



# Shaw Communications Inc. (SJR)

Updated November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 by Quinn Mohammed

## Key Metrics

<b>Current Price:</b>	\$29	<b>5 Year CAGR Estimate:</b>	2.0%	<b>Market Cap:</b>	\$14.7B
<b>Fair Value Price:</b>	\$22	<b>5 Year Growth Estimate:</b>	4.5%	<b>Ex-Dividend Date:</b>	12/14/2021
<b>% Fair Value:</b>	134%	<b>5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate:</b>	-5.6%	<b>Dividend Payment Date:</b>	12/30/2021
<b>Dividend Yield:</b>	3.3%	<b>5 Year Price Target</b>	\$27	<b>Years Of Dividend Growth:</b>	0
<b>Dividend Risk Score:</b>	F	<b>Retirement Suitability Score:</b>	D	<b>Last Dividend Increase:</b>	-

## Overview & Current Events

Shaw Communications was founded in 1966 as the Capital Cable Television Company. It has since grown to become Western Canada's leading content and network provider, catering to both consumers and businesses. The company produces about \$4.2 billion USD in revenue annually and has a market capitalization of \$14.7 billion USD. The stock is listed in both Canada and the US.

Shaw reported fourth quarter and full year fiscal 2021 results. Consolidated revenues for the fourth quarter increased by 2.1% to \$1.38 billion CAD. Adjusted EBITDA increased 3.4% year-over-year to \$614 million CAD. Net income for the corporation grew 44% to \$252 million. Diluted earnings per share of \$0.50 CAD nearly doubled compared to the \$0.34 earned in the same prior year period. For the full fiscal year of 2021, diluted EPS of USD\$1.57 has grown 47% over last year in constant currency.

The company's wireless offerings under the Shaw Mobile brand led to strong wireless results, and a strong 48,100 net additions. Fourth quarter wireless service was higher by roughly 10.4 % year-over-year due to subscriber growth. Wireless postpaid churn rate of 1.41 for the full fiscal year was 1 basis point higher than the prior year.

On March 15<sup>th</sup>, a significant announcement was made, that Shaw agreed to be fully acquired by Rogers in a deal valued at roughly \$26 billion CAD. The offer to shareholders is \$40.50 CAD per share in cash (\$32.32 USD), which was a significant premium to the price it was trading on the public market. Brad Shaw, CEO of Shaw, claims that the significant investments required to fully capitalize on 5G would require the combined abilities of Rogers and Shaw. This combined entity will be able to close the gap in rural, remote, and Indigenous communities and deliver new technology for consumers and businesses. The transaction has been approved by the shareholders however there remains pending approvals from the appropriate regulatory bodies. It is possible the deal could be flagged as highly anti-competitive due to the small amount of telecommunications company operating in Canada.

## Growth on a Per-Share Basis

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2027
<b>EPS</b>	\$1.61	\$1.52	\$1.58	\$1.29	\$0.68	\$0.88	\$0.74	\$1.09	\$0.99	\$1.57	<b>\$1.26</b>	<b>\$1.57</b>
<b>DPS</b>	\$0.96	\$0.94	\$0.93	\$0.84	\$0.89	\$0.95	\$0.87	\$0.91	\$0.91	\$0.95	<b>\$0.96</b>	<b>\$1.03</b>
<b>Shares<sup>1</sup></b>	444	453	462	474	486	497	503	515	513	500	<b>500.0</b>	<b>515.0</b>

Shaw's earnings-per-share history is a bit lumpy and over the long run, it has not produced much in the way of growth. However, we are forecasting 4.5% earnings-per-share growth annually moving forward. These gains will come from continued revenue growth mostly, as well as the increasing margins Shaw is experiencing. Revenue gains will come from the company's growing user base as well as Shaw's ability to boost average revenue per user, as was the case in 2019 and 2020 with strong ABPU growth. Retail partnerships with Loblaws and Walmart – chains with huge amounts of foot traffic – should help Shaw in achieving their revenue growth rates in the coming years. While we are forecasting stronger growth than what Shaw has historically been able to produce, the company seems to have turned the corner. Fiscal 2020 has seen significant cost savings, which helped drive free cash flow to approximately \$572 million USD.

<sup>1</sup> In millions

Disclosure: This analyst has no position in the security discussed in this research report, and no plans to initiate one in the next 72 hours.



# Shaw Communications Inc. (SJR)

Updated November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 by Quinn Mohammed

With recent years' dividends exceeding earnings, we believe management will be a bit more cautious with dividend increases in the next few years. However, Shaw's yield is reasonably high to make up for lower growth. In fiscal 2022, the company is prioritizing the closure of the transaction with Rogers.

## Valuation Analysis

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Now	2027
Avg. P/E	12.5	14.2	14	15.9	27.4	24.9	18.9	18.3	17.6	16.8	<b>23.4</b>	<b>17.5</b>
Avg. Yld.	4.8%	4.4%	4.2%	4.1%	4.7%	4.3%	4.8%	4.6%	5.1%	3.6%	<b>3.3%</b>	<b>3.8%</b>

Shaw's valuation has moved around a lot in the past decade and today sits at 23.4 times our 2021 earnings-per-share estimate, which is high relative to its historical average. While Shaw's valuation multiple has grown due to its entrance into the Canadian Wireless business, it still depends heavily on its consumer wireline business, so we estimate a fair value of 17.5 times earnings. The reason Shaw is trading at such a high multiple right now is due to the acquisition offer from Rogers. In fact, we estimate a 5.6% valuation contraction if the company traded at our fair value estimate of 17.5 times earnings.

## Safety, Quality, Competitive Advantage, & Recession Resiliency

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2027
Payout	60%	62%	59%	65%	131%	108%	118%	83%	92%	61%	<b>76%</b>	<b>66%</b>

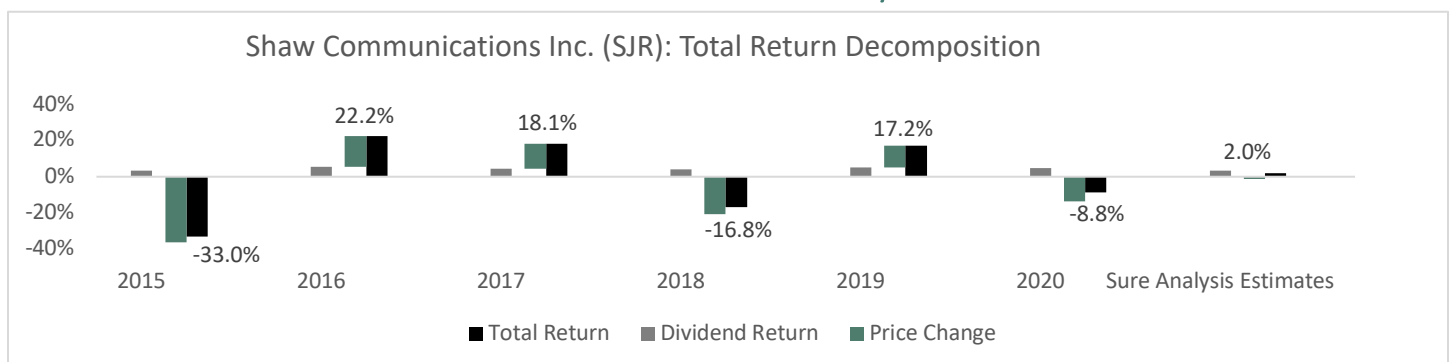
Shaw's quality metrics have stabilized after some meaningful declines in margins. We see margins as increasing slowly moving forward, congruent with the last few quarters. Debt has come down off much higher levels and today, Shaw's balance sheet leverage is quite low by telecommunications company standards. Interest coverage is good and while the payout ratio is high, we believe it will come down over time as earnings growth outpaces that of the payout.

Shaw's competitive advantage is in its leadership position in Western Canada, and its partnerships with Loblaws and Walmart. We see these factors as driving growth for years to come. It is not immune to recession but telecom companies like Shaw tend to hold up very well, and this has been the case so far throughout the coronavirus impact.

## Final Thoughts & Recommendation

Shaw is currently overvalued, entirely due to the Rogers offer which the company will trade around until more clarity about the deal is provided, such as approvals. We see total annual returns of 2.0% in the coming years, consisting of a 3.3% yield and a drop in share price due to a 5.6% valuation contraction. Income investors will enjoy the 3.3% yield paid monthly. We rate Shaw Communications a hold at this time due to the high valuation and the risks surrounding the acquisition transaction. However, shares trade 9.5% under the offer price and so there is a decent arbitrage opportunity for those with confidence in the agreement.

## Total Return Breakdown by Year



[Click here to rate and review this research report. Your feedback is important to us.](#)

Disclosure: This analyst has no position in the security discussed in this research report, and no plans to initiate one in the next 72 hours.



# Shaw Communications Inc. (SJR)

Updated November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 by Quinn Mohammed

## Income Statement Metrics

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Revenue</b>	4,951	5,089	4,867	3,720	3,406	3,696	4,060	4,028	4,021	4,343
<b>Gross Profit</b>	2,934	3,088	2,924	2,314	2,059	2,121	2,167	2,132	2,257	2,483
<b>Gross Margin</b>	59.3%	60.7%	60.1%	62.2%	60.4%	57.4%	53.4%	52.9%	56.1%	57.2%
<b>Operating Profit</b>	1,307	1,352	1,336	940	841	756	459	849	863	999
<b>Operating Margin</b>	26.4%	26.6%	27.5%	25.3%	24.7%	20.5%	11.3%	21.1%	21.5%	23.0%
<b>Net Profit</b>	721	738	796	710	920	644	31	551	512	777
<b>Net Margin</b>	14.6%	14.5%	16.4%	19.1%	27.0%	17.4%	0.8%	13.7%	12.7%	17.9%
<b>Free Cash Flow</b>	341	362	579	391	459	-84	41	204	572	714
<b>Income Tax</b>	212	280	286	181	134	137	100	89	133	36

## Balance Sheet Metrics

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Total Assets</b>	12,811	12,077	12,202	11,136	11,750	11,421	11,111	11,707	12,356	12,521
<b>Cash &amp; Equivalents</b>	430	400	587	301	309	402	296	1,082	583	281
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>	439	470	466	353	229	227	235	251	249	287
<b>Inventories</b>	103	91	110	45	50	47	47	64	46	50
<b>Goodwill &amp; Int. Ass.</b>	8,126	7,447	7,272	6,908	6,696	6,112	5,977	6,180	6,327	6,562
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	8,749	7,891	7,656	7,323	7,398	6,514	6,515	7,004	7,592	7,730
<b>Accounts Payable</b>	50	67	41	670	82	720	75	85	63	89
<b>Long-Term Debt</b>	5,300	4,615	4,319	4,281	4,287	3,406	3,350	4,001	3,629	3,766
<b>Shareholder's Equity</b>	3,779	3,967	4,330	3,634	4,352	4,906	4,596	4,481	4,540	4,791
<b>D/E Ratio</b>	1.40	1.16	1.00	1.18	0.99	0.69	0.73	0.85	0.76	0.79

## Profitability & Per Share Metrics

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Return on Assets</b>	5.6%	5.9%	6.6%	6.1%	8.0%	5.6%	0.3%	4.8%	4.3%	6.2%
<b>Return on Equity</b>	19.9%	19.1%	19.2%	17.8%	23.0%	13.9%	0.6%	12.1%	11.3%	16.7%
<b>ROIC</b>	7.8%	8.1%	9.0%	8.4%	11.0%	7.6%	0.4%	6.6%	6.0%	9.2%
<b>Shares Out.</b>	444	453	462	474	486	497	503	515	513	500
<b>Revenue/Share</b>	11.20	11.31	10.60	7.90	7.08	7.51	8.07	7.88	7.81	8.60
<b>FCF/Share</b>	0.77	0.80	1.26	0.83	0.95	-0.17	0.08	0.40	1.11	1.41

*Note: All figures in millions of Canadian Dollars unless per share or indicated otherwise.*

### Disclaimer

Nothing presented herein is, or is intended to constitute, specific investment advice. Nothing in this research report should be construed as a recommendation to follow any investment strategy or allocation. Any forward-looking statements or forecasts are based on assumptions and actual results are expected to vary from any such statements or forecasts. No reliance should be placed on any such statements or forecasts when making any investment decision. While Sure Dividend has used reasonable efforts to obtain information from reliable sources, we make no representations or warranties as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of third-party information presented herein. No guarantee of investment performance is being provided and no inference to the contrary should be made. There is a risk of loss from an investment in marketable securities. Past performance is not a guarantee of future performance.