Investors Are Subject to Our Credit Risk, and Our Credit Ratings and Credit Spreads May Adversely Affect the Market Value of the Notes. Investors are dependent on Royal Bank's ability to pay all amounts due on the Notes on the interest payment dates and at maturity, and, therefore, investors are subject to the credit risk of Royal Bank and to changes in the market's view of Royal Bank's creditworthiness. Any decrease in Royal Bank's credit ratings or increase in the credit spreads charged by the market for taking Royal Bank's credit risk is likely to adversely affect the market value of the Notes.

SUPPLEMENTAL PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION (CONFLICTS OF INTEREST)

We expect that delivery of the Notes will be made against payment for the Notes on or about April 30, 2018, which is the second (2nd) business day following the Pricing Date (this settlement cycle being referred to as "T+2"). See "Plan of Distribution" in the prospectus supplement dated January 8, 2016. For additional information as to the relationship between us and RBC Capital Markets, LLC, please see the section "Plan of Distribution—Conflicts of Interest" in the prospectus dated January 8, 2016.

After the initial offering of the Notes, the price to the public may change. To the extent that the total aggregate principal amount of the Notes being offered by this pricing supplement is not purchased by investors in the offering, one or more of our affiliates may purchase the unsold portion. However, our affiliates will not purchase more than 15% of the principal amount of the Notes. Sales of these Notes by our affiliates could reduce the market price and the liquidity of the Notes that you purchase.

We may use this pricing supplement in the initial sale of the Notes. In addition, RBC Capital Markets, LLC or another of our affiliates may use this pricing supplement in a market-making transaction in the Notes after their initial sale. Unless we or our agent informs the purchaser otherwise in the confirmation of sale, this pricing supplement is being used in a market-making transaction.

No Prospectus (as defined in Directive 2003/71/EC (as amended, the "Prospectus Directive")) will be prepared in connection with the Notes. Accordingly, the Notes may not be offered to the public in any member state of the European Economic Area (the "EEA"), and any purchaser of the Notes who subsequently sells any of the Notes in any EEA member state must do so only in accordance with the requirements of the Prospectus Directive, as implemented in that member state.

The Notes are not intended to be offered, sold or otherwise made available to, and should not be offered, sold or otherwise made available to, any retail investor in the EEA. For these purposes, the expression "offer" includes the

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Redeemable Step Up Notes,
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communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the Notes to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe the Notes, and a “retail investor” means a person who is one (or more) of: (a) a retail client, as defined in point (11) of Article 4(1) of Directive 2014/65/EU (as amended, “MiFID II”); or (b) a customer, within the meaning of Insurance Distribution Directive 2016/97/EU, as amended, where that customer would not qualify as a professional client as defined in point (10) of Article 4(1) of MiFID II; or (c) not a qualified investor as defined in the Prospectus Directive. Consequently, no key information document required by Regulation (EU) No 1286/2014 (as amended, the “PRIIPs Regulation”) for offering or selling the Notes or otherwise making them available to retail investors in the EEA has been prepared, and therefore, offering or selling the Notes or otherwise making them available to any retail investor in the EEA may be unlawful under the PRIIPs Regulation.

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