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### And, we're back.

We haven't been around lately to coax and cajole you so a reminder to have a look, if you haven't already, at this week's <u>Digest</u>, which features **11 aggressive**, **catalyst-rich**, **high-growth Small Cap Top Picks**  from Echelon Wealth's outperforming research team.

We powered through more than 50 video interviews at the **Vancouver Resource Investment Conference** (VRIC) earlier this week and will start posting them next week.

We talked to **Rick Rule, Peter Schiff, Frank Holmes, Mickey Fulp, Benj Gallander** and a slew of CEOs with improving sentiment in the gold sector a big focus.

Stay tuned.

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# Morning Need to Know Getting you ready for your investing day

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CANADIAN ANALYSTS' CALLS

**INITIATIONS** 

**Cardiol Therapeutics (TSX:CRDL)** gets started at Raymond James at "outperform" with a price target of \$5 (Canadian). Here are some comments from analyst Rahul Sarugaser:

"Cardiol Therapeutics (CRDL) is a biopharmaceutical company. What CRDL is not: a cannabis company.

The cause for confusion?

CRDL focuses its therapeutic strategy around the active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) cannabidiol (CBD): a molecule that occurs naturally in the cannabis plant. The key differentiator:

CRDL formulates its products using pharmaceutical manufacturing quality standards, deriving its CBD by chemical synthesis and directing its products toward sensitive, underserved—i.e., paediatric and geriatric patient populations that most need their source of CBD to be THC-free (THC is the psychoactive component of cannabis).

We appreciate that even modest penetration of these patient populations with pharmaceutical-quality, datasupported CBD products in Canada would represent material upside for CRDL.

CRDL's concurrent development of a pharmaceutical treatment for heart disease — through Health Canada and the U.S. FDA — we see as the real prize here.

CRDL, leveraging its biopharmaceutical heritage and pedigree, is taking advantage of an opportunity that, as far as we understand, is unique to this moment in time in Canada. Because of the Cannabis Act, for the first time in history a pharmaceutically-manufactured drug, CardiolRx can be sold to medical cannabis patients while, concurrently, being developed as a pharmaceutical drug in gold-standard clinical trials with Health Canada and the U.S. FDA.

We believe CRDL's veteran management team—with its deep pharmaceutical roots, many hailing from Vasogen, has the discipline and experience to pull off this tandem commercial/clinical enterprise."

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**CGI Group (TSX:GIB.A).** RBC raises the price target to \$125 from \$115 and maintains an "outperform" on the increasing probability of sustained growth over the next few years.

**Exchange Income Fund (TSX:EIF).** National Bank ups the target to \$54 from \$47 on the company's growth prospects.



## **U.S. ANALYSTS' CALLS**

**Alphabet (NASDAQ:GOOGL).** Keybanc raises the target to \$1,769 (U.S.) (couldn't have rounded up?) from \$1,546 (another weird number) on healthy ad spending.

**Apple (NASDAQ:AAPL).** Wedbush moves the target to \$400 from \$350 expecting upbeat Q1 results.

## **STOCKS THAT MAY MOVE**

Burcon NutraScience (TSX:BU) has struck a deal

with Nestle, which will help the international food company tap into Burcon's proprietary plant protein extraction and purification technology.

**Domtar (TSX:UFS;NYSE:UFS)** is down in premarket trading after saying Q4 revenue would be lower than expected and that it would take an operating loss in the quarter.

**Barrick Gold (TSX:ABX;NYSE:GOLD)** signed agreements at a ceremony in Tanzania to settle a long-running dispute with the government and gives the state partial ownership of three mines.

## Cincinnati Bell (NYSE:CBB)

The company has received an unsolicited offer from an infrastructure fund that is 14% higher than its agreed to deal with **Brookfield Infrastructure Partners (TSX:BIP.UN;NYSE:BIP)**. CBB has started talks with the infrastructure fund while it continues to recommend the Brookfield offer.

**Intel (NASDAQ:INTC)** shares are set to open at a 20year high after the chipmaker beat Wall Street's quarterly revenue and profit estimates as cloud computing revenue rose 48% from last year, and the company raised its outlook for 2020.

**Broadcom (NASDAQ:AVGO)** The tech firm has signed two agreements with Apple to supply wireless components, which combined with an existing agreement could result in about \$15 billion in revenue for the company.

**Disney (NYSE:DIS)** has shut Shanghai Disney to help stop the spread of the coronavirus, which will hit the company's revenue during the Chinese New Year. **Colgate-Palmolive (NYSE:CL)** is buying eco-friendly toothpaste maker Hello Products for an undisclosed amount.

Wells Fargo (NYSE:WFC). U.S. regulators have banned the bank's former CEO John Stumpf from the banking industry and charged him and seven other former executives more than \$58 million in civil penalties for their roles in the bank's multi-year sales practices scandal, including \$17.5-million to Stumpf, the largest ever penalty secured from an individual.

## **MARKETS**

**S&P/TSX and U.S. equity futures** are higher as the World Health Organization said the coronavirus in China had yet to become a global emergency.

In economic data, manufacturing in Germany and services in the U.K. showed improving numbers.

## **CURRENCIES**

**The Canadian dollar** is essentially flat from yesterday's close at \$0.7619 (U.S.).

## **COMMODITIES**

West Texas Intermediate is down 0.7% at \$55.19 a barrel as OPEC is considering extending its production cuts to the end of the year, according to a report out of Russia.

Gold is down by 0.4% at \$1,559 an ounce.

Please email questions, comments or concerns to:

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