



### 3 Diversified Stock Picks for Dividend-Growth Investors

#### Description

As savvy investors know, dividend-paying stocks outperform non-dividend-paying stocks over the long term, and the top returners are those that increase their dividends every year. With these facts in mind, let's take a look at three dividend-growth stocks from different industries that you could add to your portfolio today.

#### 1. Gluskin Sheff + Associates Inc.

**Gluskin Sheff + Associates Inc.** (TSX:GS) is one of Canada's largest independent wealth management firms with over \$8.3 billion under management. It currently pays a quarterly dividend of \$0.25 per share, or \$1.00 per share annually, which gives its stock a yield of about 5.5% at today's levels.

Investors must also make two notes.

First, Gluskin Sheff has raised its annual dividend payment every year since it became a public corporation in 2006, resulting in nine consecutive years of increases, and its 11.1% hike in November 2015 has it on pace for 2016 to mark the 10th consecutive year with an increase.

Second, the company has paid out 14 special dividends totaling \$8.12 per share since going public, and I think its strong operational performance will allow it to continue declaring special dividends going forward.

#### 2. Alimentation Couche-Tard Inc.

**Alimentation Couche-Tard Inc.** (TSX:ATD.B) is one of world's largest owners, operators, and franchisors of convenience stores and gas stations. It currently pays a quarterly dividend of \$0.0675 per share, or \$0.27 per share annually, which gives its stock a yield of about 0.4% at today's levels.

A 0.4% yield is far from impressive, but investors must note that Alimentation Couche-Tard has raised its annual dividend payment for six consecutive years, and its recent increases, including its 22.2% hike in July 2015 and its 22.7% hike in November 2015, has it on pace for 2016 to mark the seventh

consecutive year with an increase.

### 3. Brookfield Renewable Energy Partners LP

**Brookfield Renewable Energy Partners LP** ([TSX:BEP.UN](#))([NYSE:BEP](#)) operates one of the largest publicly traded, pure-play renewable energy platforms in the world. It currently pays a quarterly dividend of US\$0.445 per share, or US\$1.78 per share annually, which gives its stock a yield of about 6.8% at today's levels.

Investors must also make two notes.

First, Brookfield has raised its annual dividend payment for five consecutive years, and its 7.2% hike on February 4 has it on pace for 2016 to mark the sixth consecutive year with an increase.

Second, the company has a target payout ratio of 70% of its funds from operations and an annual dividend-growth target of 5-9%.

#### Which of these stocks belongs in your portfolio?

Gluskin Sheff + Associates, Alimentation Couche-Tard, and Brookfield Renewable Energy Partners are three of the most attractive dividend-growth stocks in their respective industries. All Foolish investors should strongly consider initiating positions in one or more of them today.

#### CATEGORY

1. Dividend Stocks
2. Investing

#### POST TAG

1. Editor's Choice

#### TICKERS GLOBAL

1. NYSE:BEP (Brookfield Renewable Partners L.P.)
2. TSX:BEP.UN (Brookfield Renewable Partners L.P.)

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#### Tags

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