



3 Dividend Aristocrats to Buy in April and Hold for Years

Description

Investing in dividend-growth stocks is one of the most powerful and time-proven strategies to build wealth. With this in mind, let's take a look at three dividend aristocrats with yields of 4-7% that you could buy today.

CI Financial Corp. ([TSX:CIX](#))

CI Financial is one of Canada's leading wealth management and investment fund companies with approximately \$140.9 billion in assets under management as of February 28, 2018.

CI Financial currently pays a monthly dividend of \$0.1175 per share, equating to \$1.41 per share annually, which gives it a yield of about 5.2% at the time of this writing. The company has raised its annual dividend payment each of the last eight years, and its 2.2% hike in May 2017 has it on track for 2018 to mark the ninth consecutive year with an increase.

I think CI Financial's very strong cash-flow-generating ability, including its 7.2% increase in free cash flow (FCF) to \$648.4 million in 2017, and its conservative dividend-payout ratio, including just 56.8% of its FCF in 2017, will allow it to announce another dividend hike in its fiscal 2018 first-quarter earnings release on May 10.

Brookfield Infrastructure Partners L.P. ([TSX:BIP.UN](#))([NYSE:BIP](#))

[Brookfield](#) is one of the world's largest owners and operators of high-quality, long-life infrastructure assets, including rail tracks, ports, communications towers, electricity transmission lines, natural gas transmission lines, and storage facilities.

Brookfield currently pays a quarterly distribution of US\$0.47 per unit, representing US\$1.88 per unit annually, which gives its NYSE-listed shares a yield of about 4.5% at the time of this writing. The infrastructure giant has raised its annual distribution each of the last eight years, and its 8% hike in February has it on track for 2018 to mark the ninth consecutive year with an increase.

Foolish investors must also note that Brookfield has a long-term distribution-growth target of 5-9%

annually, and I think its very strong financial performance, including its 14.3% increase in funds from operations (FFO) to US\$3.11 per unit in 2017, and its sound payout ratio, including 67.9% of its FFO in 2017, will allow it to easily achieve this growth target into the 2020s.

Plaza Retail REIT ([TSX:PLZ.UN](#))

Plaza Retail REIT is one of Canada's largest owners and managers of retail real estate with a portfolio of 298 properties across the country that total approximately 7.83 million square feet of gross leasable area.

Plaza currently pays a monthly distribution of \$0.0233 per unit, representing \$0.28 per unit on an annualized basis, which gives it a yield of about 7% at the time of this writing. The REIT has raised its annual distribution for 14 straight years, and its 3.7% hike that took effect in January has it on track for 2018 to mark the 15th straight year with an increase; this will give Plaza the longest active streak for a public REIT in Canada once **Choice Properties REIT** [closes its acquisition](#) of the current leader, **Canadian REIT**, in the second quarter of 2018.

I think Plaza's very strong financial performance, including its 9.1% increase in adjusted funds from operations (AFFO) to \$0.325 per unit in 2017, and the consistent improvement in its payout ratio, including 83.1% of its AFFO in 2017 compared with 87.6% in 2016, will allow it to continue to be one of the REIT industry's best sources of income and distribution growth going forward.

CATEGORY

1. Dividend Stocks
2. Investing

TICKERS GLOBAL

1. NYSE:BIP (Brookfield Infrastructure Partners L.P.)
2. TSX:BIP.UN (Brookfield Infrastructure Partners L.P.)
3. TSX:CIX (CI Financial)
4. TSX:PLZ.UN (Plaza Retail REIT)

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