



## 2 Top Canadian Stocks to Buy and Hold Forever

### Description

Canadian investors are always on the lookout for stocks that have the potential to generate consistent returns. When you invest in the stock market, it is advisable to take a long-term view and benefit from compounded gains. So, it means you should identify companies that can increase revenue and earnings [across economic cycles](#).

It makes sense to identify blue-chip, dividend-paying stocks for your portfolio. Companies that pay dividends typically generate a steady stream of cash flows, allowing them to distribute a portion of it to investors.

Further, if you hold dividend stocks in a TFSA (Tax-Free Savings Account), you don't have to pay a single dollar to the Canada Revenue Agency when you withdraw your capital gains or dividends.

We'll take a look at two blue-chip stocks on the TSX that should be a part of your portfolio today.

### Fortis

One of Canada's largest utility companies, **Fortis** ([TSX:FTS](#))([NYSE:FTS](#)) is also a Dividend Aristocrat. Fortis has increased its dividends for 47 consecutive years showcasing its recession-proof business model. Its forward yield stands at 3.7%, and the company forecasts it will increase dividend payouts at an annual rate of 6% through 2025.

Valued at a market cap of \$25.6 billion, Fortis is forecast to increase sales by 7.2% to \$9.58 billion in 2021 and by 4.9% to \$10 billion in 2022. Analysts also expect it to expand earnings 7.8% to \$2.77 per share in 2021 and by 6.5% to \$2.95 per share in 2022. It means Fortis stock is trading at a forward price-to-sales multiple of 2.67 and a price-to-earnings multiple of 19.9, which might look steep for a utility company.

However, Bay Street views the stock as undervalued and has a 12-month price target of \$60, which is 9% higher than the current trading price. After accounting for its dividend yield, total returns will be closer to 13%.

Fortis expects to increase its rate base from \$30.5 billion in 2020 to over \$40 billion in 2025, allowing it to increase cash flows and support future dividend increases.

## Algonquin Power & Utilities

Another dividend-paying stock on the TSX that you can consider right now is **Algonquin Power & Utilities** ([TSX:AQN](#))([NYSE:AQN](#)), which has a forward yield of a tasty 4.5%. AQN derives two-thirds of its revenue from rate-regulated electric, gas, and water utility businesses, and the rest comes from renewable energy generation.

In the last decade, Algonquin has increased its dividends at an annual rate of 10%. Further, in the next five years, the company expects to grow its adjusted earnings between 8% and 10% on an annual basis. It also [plans to invest](#) \$9.4 billion in capital projects, of which \$3.1 billion will be deployed in its renewable energy segment.

These capital investments should increase cash flows and drive profit margins higher in the upcoming years, making AQN the perfect dividend-growth stock on the TSX today.

Valued at a market cap of \$11.34 billion, AQN is forecast to increase sales by 29.6% to \$2.17 billion in 2021 and by 13.9% to \$2.48 billion in 2022. Analysts also expect it to expand earnings by 10% to \$0.70 per share in 2021 and by 16% to \$0.81 per share in 2022. It means AQN stock is trading at a forward price-to-sales multiple of 5.22 and a price-to-earnings multiple of 26.5, which is higher than Fortis. But Algonquin is also increasing its income and profit margins at a higher pace and demands a higher valuation.

### CATEGORY

1. Dividend Stocks
2. Investing

### TICKERS GLOBAL

1. NYSE:AQN (Algonquin Power & Utilities Corp.)
2. NYSE:FTS (Fortis Inc.)
3. TSX:AQN (Algonquin Power & Utilities Corp.)
4. TSX:FTS (Fortis Inc.)

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