



**Global Asset  
Management**

**RBC FUNDS**

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## ANNUAL INFORMATION FORM

January 24, 2019

Series A, Series T5, Series D, Series F, Series FT5 and Series O units

RBC Emerging Markets Balanced Fund

RBC Emerging Markets Equity Focus Fund

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## Name, formation and history of the funds

This annual information form contains information about the RBC Funds listed on the cover page. There are other RBC Funds, which are offered under separate simplified prospectuses and annual information forms. In this document:

- › *we, us* and *our* refer to RBC Global Asset Management Inc. (*RBC GAM*); and
- › *fund* or *funds* refers to the funds or series of the funds listed on the front cover.

The principal address of each of the funds is c/o RBC Global Asset Management Inc., 155 Wellington Street West, Suite 2200, Toronto, Ontario, M5V 3K7.

RBC GAM is the manager, trustee and primary portfolio manager of each of the funds. RBC GAM is also the principal distributor of the funds other than Series A units. RBC GAM was formed upon the amalgamation of Phillips, Hager & North Investment Management Ltd. (*PH&N*) and its affiliate, RBC Asset Management Inc., effective November 1, 2010. Effective November 1, 2013, RBC GAM amalgamated with its wholly owned subsidiary, BonaVista Asset Management Ltd., with the resulting entity keeping the RBC GAM name. Royal Mutual Funds Inc. (*RMFI*) is the principal distributor of Series A units of the funds. RBC GAM is the primary investment manager for the RBC® businesses serving the needs of private clients, including the RBC Funds, PH&N Funds and RBC Private Pools. RBC Investor Services Trust (*RBC IS*) is the custodian of the funds. See *Responsibility for operations of the funds* on page 17. RBC GAM, RMFI, RBC Direct Investing Inc. (*RBC DI*), RBC Dominion Securities Inc. (*RBC DS*), RBC IS and Phillips, Hager & North Investment Funds Ltd. (*PH&N IF*) are all wholly owned subsidiaries of Royal Bank of Canada (*Royal Bank*). We refer to Royal Bank and affiliated companies of Royal Bank as *RBC*.

Each fund is divided into multiple series of units of participation (*units*) representing interests in a fund held by unitholders (*unitholders*).

All dollar amounts in this document are in Canadian dollars, unless we state otherwise.

Each fund is an open-ended mutual fund trust governed by the laws of Ontario and governed by an amended and restated master declaration of trust dated as of September 5, 2017 (*Master Declaration of Trust*) signed by RBC GAM as trustee of the funds and a regulation in respect of each fund.

Each fund was established on January 22, 2019.

## Investment practices and restrictions

### *Investments*

Each fund is designed to meet the investment objectives of different investors. Please refer to the simplified prospectus of the funds for a description of the investment objective of each fund.

The fundamental investment objective of a fund may not be changed without the consent of a majority of voting unitholders of the fund. The trustee can make other changes to the investment strategies and activities of a fund without the consent of unitholders, subject to any required approval of the Canadian securities regulators and/or the Independent Review Committee (the *IRC*) of the funds.

### *Investments in derivative instruments*

The funds may use derivatives as permitted by the Canadian securities regulators for hedging or non-hedging purposes. In addition, certain mutual funds in which the funds may invest (collectively, the *underlying funds*) may use derivatives as permitted by the Canadian securities regulators for hedging or non-hedging purposes. The risk factors associated with the use of derivatives are disclosed in the simplified prospectus of the funds.

Derivatives may be used to participate in changes to a particular market or group of securities without purchasing the securities directly, or to temporarily reduce participation in a particular market in which the underlying fund has already invested. The types of derivatives an underlying fund may use include forward contracts, futures contracts, warrants, options or options on futures, swaps and index participation units.

RBC GAM is responsible for managing the risks associated with the use of derivatives. RBC GAM has written guidelines that set out the objectives and goals for derivatives trading, which are established and reviewed periodically by the board of directors of RBC GAM as required. In addition, RBC GAM has written control policies and procedures in place that set out the risk management procedures applicable to derivatives trading. These policies and procedures set out specific procedures for the authorization, documentation, reporting, monitoring and review of derivative strategies ensuring that these functions are performed by individuals independent of those who trade. Limits and controls on derivatives trading are part of RBC GAM's compliance regime. All derivatives transactions are reviewed by a specially trained team that ensures that the derivative positions of the funds are within the existing control policies and procedures. As the use of derivatives by the funds is limited, RBC GAM does not currently conduct simulations to test the portfolio under stress conditions. Derivative strategies are regularly monitored by RBC GAM management. See *Corporate governance of the funds* on page 25. Compliance with these policies and procedures is monitored periodically by internal auditors of Royal Bank.

#### *Securities lending transactions, repurchase agreements and reverse repurchase agreements*

The funds may enter into securities lending arrangements and repurchase and reverse repurchase transactions in accordance with the rules of the Canadian Securities Administrators.

Pursuant to an agency agreement, RBC GAM has appointed RBC IS to act as the agent of RBC GAM and the funds and to enter into securities lending transactions, repurchase agreements and reverse repurchase agreements on behalf of the funds. The agency agreement provides for the types of transactions that may be entered into by a fund, the types of portfolio assets of the funds that may be used, collateral requirements, limits on transaction sizes, permitted counterparties to the transactions and investment of any cash collateral. The agent will:

- › ensure that collateral is provided in the form of cash, qualified securities or securities that can be converted into the securities which are the subject of the securities lending, repurchase or reverse repurchase transactions;
- › value the loaned or purchased securities and the collateral every day to ensure that the collateral is worth at least 102% of the value of the securities;
- › invest any cash collateral in accordance with the investment restrictions specified in the agency agreement;
- › invest no more than 50% of the net asset value of a fund in securities lending or repurchase transactions at any one time; and
- › assess the creditworthiness of the counterparties to securities lending, repurchase and reverse repurchase transactions.

The securities lending transactions of a fund may be terminated by the fund at any time. Repurchase agreements or reverse repurchase agreements of the funds will have a maximum term of 30 days.

RBC GAM and RBC IS review the agency agreement and the securities lending, repurchase and reverse repurchase arrangements periodically as required to ensure that they comply with Canadian securities regulations and the fund governance policies as described above.

The risk factors associated with securities lending, repurchase and reverse repurchase transactions are disclosed in the simplified prospectus of the funds. RBC GAM is responsible for managing the risks associated with securities lending, repurchase and reverse repurchase transactions. RBC GAM has written guidelines that set out the objectives and goals with respect to securities lending arrangements, repurchase transactions and reverse repurchase transactions which are established and reviewed periodically by the board of directors of RBC GAM as required. RBC GAM has written control

policies and procedures in place that set out the risk management practices applicable to securities lending, repurchase and reverse repurchase transactions. As the use of securities lending, repurchase and reverse repurchase transactions by the funds is limited, RBC GAM does not currently conduct simulations to test the portfolio under stress conditions. All securities lending arrangements and repurchase and reverse repurchase agreements are monitored regularly by RBC GAM management. See *Corporate governance of the funds* on page 25. Internal auditors of Royal Bank monitor compliance with these policies and procedures periodically.

The RBC Emerging Markets Balanced Fund will not enter into securities lending, repurchase or reverse repurchase transactions, but certain of the underlying funds in which the fund invests may do so. Any funds (including underlying funds) that do enter into securities lending or repurchase transactions may not commit more than 50% of their net asset value to securities lending or repurchase transactions at any time. Securities lending transactions may be ended at any time and all repurchase transactions and reverse repurchase transactions must be completed within 30 days.

### *Investment restrictions*

Subject to the exceptions described below, we manage each of the funds in accordance with the standard mutual fund investment restrictions and practices (the *restrictions*) contained in securities legislation, including National Instrument 81-102 – *Investment Funds (NI 81-102)* and National Instrument 81-107 – *Independent Review Committee for Investment Funds (NI 81-107)*. The restrictions are designed in part to ensure that the investments of the funds are diversified and relatively liquid and to ensure the proper administration of the funds. The exceptions applicable to all funds described below may only be relied upon by a fund where consistent with the investment objectives of the fund.

### **Related issuer securities**

Generally, the restrictions prevent a fund from purchasing the securities of a related issuer. A fund is permitted, however, to purchase the securities of a related issuer if the purchase is made on an exchange on which the securities are listed and traded. This means a fund can purchase, for example, listed common and preferred shares. RBC GAM has received relief which permits a fund to purchase debt securities of a related issuer, provided that:

- (i) the purchase occurs in the secondary market;
- (ii) the debt security has a designated rating by a designated rating organization;
- (iii) the price payable is not more than the ask price of the security determined as follows:
  - (A) if the purchase occurs on a marketplace, in accordance with the requirements of the marketplace;
  - (B) if the purchase does not occur on a marketplace,
    - (1) the price at which an independent arm's-length seller is willing to sell; or
    - (2) the price quoted publicly by an independent marketplace or not more than the price quoted by at least one independent arm's-length party.

RBC GAM has also received relief which permits a fund to purchase debt securities of a related issuer (other than asset-backed securities), with a term to maturity of 365 days or more, offered in the primary market (i.e. from the issuer) (*an offering*), provided that:

- (i) the debt security has a designated rating by a designated rating organization;
- (ii) the size of the offering is at least \$100 million;
- (iii) at least two arm's-length purchasers collectively purchase at least 20% of the securities issued in the offering;
- (iv) following the purchase, the fund does not have more than 5% of its net assets invested in the debt securities of the issuer;
- (v) following the purchase, the fund, together with other related investment funds, collectively do not hold more than 20% of the securities issued in the offering; and
- (vi) the purchase price is no more than the lowest price paid by any arm's-length purchaser.

**Principal trading**

Generally, the restrictions prevent a fund from purchasing securities from or selling securities to a related party acting as principal. A fund is, however, permitted to engage in such transactions if the bid and ask price are reported by any public quotation. A fund is also permitted to purchase debt securities from or sell debt securities to another fund, subject to certain conditions in NI 81-102 and NI 81-107. RBC GAM has received relief which permits a fund to purchase debt securities from or sell debt securities to a related party that is a principal dealer in the Canadian and/or the international debt securities market, provided that:

- (i) the transaction occurs in the secondary market;
- (ii) the bid and ask price of the security must be determined by reference to a quote from an independent party if not publicly available;
- (iii) a purchase must not be executed at a price higher than the ask price and a sale must not be executed at a price which is lower than the bid price; and
- (iv) the transaction is subject to “market integrity requirements” as defined in Canadian securities legislation and any equivalent transparency and trade reporting requirements applicable to transactions in debt securities in international debt securities markets.

**Related party underwriting**

Generally, a fund is prohibited from investing in securities in respect of which a related party has acted as underwriter during the distribution and for 60 days thereafter. A fund is, however, permitted to purchase debt and equity securities in respect of which a related party has acted as underwriter if certain conditions in NI 81-102 are met, including, in respect of equity securities, that a prospectus is filed in respect of the securities. RBC GAM has received relief which permits a fund to purchase equity securities where a prospectus has not been filed, provided that:

- (i) the issuer is a reporting issuer in Canada; and
- (ii) the conditions which apply to purchases where a prospectus has been filed are complied with.

RBC GAM has obtained relief which permits a fund to purchase equity securities distributed in the United States and the United Kingdom, European Union, Switzerland, Norway, Australia, Hong Kong and Singapore (collectively, the *other jurisdictions*) provided that:

- (i) any related party that is involved in the distribution is regulated in respect of its underwriting activities in Canada, the United States or such other jurisdictions;
- (ii) the securities issued in the distribution must be listed on a stock exchange and if the securities are acquired during the 60-day period after the distribution they are acquired on a stock exchange; and
- (iii) the conditions which apply to the purchase of equity securities distributed in Canada in respect of which a related party has acted as underwriter are complied with.

RBC GAM has obtained relief which permits a fund to purchase debt securities (other than asset-backed commercial paper) in respect of which a related party has acted as underwriter notwithstanding that the debt securities do not have a designated rating by a designated rating organization, provided that:

- (i) if the securities are acquired in a distribution,
  - (A) at least one underwriter acting as underwriter in the distribution is not a related dealer;
  - (B) at least one purchaser who is independent and arm’s-length to the fund and the related dealer must purchase at least 5% of the securities distributed under the distribution;

- (C) the price paid for the securities by the fund in the distribution shall be no higher than the lowest price paid by any of the arm's-length purchasers who participate in the distribution; and
  - (D) the fund and any related funds for which RBC GAM or its affiliate or associate acts as manager and/or portfolio manager can collectively acquire no more than 50% of the securities distributed under the distribution in which a related dealer acts as underwriter;
- (ii) if the securities are acquired in the 60-day period,
- (A) the ask price of the securities is readily available as provided in Commentary 7 to section 6.1 of NI 81-107;
  - (B) the price paid for the securities by the fund is not higher than the available ask price of the security; and
  - (C) the purchase is subject to market integrity requirements as defined in NI 81-107.

#### **Inter-fund trades**

Under NI 81-102 and NI 81-107, the funds are permitted to engage in certain inter-fund trades subject to certain conditions, including that the inter-fund trade be executed at the "current market price" of the security. RBC GAM has received relief which permits a fund to engage in inter-fund trades if the security is an exchange-traded security or a foreign exchange-traded security, executed at the last sale price, immediately before the trade is executed, on the exchange upon which the security is listed or quoted.

Pursuant to exemptive relief obtained on behalf of the RBC Funds, each fund is permitted to engage in certain trades of portfolio securities, including mortgages, with investment funds that are not subject to NI 81-107 and with discretionary accounts managed by RBC GAM or related parties, subject to complying with similar conditions as those set out in NI 81-107, as well as additional terms and conditions that apply to mortgage transactions, including valuation requirements.

#### **Independent Review Committee review**

Appropriate records of the transactions described above (referred to, collectively, as *Related Party Trading Activities*) must be maintained and, in certain cases, particulars must be filed with the securities regulatory authorities. In addition, the IRC must review and assess the adequacy and effectiveness of the policies and procedures of RBC GAM in respect of Related Party Trading Activities and the IRC and RBC GAM must act in accordance with the requirements of NI 81-107 in respect of standing instructions and reporting to securities regulatory authorities.

The IRC of the funds has approved standing instructions in respect of Related Party Trading Activities. In accordance with the conditions of the applicable standing instructions of the IRC, the IRC reviews Related Party Trading Activities at least quarterly with the exception of the principal trading activities, which are reviewed at least annually. In its review, the IRC considers whether investment decisions in respect of Related Party Trading Activities:

- › were made by RBC GAM in the best interests of the fund and were free from any influence of Royal Bank and without taking into account any consideration relevant to Royal Bank or its associates or affiliates;
- › were in compliance with the conditions of the policies and procedures of RBC GAM;
- › were in compliance with the applicable standing instructions of the IRC; and
- › achieved a fair and reasonable result for the fund.

The IRC must advise the securities regulatory authorities if it determines that an investment decision in respect of Related Party Trading Activities was not made in accordance with the foregoing requirements.

Additional information about the members of the IRC is disclosed under the heading *Corporate governance of the funds – Independent Review Committee* on page 26.

### **German Exchange Traded Funds**

RBC GAM has obtained relief which permits funds whose investment objectives and strategies contemplate exposure to European equities to purchase securities of certain specified investment funds that are Undertakings for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities pursuant to the UCITS IV Directive (2009/65/EC), listed on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange and managed by BlackRock Asset Management Deutschland AG (*German ETFs*), provided that:

- (i) the investment by a fund in German ETFs is in accordance with the fundamental investment objectives of the fund;
- (ii) none of the German ETFs are synthetic exchange traded funds, meaning that they will not principally rely on an investment strategy that makes use of swaps or other derivatives to gain an indirect financial exposure to the return of an index;
- (iii) the investment by a fund in a German ETF otherwise complies with section 2.5 of NI 81-102;
- (iv) a fund does not invest more than 10% of its net asset value in securities issued by a single German ETF and does not invest more than 20% of its net asset value in securities issued by German ETFs in aggregate; and
- (v) a fund does not acquire any additional securities of a German ETF, and shall dispose of any securities of a German ETF then held, in the event the regulatory regime applicable to the German ETF is changed in any material way.

### **United Kingdom Listed Exchange Traded Funds**

RBC GAM has obtained relief which permits funds to purchase securities of certain specified investment funds that are Undertakings for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities pursuant to the UCITS IV Directive (2009/65/EC), listed on the London Stock Exchange and managed by BlackRock Asset Management Ireland Limited (*UK Listed ETFs*), provided that:

- (i) the investment by a fund in UK Listed ETFs is in accordance with the fundamental investment objectives of the fund;
- (ii) none of the UK Listed ETFs are synthetic exchange traded funds, meaning that they will not principally rely on an investment strategy that makes use of swaps or other derivatives to gain an indirect financial exposure to the return of an index;
- (iii) the investment by a fund in a UK Listed ETF otherwise complies with section 2.5 of NI 81-102;
- (iv) a fund does not invest more than 10% of its net asset value in securities issued by a single UK Listed ETF and does not invest more than 20% of its net asset value in securities issued by UK Listed ETFs in aggregate; and
- (v) a fund does not acquire any additional securities of a UK Listed ETF, and shall dispose of any securities of a UK Listed ETF then held, in the event the regulatory regime applicable to the UK Listed ETF is changed in any material way.

### **RBC Exchange Traded Funds**

RBC GAM has obtained relief to permit the funds to:

- (i) purchase a security of an underlying exchange traded fund (*ETF*) or enter into a specified derivatives transaction with respect to an underlying ETF even though, immediately after the transaction, more than 10% of the net asset value of the fund would be invested, directly or indirectly, in the securities of the underlying ETF;
- (ii) purchase securities of an underlying ETF such that, after the purchase, the fund would hold securities representing more than 10% of: (A) the votes attaching to the outstanding voting securities of the underlying ETF; or (B) the outstanding equity securities of the underlying ETF;
- (iii) invest in exchange-traded mutual funds that are not subject to National Instrument 81-101 – *Mutual Fund Prospectus Disclosure*; and
- (iv) pay brokerage commissions in relation to its purchase and sale on a recognized exchange of exchange-traded mutual funds that are managed by RBC GAM or an affiliate of RBC GAM.



The practices described in paragraphs (i) to (iv) above are permitted, provided that:

- (i) a fund does not short sell securities of an underlying ETF;
- (ii) the underlying ETF does not rely on exemptive relief from: (A) the requirements of section 2.3 of NI 81-102 regarding the purchase of physical commodities; (B) the requirements of sections 2.7 and 2.8 of NI 81-102 regarding the purchase, sale or use of specified derivatives; or (C) subsections 2.6(a) or 2.6(b) of NI 81-102 with respect to the use of leverage;
- (iii) each fund and each underlying ETF is not a commodity pool governed by National Instrument 81-104 – *Commodity Pools* and neither the fund nor the underlying ETFs will use leverage;
- (iv) in connection with the relief from subsection 2.1(1) of NI 81-102 allowing a fund to invest more than 10% of its net asset value in the securities of an underlying ETF, the fund shall, for each investment it makes in securities of an underlying ETF, apply subsections 2.1(3) and 2.1(4) of NI 81-102 as if those provisions applied to a fund's investments in securities of an underlying ETF, and accordingly limit a fund's indirect holdings in securities of an issuer held by one or more underlying ETFs to no more than 10% of the fund's net asset value; and
- (v) the relief from paragraphs 2.5(2)(e) and 2.5(2)(f) of NI 81-102 will only apply to the brokerage fees incurred for the purchase and sale of securities of underlying ETFs by the fund.

#### **Derivative transactions**

The funds have received an exemption from the securities regulatory authorities to extend the category of investments that constitute cash cover for specified derivatives entered into by the funds to include certain liquid fixed-income securities that have a remaining term to maturity of 365 days or less, floating rate securities that have an interest rate reset no later than every 185 days and securities of the RBC money market funds.

The funds have received from the securities regulatory authorities an exemption from certain of the derivatives rules in NI 81-102 which allows the funds, when they use derivative instruments as described under *Investments in derivative instruments* on page 2, to use as cover when a fund has a long position in a debt-like security that has a component that is a long position in a forward contract or in a standardized futures or forward contract or when a fund has a right to receive payments under a swap:

- (i) cash cover in an amount that, together with margin on account for the specified derivative and the market value of the specified derivative, is not less than, on a daily mark-to-market basis, the underlying market exposure of the specified derivative;
- (ii) a right or obligation to sell an equivalent quantity of the underlying interest of the futures or forward contract, and cash cover that, together with margin on account for the position, is not less than the amount, if any, by which the strike price of the futures or forward contract exceeds the strike price of the right or obligation to sell the underlying interest;
- (iii) a right or obligation to enter into an offsetting swap on an equivalent quantity and with an equivalent term and cash cover that, together with margin on account for the position is not less than the aggregate amount, if any, of the obligations of the fund under the swap less the obligations of the fund under such offsetting swap; or
- (iv) a combination of the positions referred to in subparagraphs (i) and (ii) for debt-like securities with a long position in a forward or in a standardized futures or forward contract or of the positions referred to in subparagraphs (i) and (iii) in the case of a swap, that is sufficient, without recourse to other assets of the fund, to enable the fund to acquire the underlying interest of the futures or forward contract or satisfy its obligations under the swap.

#### **Payment of a participating dealer's direct costs relating to cooperative marketing initiatives concerning financial planning matters**

RBC GAM has obtained relief which permits it to pay to a participating dealer direct costs incurred by the participating dealer relating to a sales communication, investor conference or investor seminar prepared or presented by the participating dealer (a *Cooperative Marketing Initiative*) if the primary purpose of a Cooperative Marketing Initiative is to promote or provide

educational information concerning investing in securities and investment, retirement, tax and estate planning matters (collectively, *Financial Planning Matters*) (in addition to the educational information concerning mutual funds managed by RBC GAM which is currently permitted under National Instrument 81-105 – *Mutual Fund Sales Practices (NI 81-105)*). This practice is permitted, provided that:

- (i) RBC GAM otherwise complies with subsections 5.1(b) through (e) of NI 81-105;
- (ii) RBC GAM does not require any participating dealer to sell any of the funds or other financial products to investors;
- (iii) other than as permitted by NI 81-105, RBC GAM does not provide participating dealers and their representatives with any financial or other incentives for recommending any of the funds to investors;
- (iv) the materials presented in a Cooperative Marketing Initiative concerning Financial Planning Matters contain only general educational information regarding such matters;
- (v) RBC GAM prepares or approves the content of the general educational information about the Financial Planning Matters presented in a Cooperative Marketing Initiative it sponsors, and selects or approves an appropriately-qualified speaker for each presentation about such matters;
- (vi) any general educational information about Financial Planning Matters presented in a Cooperative Marketing Initiative contains an express statement that the content presented is for information purposes only and is not providing advice to the attendees of the conference or seminar or the recipients of the sales communication, as applicable; and
- (vii) any general educational information about Financial Planning Matters presented in a Cooperative Marketing Initiative contains an indication of the types of professionals who may generally be qualified to provide advice on the subject matter of the information presented.

### *Tax status*

Units of the funds qualify as unit trusts and are expected to be qualified investments for trusts governed by registered plans and tax-free savings accounts (*TFSAs*). See *Income tax considerations – Eligibility for registered plans and TFSAs* on page 32.

Each fund intends to be a mutual fund trust under the *Income Tax Act* (Canada). None of the funds will therefore engage in any undertaking other than the investment of its funds in property for the purposes of the *Income Tax Act* (Canada). Furthermore, each fund intends to apply for “registered investment” status under the *Income Tax Act* (Canada), and thereby be eligible for registered plans.

## **Description of units of the funds**

Each fund is divided into multiple series of units and each series of units is divided into units of participation of equal value. Series A and Series T5 units are available to all investors. Series D units may be available to investors who have accounts with RBC DI or other discount brokers. Series F and Series FT5 units have lower fees than Series A and Series T5 units and are available for sale to investors who have fee-based accounts with their dealers. These investors pay their dealers a fee directly for investment advice or other services. Series O units are for individuals, institutional clients or dealers who have entered into an agreement directly or indirectly with RBC GAM to purchase Series O units. No management fees are payable directly by the fund in respect of Series O units. Unitholders of Series O units pay a negotiated fee directly or indirectly to RBC GAM, which will not exceed 2%. Each fund is authorized to issue an unlimited number of units of each series. All units of each series of a fund have equal rights and privileges. The interest of each unitholder in a fund is shown by how many units are registered in the name of such unitholder. No unit of a series of a fund has any preference or priority over another unit of the same series of the fund.

No unitholder owns any asset of a fund. Unitholders have only those rights mentioned in this annual information form, the simplified prospectus and in the Master Declaration of Trust and the regulation of the fund.

Units of each of the funds have the following attributes:

1. the units have distribution rights;
2. the units have no voting rights except as described below; as the funds are trusts, there are no unitholders' meetings;
3. on the termination of a fund, the assets of the fund will be distributed and all units in the fund will share in the value of the fund;
4. the units have redemption rights;
5. there are no conversion rights, except in limited circumstances;
6. there are no pre-emptive rights;
7. the units of a fund cannot be transferred, except in limited circumstances;
8. there is no liability for further calls or assessments;
9. the units of a fund may be sub-divided or consolidated by the trustee without notice to unitholders of the fund; and
10. subject to the unitholder approval and notice requirements described below, these attributes may be amended from time to time by RBC GAM, as trustee of the fund.

Please see *Meeting of unitholders* below for a description of your voting rights as a mutual fund unitholder.

### *Meeting of unitholders*

Unless the funds receive an exemption from the Canadian securities regulatory authorities, the following changes cannot be made to a fund unless a majority of voting unitholders of the fund approve of them:

1. a change in the manager of the fund (other than to an affiliate of RBC GAM);
2. a change in the trustee of the fund (other than to an affiliate of RBC GAM);
3. a change in the fundamental investment objectives of the fund;
4. in certain cases, if the fund undertakes a reorganization with, or transfer of its assets to, another mutual fund or acquires another mutual fund's assets; and
5. if the unit value of a fund will be calculated less often.

At any meeting of unitholders of a fund or a series of a fund, each unitholder will be entitled to one vote for each whole unit registered in the unitholder's name, except meetings at which the holders of units of another series are entitled to vote separately as a series.

In certain circumstances, a fund's reorganization with, or transfer of assets to, another mutual fund may be carried out without the prior approval of the unitholders of the fund provided that the IRC approves the transaction pursuant to NI 81-107, the reorganization or transfer complies with certain requirements of NI 81-102 and NI 81-107, as applicable, and unitholders of the fund are sent written notice at least 60 days before the effective date of the change.

The auditor of a fund may be changed without the prior approval of the unitholders of the fund provided that the IRC approves the change and unitholders of the fund are sent written notice at least 60 days before the effective date of the change.

Unitholders will be given 60 days' notice of any amendment to the Master Declaration of Trust or regulation, except that the Master Declaration of Trust may be amended without approval of, or notice to, unitholders of the funds, if the proposed amendment:

- › is not expected to materially adversely affect the interests of unitholders;
- › is intended to ensure compliance with applicable laws, regulations or policies;

- › is intended to provide additional protection to unitholders;
- › is intended to remove conflicts or inconsistencies or to correct typographical, clerical or other errors; or
- › is intended to facilitate the administration of a fund or to respond to amendments to the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) which might otherwise adversely affect the interests of the fund or its unitholders.

Because no sales charges and no redemption fees apply to units of the funds, a meeting of unitholders is not required to be held to approve the introduction of a fee or expense that could result in an increase in charges to a series of a fund or unitholders of a fund, or any changes in the basis of calculation of a fee or expense that is charged to a series of the fund in a way that could result in an increase in charges to a series of a fund or unitholders of a fund. Any such changes will only be made if notice is mailed to the applicable unitholders at least 60 days prior to the valuation date on which the increase is to take effect.

The IRC must review and provide a recommendation with regard to any proposed increase in the management fees or administration fees of a fund.

Copies of the simplified prospectus and financial statements of an underlying fund will be delivered to unitholders of a fund at no cost by calling us at 1-800-463-FUND (3863) (English) or 1-800-668-FOND (3663) (French).

## Calculation of unit value

You buy or redeem units of each series of a fund at the net asset value per unit for a series of the fund (*unit value*). The issue or redemption price of units of a series of a fund is the next unit value of that series of the fund determined after the receipt of the purchase or redemption order. The unit value of each series of a fund is determined on each valuation date after the Toronto Stock Exchange (*TSX*) closes or at such other time that the trustee of the funds decides (*valuation time*). The valuation date for a fund is any day when RBC GAM's office in Toronto is open for business.

Here is how we calculate the unit value of a series of a fund:

- › We take the fair value of all the investments and other assets allocated to the series.
- › We subtract the liabilities allocated to the series. This gives us the net asset value for the series.
- › We divide this amount by the total number of units of the series that investors in the fund are holding. That gives us the unit value for the series.

We will determine in good faith whether liabilities of a fund are attributable to all or only certain series of the fund.

To determine what your investment in a fund is worth, simply multiply the unit value of the series you own by the number of units you own.

## Valuation of securities held by a fund

The value of any security or property held by a fund or any of its liabilities will be determined in the following way:

- › Cash, bills, demand notes, accounts receivable, prepaid expenses, cash dividends received or receivable, distributions receivable and interest accrued and not yet received, will be valued at their full amount unless RBC GAM has determined that the cash or other asset is not worth that amount. RBC GAM will then determine a reasonable value.
- › Securities quoted in foreign currencies are translated to Canadian dollars using the prevailing rate of exchange on the valuation date.
- › If the unit value of a fund is also expressed in a foreign currency, the value in foreign currency is determined by using the prevailing rate of exchange on the valuation date or, if that exchange rate is not available, by applying an exchange rate chosen by RBC GAM.

- › All bonds, mortgage-backed securities, debentures and other obligations will be valued at the closing price quoted by major dealers or independent pricing vendors in such securities. Notes and money market instruments are valued at fair value, which is approximately at cost plus accrued interest. If short-term instruments are sold, the difference between the cost and the proceeds (less income previously credited for such security) will be recorded as income not capital.
- › The value of any security which is listed or dealt in any stock exchange or exchanges is generally determined by taking its latest available close price on the principal stock exchange on which it is listed. However, the following exceptions apply:
  - where RBC GAM is lacking any such sales or records, or if the last such close price is not within the latest available bid and ask quotations on the valuation date, RBC GAM will have the discretion to determine the fair value of the listed security based on market quotations RBC GAM believes most closely reflect the fair value of the investment;
  - in calculating the value of inter-listed investments, RBC GAM may permit over-the-counter (*OTC*) rather than stock exchange quotations to be used when they appear to reflect more closely the fair value of any particular investment; but if such stock exchange or *OTC* quotations do not properly reflect the prices which would be received by the fund upon the disposal of such investments, RBC GAM may place values upon such investments which appear to it to reflect most closely the fair value of such investments; and
  - in calculating the value of foreign securities listed or dealt in exchanges outside North America, RBC GAM will place values upon such securities which appear to reflect most closely the fair value of such securities. In particular, RBC GAM has procedures in place to avoid stale prices and to take into account, among other things, any significant events occurring after the close of a foreign market. Accordingly, the value calculated on fair valued securities for purposes of calculating a fund's net asset value may differ from that security's most recent closing market price. As a means of evaluating our fair value process, we will routinely compare closing market prices, the next day's opening prices in the same markets, and adjusted fair value prices. These procedures are designed to minimize the potential for market timing strategies, which are largely focused on funds with significant holdings of foreign securities. They may also be used in respect of foreign securities held by an underlying fund in which a fund may invest, indirectly affecting the net asset value of the fund.
- › Long positions in clearing corporation options, options on futures, *OTC* options, debt-like securities and listed warrants shall be valued at their current market value.
- › Where a covered clearing corporation option, option on futures or *OTC* option is written, the premium received by a fund shall be reflected as a deferred credit which shall be valued at an amount equal to the current market value of the clearing corporation option, option on futures or *OTC* option that would have the effect of closing the position. Any differences resulting from the revaluation will be treated as an unrealized gain or loss on investment. The deferred credit will be deducted in arriving at the net asset value of the fund. The securities, if any, which are the subject of a written clearing corporation option or *OTC* option will be valued at their current market value.
- › The value of a futures contract, forward contract or swap will be the gain or loss that would be realized if, on the valuation date, the position in the futures contract, forward contract or swap, as the case may be, were to be closed out unless daily limits are in effect, in which case fair value, based on the current market value of the underlying interest, shall be determined by RBC GAM.
- › Margin paid or deposited in respect of futures contracts and forward contracts will be reflected as an account receivable and margin consisting of assets other than cash shall be noted as held as margin.
- › The value of forward currency contracts and currency futures contracts will be calculated on a mark-to-market basis on the valuation date based on reported quotations in common use provided cash is to be settled on maturity of the contracts.
- › The value of any security which is not listed or dealt in upon any stock exchange is determined by RBC GAM, based on relevant market and/or company data that RBC GAM believes most closely reflects the fair value of the investment.

- › In this annual information form, unless otherwise indicated, current market value means the closing price recorded by the security exchange on which the security is principally traded. In circumstances where the closing price is not within the bid-ask spread, management will determine the points within the bid-ask spread that are most representative of the fair value.
- › Units of underlying funds that are managed by RBC GAM will be valued at their respective net asset values on the relevant valuation date.
- › Units of underlying funds that are managed by a manager other than RBC GAM will be valued at their net asset value as communicated by such managers of the underlying funds to RBC GAM or the closing market price if traded on an exchange.
- › Unit value for the funds is determined in Canadian dollars in accordance with the rules set forth above. For clients who hold units of a fund denominated in U.S. dollars, the U.S. dollar unit value of such fund is determined by converting the unit value determined in Canadian dollars into U.S. dollars using the rate of exchange in effect at the close of business on the valuation date.
- › If a valuation date of a fund is not a business day for a specific market, the prices or quotations of the prior business day will be used to value any asset or liability for such market.
- › If the valuation principles described above are not appropriate under the circumstances, RBC GAM will determine a value which it considers to be fair and reasonable in the circumstances. RBC GAM has not exercised this discretion within the past three years.

You can get the net asset value of a fund or the net asset value per unit of a series of a fund, at no cost, on the RBC Funds website at [www.rbcgam.com](http://www.rbcgam.com) or through our interactive voice response system by calling us toll-free at 1-800-463-FUND (3863) (English) or 1-800-668-FOND (3663) (French) or by sending an email to [funds.investments@rbc.com](mailto:funds.investments@rbc.com) (English) or [fonds.investissements@rbc.com](mailto:fonds.investissements@rbc.com) (French) or by asking your dealer.

## Purchases, switches and redemptions of units

### *How to buy, redeem and switch*

It is up to you or your investment professional, if applicable, to determine which series is appropriate for you. Different series may have different minimum investment levels, may require you to pay different fees and expenses and may affect the compensation we pay to a dealer.

Your dealer must send your order to us on the same day it is received. It is the responsibility of your dealer to transmit orders to us in a timely manner and assume all associated costs.

#### **Series A units**

Series A units are available:

- (i) through RMFI by:
  - › visiting an RBC Royal Bank\* branch,
  - › calling 1-800-463-FUND (3863) (English) or 1-800-668-FOND (3663) (French) to speak to a RMFI licensed representative, or
  - › using RBC Royal Bank's Online Banking service at [www.rbcroyalbank.com](http://www.rbcroyalbank.com); or
- (ii) through other authorized dealers, including RBC DS and RBC DI.

#### **Series T5 units**

Series T5 units are available through authorized dealers, including RBC DS and RBC DI.

\* RBC Royal Bank is the brand name for personal and commercial banking in Canada, serving small- and medium-sized business and mid-market commercial clients in Canada.

#### **Series D units**

Series D units may be available to investors who have accounts with RBC DI or other discount brokers. We pay a reduced trailing commission with respect to Series D units, which means we can charge a lower management fee. RBC DI and other discount brokers do not provide investment recommendations or advice to their clients. **If you wish to transfer your holdings of units of a fund to RBC DI or another discount brokerage account, you must contact RBC DI or the other discount broker. If you hold units of a fund, other than Series D units, in an RBC DI or other discount brokerage account and become eligible to hold Series D units, you may instruct RBC DI or your discount broker to reclassify your units but it will not be done automatically.**

Series D units may also be available to investors who have accounts with PH&N IF, where the account minimums established by PH&N IF from time to time are satisfied.

#### **Series F and Series FT5 units**

Series F and Series FT5 units are available to investors who have fee-based accounts with their dealers. These investors pay their dealer a fee directly for investment advice or other services. We do not pay any sales charges or trailing commissions to dealers who sell Series F and Series FT5 units, which means that we can charge a lower management fee.

For Series A, Series T5, Series D, Series F and Series FT5 units, you must invest and maintain a minimum balance for each fund. The amount of such minimum balance is set out in the simplified prospectus of the funds.

#### **Series O units**

Series O units are for individuals, institutional clients or dealers who have entered into an agreement directly with RBC GAM to purchase Series O units. No management fees are payable by each fund in respect of Series O units. Unitholders of Series O units pay a negotiated fee directly or indirectly to RBC GAM, which will not exceed 2%.

#### **All series**

If your balance falls below the minimum required balance for a particular fund or series, or you otherwise become ineligible to hold a particular fund or series, we may redeem or reclassify your units, as applicable. Where a unitholder is or becomes a citizen or resident of the United States or a resident of any other foreign country, we may require such unitholder to redeem their units if their participation has the potential to cause adverse regulatory or tax consequences for a fund or other unitholders of a fund. If we redeem, reclassify or switch your units, the effect will be the same as if you initiated the transaction. For redemptions in non-registered accounts, we may transfer the proceeds to you, and for redemptions in registered plans, we may transfer the proceeds to a registered savings deposit within the plan. We will not give you or your dealer notice prior to taking any action.

For us to act on an order to buy, redeem, reclassify or switch units, the branch, telephone salesperson or dealer must send the order to us on the same day it is received and assume all associated costs.

If we receive your order before 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time on a valuation date (and before 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time on December 24, if that day is a valuation date), your order will be processed using that day's unit value. A separate unit value is calculated for each series of units. If we receive your order after 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time on a valuation date (and after 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time on December 24, if that day is a valuation date), your order will be processed using the next valuation date's unit value. If we determine that the unit value will be calculated at a time other than after the usual closing time of the TSX, the unit value paid or received will be determined relative to that time. All orders are processed within two business days. If you are placing your order through a dealer other than RMFI or RBC DS, the dealer may establish earlier cut-off times. Check with your dealer for details.

RBC Royal Bank customers with RMFI non-registered accounts are able to view, buy, redeem and switch RBC Funds using RBC Royal Bank's Online Banking service at [www.rbcroyalbank.com](http://www.rbcroyalbank.com). Customers with RBC Royal Bank RRSP accounts are able to view, buy or switch units of the RBC Funds within these accounts online. For Online Banking transactions, if RMFI receives your order before 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time, you will pay or receive that day's unit price, unless a different cut-off time is established by the trustee. If RMFI receives your order after 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time, you will pay or receive the unit value on the next business day.

Within two business days after a purchase order is received, the trustee will issue the units subject to its right of rejection, at the unit value of the series on the date that the purchase order was received. Units may be issued only in exchange for cash.

RBC GAM may accept or reject purchase orders, in whole or in part, within one business day of the order. If a purchase order is rejected, the monies received with the order will be returned to the investor immediately.

Your dealer may make arrangements with you that will require you to compensate your dealer for any losses suffered by the dealer in connection with a failed purchase order caused by you.

You can buy units of the RBC Emerging Markets Equity Focus Fund in Canadian or U.S. dollars. The U.S. dollar unit value of the RBC Emerging Markets Equity Focus Fund is determined by converting the fund's unit value calculated in Canadian dollars into U.S. dollars using the rate of exchange in effect at the close of business on the valuation date.

For Canadian tax purposes, capital gains and losses must be tracked and reported in Canadian dollars. To calculate capital gains or losses, if you buy, sell or switch units that are denominated in U.S. dollars, you must convert U.S. dollars to Canadian dollars using the applicable rate of exchange on the day(s) you bought, sold or switched the units. In addition, although distributions will be paid in U.S. dollars, they must be reported in Canadian dollars for Canadian tax purposes. For more information about how your U.S. dollar denominated units will be subject to Canadian income tax, please see *Income tax considerations for investors – For fund units held in a non-registered account* in the simplified prospectus of the funds. You should consult your tax advisor about your individual situation.

Our U.S. dollar purchase option is being offered to investors who wish to purchase units of the RBC Emerging Markets Equity Focus Fund using U.S. dollars. If you buy your units in U.S. dollars, you will receive U.S. dollars when you sell or switch them, or receive distributions from the fund. There is no additional strategy involved with U.S. dollar priced options. It does not act as a currency hedge or protect against losses caused by changes in the exchange rates between Canadian and U.S. dollars and there is no difference in the investment return of your fund.

Units of the RBC Emerging Markets Balanced Fund are not available for purchase in U.S. dollars.

## Switches and reclassifications of units

A switch is the exchange of units of one fund for units of another. You can switch units from one RBC Fund to another as long as you maintain the relevant minimum balance in each RBC Fund.

You can only switch between units of RBC Funds denominated in the same currency. See *Purchases, switches and redemptions – How to buy, redeem and switch* in the simplified prospectus of the funds.

You can change your investment from units of one series of a fund to units of another series of the same fund if you are eligible to hold units of the second series. This is called a reclassification. If you cease to be eligible to hold units of a series because you no longer meet the relevant eligibility requirements, your units will be reclassified into units of the series of the fund that you are eligible to hold. A reclassification of units will not result in a capital gain or loss because a reclassification is not considered a redemption or other disposition of the reclassified units for tax purposes.



Once we receive your order to switch, we will redeem your units in the fund from which you are switching and use the proceeds to buy units of the fund or RBC Fund to which you are switching.

If a unitholder requests a switch from one fund to another RBC Fund, the purchase of units of the RBC Fund will be at the unit value of the series of units on the date of redemption from the first fund.

Switching may result in a capital gain or loss for tax purposes. See *Income tax considerations* on page 28.

## Redemptions

You can sell units at any time. This is called a redemption. Your dealer must send your redemption request on the same day it is received. Redemption requests will be processed in the order in which they are received. The fund will not process redemption requests specifying a forward date or specific price. Your dealer will assume all associated costs.

Redemption orders which are received by RBC GAM before 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time on any valuation date (and before 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time on December 24, if that day is a valuation date) will be priced using that day's unit value. Redemption orders which are received by RBC GAM after 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time on a valuation date (and after 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time on December 24, if that day is a valuation date) will be priced on the next valuation date. If RBC GAM decides to calculate unit value at a time other than after the usual closing time of the TSX, the unit price received will be determined relative to that time. Note that your dealer may establish an earlier cut-off time.

Redemption requests for the funds must be for an amount of at least \$25 (unless the account balance is less than \$25).

Within two business days following each valuation date, we will pay to each unitholder who has requested a redemption the value of the units determined on the valuation date. If all of a unitholder's units in a fund are redeemed, any net income and net realized capital gains relating to the units which have been made payable prior to the valuation date will also be paid to the unitholder. Payment will be made in the same currency in which the units are held. If a unitholder redeems only some of its units in a fund, the proceeds will be paid as described above and net income and net realized capital gains attributable to the units will be paid to the unitholder in accordance with the fund's distribution policy, as described in the simplified prospectus of the funds. Payments will be considered made upon deposit of the redemption proceeds in the unitholder's bank account or the mailing of a cheque in a postage prepaid envelope addressed to the unitholder unless the cheque is not honoured for payment.

Your redemption (or switch) transaction will not be processed until your dealer has received all documentation. Your dealer will inform you of the documentation it requires. Your dealer must provide all required documents to us within 10 business days of the date of your redemption order. If not, we will repurchase the units for your account. If the cost of repurchasing the units is less than the sale proceeds, the fund will keep the difference. If the cost of repurchasing the units is more than the sale proceeds, your dealer must pay the difference and any related costs. Your dealer may make arrangements with you that will require you to compensate your dealer for any losses suffered by the dealer in connection with your failure to satisfy the requirements of the fund or securities legislation for a redemption of securities of the fund.

### *When you may not be allowed to redeem your units*

Under extraordinary circumstances, you may not be allowed to redeem your units. We may refuse your order to redeem if:

- › normal trading is suspended on any stock exchange or market where more than 50% of the assets of a fund are listed or traded; or
- › we get permission from the Canadian Securities Administrators to temporarily suspend the redemption of units.

A fund will not allow the purchase of units when the right to redeem units is suspended.

## Responsibility for operations of the funds

### *Manager, trustee and portfolio manager*

RBC GAM is the manager, trustee, valuator and portfolio manager of the funds. The address, phone number and website address of RBC GAM is 155 Wellington Street West, Suite 2200, Toronto, Ontario, M5V 3K7, 1-800-463-FUND (3863) (English) or 1-800-668-FOND (3663) (French) and www.rbcgam.com. You can contact us by email at funds.investments@rbc.com (English) or fonds.investissements@rbc.com (French).

RBC GAM manages the funds pursuant to the Master Declaration of Trust. RBC GAM is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the funds, including valuation and unitholder recordkeeping services, the supervision of brokerage arrangements for the purchase and sale of fund securities and other assets, the appointment of distributors for the funds and the provision of investment advice and portfolio management services. RBC GAM is paid a management fee as compensation for the services it provides to each fund. RBC GAM is also paid a fixed administration fee by the funds. In return, RBC GAM pays certain operating expenses of the funds. The administration fee paid to RBC GAM by a fund in respect of a series may, in any particular period, exceed or be lower than the operating expenses paid by RBC GAM for that series of the fund. The amount and details of such fees are set out in the simplified prospectus of the funds. RBC GAM currently manages other mutual funds offered to the public.

As trustee, RBC GAM holds the property of each fund on behalf of the unitholders of the fund. RBC GAM may resign as trustee provided that unitholders of the fund approve of the new trustee. Unitholder approval is not required if the new trustee is an affiliate of RBC GAM but 60 days' notice of the new trustee will be given to unitholders of the fund. The Master Declaration of Trust may be amended in the manner described under *Description of units of the funds*.

The services provided by RBC GAM are not exclusive to the funds, and nothing in the Master Declaration of Trust prevents RBC GAM or any of its affiliates from providing similar services to other investment funds and other clients (whether or not their investment objectives and policies are similar to those of the funds) or from engaging in other activities.

The Master Declaration of Trust provides that RBC GAM and its directors, officers, employees, agents, advisors and affiliated parties have a right of indemnification in respect of costs they incur in carrying out their duties under the applicable declaration, unless the costs are incurred as a result of negligence, wilful default or dishonesty or failing to meet the standard of care as set out in the applicable declaration.

The name and municipality of residence, position and office held with RBC GAM and current principal occupation of each of the directors and executive officers of RBC GAM are as follows:

NAME	MUNICIPALITY OF RESIDENCE	POSITION AND OFFICE HELD WITH RBC GAM	CURRENT PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION
Wayne Bossert	Oakville, Ontario	Director	Deputy Chair and Head of Global Ultra-High Net Worth Clients and Canadian Private Banking, Royal Bank
Daniel E. Chornous	Toronto, Ontario	Director and Chief Investment Officer	Chief Investment Officer, RBC GAM
Douglas Coulter	Toronto, Ontario	Director and President, Retail	President, Retail, RBC GAM

NAME	MUNICIPALITY OF RESIDENCE	POSITION AND OFFICE HELD WITH RBC GAM	CURRENT PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION
Steve Gabor	Vancouver, British Columbia	Chief Financial Officer, RBC GAM	Chief Financial Officer, RBC GAM
Matthew D. Graham	Toronto, Ontario	Chief Operating Officer	Chief Operating Officer, RBC GAM
Douglas A. Guzman	Toronto, Ontario	Director and Chairman	Group Head, Wealth Management & Insurance, Royal Bank
Heidi Johnston	Squamish, British Columbia	Chief Financial Officer, RBC GAM Funds	Chief Financial Officer, RBC GAM Funds, RBC GAM
Daniela Moretti	Toronto, Ontario	Corporate Secretary	Senior Counsel, Subsidiary Governance Officer, Royal Bank
Dave Y. Mun	Toronto, Ontario	Director	Senior Vice President, Performance Management & Investor Relations, Royal Bank
Lawrence A.W. Neilsen	Vancouver, British Columbia	Chief Compliance Officer	Global Head of Compliance, RBC Global Asset Management
Chandra Stempien	Toronto, Ontario	Director	Managing Director and Head Counterparty Credit Risk, Royal Bank
Damon G. Williams	Toronto, Ontario	Director, Chief Executive Officer and Ultimate Designated Person	Chief Executive Officer, RBC GAM

Each of the people listed above has held his or her current position with RBC GAM or one of our predecessor amalgamating entities, RBC Asset Management Inc. and/or PH&N, and his or her principal occupation during the five years preceding the date hereof, except for Wayne Bossert, who from June 2010 to February 2015 was Executive Vice President Sales, Canadian Banking, Royal Bank, Steve Gabor, who prior to December 2017 was Acting Chief Financial Officer, RBC GAM and prior to July 2017 was Vice President, RBC GAM, Matthew D. Graham, who from September 2015 to June 2017 was Chief Operating Officer, International, RBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited (*RBC GAM (UK)*) and from June 2009 to September 2015 was Vice President, Institutional Strategy, RBC GAM, Douglas A. Guzman, who from September 2006 is Managing Director, RBC DS and from September 2008 to November 2015 was Head of Global Investment Banking, RBC DS, Heidi Johnston, who prior to December 2017 was Acting Chief Financial Officer, RBC GAM Funds and prior to July 2017 was Vice President, RBC GAM, Daniela Moretti, who from March 9, 2018 is Corporate Secretary, RBC GAM and holds various positions with other Royal Bank affiliates, and also serves as Senior Counsel in the Royal Bank Subsidiary Governance Office, and as Assistant Secretary for Royal Bank, and prior to September 2017 was Senior Counsel and Assistant Secretary, Royal Bank, Dave Y. Mun,

who from June 2014 to June 2016 was Vice President, Finance, Wealth Management, Royal Bank, from July 2012 to June 2014 was Vice President, Finance – Performance Management, Royal Bank and prior thereto held various positions with Royal Bank and RBC DS, Chandra Stempien, who from November 2013 to December 2015 was Head of Market, Operational and Trading Credit Risk – Asia Pacific, Royal Bank and Damon G. Williams, who from November 2010 to April 2015 was President, Institutional, RBC GAM.

*Principal distributor*

RBC GAM is the principal distributor of the units of the funds other than Series A units. The address of RBC GAM is 155 Wellington Street West, Suite 2200, Toronto, Ontario, M5V 3K7.

RMFI is the principal distributor of Series A units of the funds pursuant to the terms of a distribution agreement between RBC GAM and RMFI dated as of February 12, 2004. The distribution agreement may be terminated on 30 days' written notice by either party. The address of RMFI is 200 Bay Street, Royal Bank Plaza, South Tower, 9th Floor, Toronto, Ontario, M5J 2J5.

*Investment advisors*

**RBC Global Asset Management Inc. – RBC Emerging Markets Balanced Fund**

NAME	POSITION AND OFFICE	PRINCIPAL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION DURING PRECEDING FIVE YEARS
Daniel E. Chornous	Director and Chief Investment Officer	Received B. Comm. from University of Manitoba; Chartered Financial Analyst; associated with RBC GAM since 2002
Sarah Riopelle	Vice President and Senior Portfolio Manager, Investment Solutions	Chartered Financial Analyst; associated with RBC GAM since 2003

The investment decisions of the individuals listed in the table above made on behalf of RBC GAM are not subject to the oversight, approval or ratification of any committee. The investment decision-making process is supported by research, analysis and internal investment committees. Investment decisions are overseen by the Chief Investment Officer.

**RBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited – RBC Emerging Markets Equity Focus Fund**

NAME	POSITION AND OFFICE	PRINCIPAL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION DURING PRECEDING FIVE YEARS
Laurence Bensafi	Senior Portfolio Manager and Deputy Head, Emerging Markets	Associated with RBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited since 2013; prior thereto, associated with Aviva Investors
Philippe Langham	Senior Portfolio Manager and Head, Emerging Markets	Associated with RBC Global Asset Management (UK) Limited since December 2009

The investment decisions of the individuals listed in the table above made on behalf of RBC GAM (UK) are not subject to the oversight, approval or ratification of any committee. The investment decision-making process is supported by research and analysis by the investment team within RBC GAM (UK). The investment sub-advisor agreement between RBC GAM and RBC GAM (UK) dated as of October 1, 2005, as amended, provides that it may be terminated on 61 days' prior written notice given by RBC GAM or by RBC GAM (UK). RBC GAM also has the right to terminate the agreement immediately if RBC GAM (UK) commits certain acts or fails to perform its duties under the agreement. The agreement automatically terminates on the termination of RBC GAM as principal advisor in connection with the fund.

### *Brokerage arrangements*

RBC GAM or RBC GAM (UK), as applicable, makes decisions as to the purchase and sale of fund securities, including units of the underlying funds and other assets of the funds such as cash and term deposits as well as decisions regarding the execution of portfolio transactions of a fund, including the selection of market, broker and the negotiation of commissions.

In certain circumstances, RBC GAM receives goods or services from dealers or brokers in exchange for directing brokerage transactions to such dealers or brokers. The types of goods and services for which RBC GAM may direct brokerage commissions are research goods and services (*research goods and services*) and order execution goods and services (*order execution goods and services*).

RBC GAM receives research goods and services which include: (i) advice as to the value of securities and the advisability of effecting transactions in securities; and (ii) analyses and reports concerning securities, issuers, industries, portfolio strategy or economic or political factors and trends that may have an impact on the value of securities. Such goods and services may be provided by the executing dealer directly (known as proprietary research) or by a party other than the executing dealer (known as third-party research). The research goods and services with which RBC GAM is provided in exchange for brokerage commissions include advice, analyses and reports that focus on, among other matters, specific stocks, sectors and economies.

RBC GAM may also receive order execution goods and services, such as data analysis, software applications and data feeds. These goods and services may be provided by the executing dealer directly or by a party other than the executing dealer.

The users of these research goods and services and order execution goods and services are RBC GAM's portfolio managers, analysts and traders.

In certain instances, RBC GAM may receive goods and services containing some elements that qualify as research goods and services and/or order execution goods and services and other elements that do not qualify as either of such permitted goods and services. These types of goods and services are considered to be mixed-use (*mixed-use goods and services*). If RBC GAM obtains mixed-use goods and services, RBC GAM only uses brokerage commissions to pay for the portion that would qualify as permitted goods and services that are used in its investment or trading decisions or in effecting securities transactions, each on behalf of the funds. The types of mixed-use goods and services that RBC GAM may receive include software applications and data analysis.

RBC GAM only routes trade orders to a dealer or broker for execution if RBC GAM has reviewed and approved of that dealer or broker for use. RBC GAM approves a dealer or broker for use if it is of the view that the dealer or broker is able to provide best execution, which includes a number of considerations such as price, volume, speed and certainty of execution, and total transaction cost.

An additional but secondary consideration when RBC GAM reviews and approves a dealer or broker is the dealer's or broker's ability to provide research goods and services and order execution goods and services that add value to our investment decision-making and trade order execution processes to generate investment returns for clients. Other factors that we consider when reviewing and approving a dealer or broker include the dealer's or broker's regulatory status, its creditworthiness and its ability to efficiently process trade orders and settle trades.

RBC GAM uses the same criteria in selecting all of its dealers and brokers, regardless of whether the dealer or broker is an affiliate of RBC GAM. RBC GAM currently has in place brokerage arrangements with RBC DS, RBC Europe Limited (*RBC Europe*) and RBC Capital Markets, LLC (*RBC CM*), affiliates of RBC GAM. RBC DS, RBC Europe and RBC CM may provide research goods and services, order execution goods and services and mixed-use goods and services in exchange for effecting brokerage transactions.

RBC GAM conducts extensive trade cost analysis to ensure that the funds and clients of RBC GAM receive a reasonable benefit considering the use of the research goods and services and order execution goods and services, as applicable, and the amount of brokerage commissions paid. Specifically, RBC GAM's investment management teams decide which dealers or brokers are allocated brokerage business based on their ability to provide best execution of trades, the competitiveness of the commission costs, and the range of services and quality of research received.

RBC GAM may use research goods and services and order execution goods and services to benefit the funds and clients of RBC GAM other than those whose trades generated the brokerage commission. However, RBC GAM has policies and procedures in place to make a good faith determination that over a reasonable period of time, all clients, including the funds, receive fair and reasonable benefit in return for the commission generated.

For a list of any other dealer, broker or third party which provides research goods and services and/or order execution goods and services, at no cost, call us at 1-800-463-FUND (3863) (English) or 1-800-668-FOND (3663) (French) or send an email to [funds.investments@rbc.com](mailto:funds.investments@rbc.com) (English) or [fonds.investissements@rbc.com](mailto:fonds.investissements@rbc.com) (French).

#### **Sub-advisor**

RBC GAM (UK) pays for all research goods and services and order execution goods and services directly.

#### ***Custodian***

RBC IS of Toronto, Ontario is the custodian of the assets of the funds pursuant to an amended and restated master custodian agreement between RBC GAM and RBC IS dated July 26, 2012, as amended (the *Master Custodian Agreement*). RBC IS may appoint sub-custodians from time to time as permitted under the Master Custodian Agreement and NI 81-102. RBC IS receives a fee from RBC GAM for the custodian services provided to the funds. Either party may terminate the Master Custodian Agreement by giving the other party 90 days' notice.

#### ***Auditor***

The auditor of the funds is PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants, of Toronto, Ontario.

#### ***Registrar***

Royal Bank, RBC IS and RBC GAM keep a record of who owns all fund units. The register of the funds is kept in Montreal, Quebec, Toronto, Ontario and Vancouver, British Columbia.

#### ***Securities lending agent***

RBC IS of Toronto, Ontario is the securities lending agent of the funds pursuant to an amended and restated securities lending agency agreement between RBC GAM and RBC IS dated June 27, 2011 (the *Securities Lending Agency Agreement*). RBC IS a wholly owned subsidiary of Royal Bank and an affiliate of RBC GAM. In accordance with the Securities Lending Agency Agreement, RBC IS will value the loaned securities and the collateral daily to ensure that the collateral is worth at least 102% of the value of the securities. Pursuant to the terms of the Securities Lending Agency Agreement, RBC IS will indemnify and hold harmless each of the funds from any losses which may result from a breach of RBC IS's standard of care or from its negligence, fraud or wilful misconduct. Either party may terminate the Securities Lending Agency Agreement by giving the other party five business days' written notice.

*Independent Review Committee*

The IRC acts as the independent review committee that each fund is required to have under Canadian securities laws. The IRC reviews and provides input on conflict of interest matters in respect of RBC GAM and the funds. See *Corporate governance of the funds* on page 25.

**Conflicts of interest**

*Principal holders of securities*

*(a) Funds*

Except as stated below, as at January 24, 2019, no person or company owns of record or, to the knowledge of the relevant fund or the manager, beneficially, directly or indirectly, more than 10% of the outstanding units of any series of the funds.

*RBC Emerging Markets Balanced Fund*

NAME	TYPE OF OWNERSHIP	NUMBER OF UNITS OWNED	SERIES	PERCENTAGE OF OUTSTANDING UNITS OF EACH SERIES
Capital Funding Alberta Limited	Record and Beneficial	100	A	100%
Capital Funding Alberta Limited	Record and Beneficial	100	T5	100%
Capital Funding Alberta Limited	Record and Beneficial	100	D	100%
Capital Funding Alberta Limited	Record and Beneficial	100	F	100%
Capital Funding Alberta Limited	Record and Beneficial	100	FT5	100%
Capital Funding Alberta Limited	Record and Beneficial	14,500	0	100%

*RBC Emerging Markets Equity Focus Fund*

NAME	TYPE OF OWNERSHIP	NUMBER OF UNITS OWNED	SERIES	PERCENTAGE OF OUTSTANDING UNITS OF EACH SERIES
Capital Funding Alberta Limited	Record and Beneficial	100	A	100%
Capital Funding Alberta Limited	Record and Beneficial	100	T5	100%
Capital Funding Alberta Limited	Record and Beneficial	100	D	100%
Capital Funding Alberta Limited	Record and Beneficial	100	F	100%
Capital Funding Alberta Limited	Record and Beneficial	100	FT5	100%
Capital Funding Alberta Limited	Record and Beneficial	14,500	O	100%

*(b) Manager*

Except as stated below, as at January 24, 2019, no person or company owned of record or, to the knowledge of the manager, beneficially, directly or indirectly, more than 10% of the outstanding shares of RBC GAM, the manager of the funds.

NAME	TYPE OF OWNERSHIP	NUMBER OF SHARES OWNED	PERCENTAGE OF OUTSTANDING SHARES
Royal Bank of Canada	Record and Beneficial	75,000 Common Shares	100%

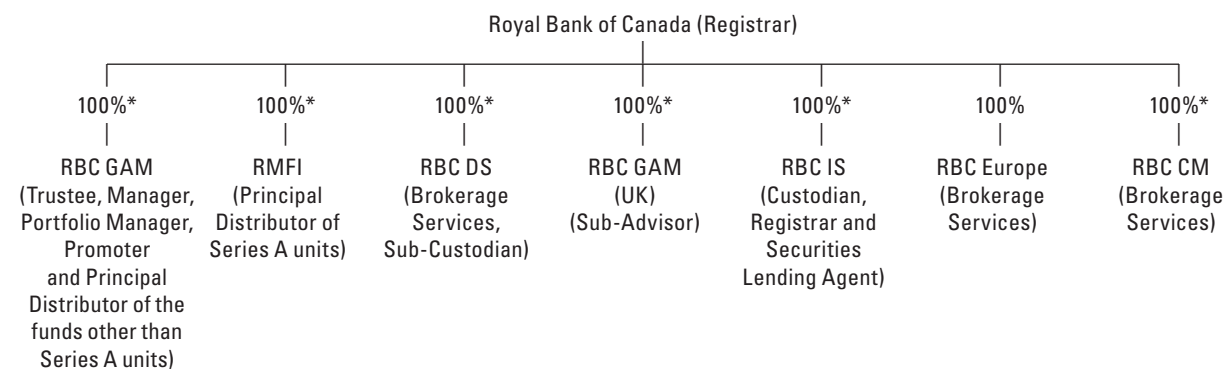
The percentage of securities of each class or series of voting or equity securities of Royal Bank beneficially owned, directly or indirectly, in aggregate, by all the directors and officers of RBC GAM is no more than 0.09%, and by all members of the IRC, is no more than 0.01%.

Royal Bank owns, directly or indirectly, 100% or 60,000, 1,000,000 and 1,001,002, respectively, of the outstanding common shares of RMFI, RBC DI and RBC DS.



*Affiliated entities*

The following companies that provide services to the funds or RBC GAM in relation to the funds are affiliated with RBC GAM:



\* Indirect subsidiaries of Royal Bank of Canada.

The management fees and administration fees paid by the funds to RBC GAM and the brokerage commissions paid by the funds to affiliates are contained in the audited financial statements of the funds. No brokerage commissions are paid by the funds in connection with investing in units of the underlying funds. The fees paid to the other affiliates indicated above are paid by RBC GAM out of the management fees and administration fees paid to RBC GAM by the funds, as applicable.

The following individuals are directors or officers of RBC GAM and also of an affiliated entity of RBC GAM that provides services to the funds or RBC GAM in relation to the funds:

NAME	POSITION WITH MANAGER	POSITION WITH AFFILIATE
Wayne Bossert	Director	Executive Vice President, Royal Bank; Director, RBC DS
Daniel E. Chornous	Director and Chief Investment Officer	Senior Vice President, Royal Bank; Director, RBC GAM (UK)
Douglas Coulter	Director and President, Retail	Senior Vice President, Royal Bank; Director, RMFI
Matthew D. Graham	Chief Operating Officer	Vice President, Royal Bank; Director RBC GAM (UK)
Douglas A. Guzman	Director and Chairman	Group Head, Wealth Management & Insurance, Royal Bank; Managing Director, RBC DS
Daniela Moretti	Corporate Secretary	Assistant Secretary, Royal Bank; Corporate Secretary, RBC DS
Dave Y. Mun	Director	Senior Vice President, Performance Management & Investor Relations, Royal Bank

NAME	POSITION WITH MANAGER	POSITION WITH AFFILIATE
Chandra Stempien	Director	Vice President, Royal Bank
Damon G. Williams	Director, Chief Executive Officer and Ultimate Designated Person	Executive Vice President, Royal Bank

As disclosed in the table above, certain directors or officers of RBC GAM may also be directors or officers of Royal Bank, RMFI, RBC GAM (UK) or RBC DS. RBC GAM has established appropriate policies and procedures to minimize the potential for conflicts between the interests of RBC GAM and any affiliated entities. In particular, RBC GAM has policies and procedures which deal with the trading in common shares of Royal Bank and offerings underwritten by RBC DS, RBC CM and RBC Europe and to ensure that any brokerage business allocated to RBC DS, RBC CM and RBC Europe will be on the basis of best execution and will be on competitive terms and conditions. See *Corporate governance of the funds – Independent Review Committee and Responsibility for operations of the funds – Brokerage arrangements*. RBC GAM monitors the application of such policies and procedures to ensure their continuing effectiveness.

## Corporate governance of the funds

RBC GAM, in its role as trustee of the funds, has overall responsibility for management of the funds.

### *Policies, procedures, practices and guidelines*

As manager and portfolio manager of the funds, RBC GAM is responsible for the day-to-day management, administration and operation of the funds, and provides investment advice and portfolio management services to the funds.

RBC GAM has established appropriate policies, procedures, practices and guidelines to ensure the proper management of the funds, including, as required by NI 81-107, policies and procedures relating to conflicts of interest. The systems used by RBC GAM in relation to the funds monitor and manage the business and sales practices, risk and internal conflicts of interest relating to the funds, while ensuring compliance with applicable regulatory, compliance and corporate requirements. RBC GAM personnel responsible for compliance, together with management of RBC GAM, ensure that these policies, procedures, practices and guidelines are communicated from time to time to all relevant persons and are updated as necessary (including the systems referred to above) to reflect changing circumstances. RBC GAM also monitors the application of all such policies, procedures, practices and guidelines to ensure their continuing effectiveness.

Compliance with the investment practices and investment restrictions mandated by securities legislation is monitored by RBC GAM on a regular basis. The investment practices and restrictions for the funds and guidelines for derivative use, securities lending transactions, repurchase agreements and reverse repurchase agreements are outlined beginning on page 2.

RBC GAM has also developed a personal trading policy for employees (the *Policy*) which is designed to prevent potential, perceived or actual conflicts between the interests of RBC GAM and its staff and the interests of clients and the funds. Under the Policy, certain RBC GAM personnel are required to pre-clear certain personal securities transactions in order to ensure that those trades do not conflict with the best interests of the funds and have not been offered to the person because of the position they hold in RBC GAM.

*Independent Review Committee*

The IRC reviews and provides input on conflict of interest matters in respect of RBC GAM and the funds.

The IRC will, no less frequently than annually, review and assess the adequacy and effectiveness of:

- › RBC GAM’s policies and procedures relating to conflict of interest matters in respect of the funds;
- › any standing instructions it has provided to RBC GAM pertaining to conflict of interest matters in respect of the funds;
- › RBC GAM’s and the funds’ compliance with any conditions imposed by the IRC in a recommendation or approval; and
- › any subcommittee to which the IRC has delegated any of its functions.

In addition, the IRC will, no less frequently than annually, review and assess the independence of its members, the compensation of its members, its effectiveness and the contribution and effectiveness of its members. The IRC will provide RBC GAM with a report of the results of such assessment.

The IRC prepares an annual report that describes its activities as the independent review committee of the funds. For a copy of this report, at no cost, call us at 1-800-463-FUND (3863) (English) or 1-800-668-FOND (3663) (French) or ask your dealer. You can also get a copy of this report on the RBC Funds website at [www.rbcgam.com](http://www.rbcgam.com) or by sending an email to [funds.investments@rbc.com](mailto:funds.investments@rbc.com) (English) or [fonds.investissements@rbc.com](mailto:fonds.investissements@rbc.com) (French).

This report and other information about the IRC are also available at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).

The IRC is composed of five members and each is independent from RBC GAM, the funds and entities related to RBC GAM. Set forth below are the name, municipality of residence and principal occupation of each of the members of the IRC:

NAME	MUNICIPALITY OF RESIDENCE	CURRENT PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION
Paul K. Bates	Millgrove, Ontario	Academic and former Investment Industry Executive
Catherine J. Kloepfer <sup>1</sup>	Winnipeg, Manitoba	Senior Vice President, Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer, Winnipeg Airports Authority Inc.
Charles F. Macfarlane <sup>2</sup>	Toronto, Ontario	Board Director and Former Investment Industry Executive and Regulator
Mary C. Ritchie	Edmonton, Alberta	President and Chief Executive Officer, Richford Holdings Ltd.
Suomitra Sanatani	Edmonton, Alberta	Corporate Director

<sup>1</sup> Vice Chair of the IRC

<sup>2</sup> Chair of the IRC

*Policies and procedures regarding proxy voting*

As portfolio manager for the funds, RBC GAM has responsibility for the investment management of the funds, including the exercise of voting rights attaching to securities held by the funds. In the discussion below, *fund* or *funds* may also refer to the underlying fund.

Each fund has proxy voting policies and procedures that apply to securities held by the fund to which voting rights are attached. RBC GAM has established proxy voting policies, procedures and guidelines (the *Proxy Voting Guidelines*) for securities held by the funds to which voting rights are attached. The Proxy Voting Guidelines provide that each fund's voting rights will be exercised in accordance with the best interests of the fund.

Issuers' proxies most frequently contain proposals to elect corporate directors, to appoint external auditors and set their compensation, to adopt or amend management compensation plans, and to amend the capitalization of the company. The Proxy Voting Guidelines set out the principles of corporate governance that RBC GAM will follow to determine whether and how to vote on any matter for which a fund receives proxy materials. The Proxy Voting Guidelines establish guidelines relating to the voting of securities of an issuer for the following categories of matters: board of directors, management and director compensation, takeover bid protection, shareholder rights and shareholder proposals. While RBC GAM will generally vote the funds' proxies in accordance with the Proxy Voting Guidelines, there may be circumstances where it believes it is in the best interests of a fund to vote differently than the manner contemplated by the guidelines. The ultimate decision as to the manner in which the funds' proxies will be voted rests with RBC GAM. Any matters not covered by the Proxy Voting Guidelines, including business issues specific to the issuer or issues raised by shareholders of the issuer, will be assessed on a case-by-case basis with a focus on the potential impact of the vote on shareholder value. RBC GAM has retained Institutional Shareholder Services Inc. to provide administrative and proxy voting services to the funds. RBC GAM also has a Proxy Voting Policy which includes procedures to ensure that voting rights are exercised in accordance with the best interests of the applicable fund.

In the event that RBC GAM faces a potential material conflict of interest with respect to proxies, RBC GAM's Proxy Voting Committee will meet to resolve the conflict. In some cases, proxy voting matters may be referred to the IRC for its recommendation. RBC GAM employs a Governance Analyst who is responsible for ensuring that RBC GAM votes all proxies in accordance with the Proxy Voting Guidelines and for identifying any situations that must be addressed by the Proxy Voting Committee. As RBC GAM has discretionary authority over the funds' portfolios, RBC GAM files applicable class action settlement claims on behalf of the funds. RBC GAM has retained Institutional Shareholder Services Inc. to file and provide administrative support service for class action claims.

The Proxy Voting Guidelines are available on request, at no cost, by calling 1-800-463-FUND (3863) (English) or 1-800-668-FOND (3663) (French) or by writing to RBC Global Asset Management Inc., 155 Wellington Street West, Suite 2200, Toronto, Ontario, M5V 3K7. The Proxy Voting Guidelines are also available from the RBC GAM website at [www.rbcgam.com](http://www.rbcgam.com).

The proxy voting record for each fund for the most recent 12-month period ended June 30 of each year will be available at no cost to any unitholder of the fund upon request at any time after August 31 of that year. The proxy voting record for each fund will also be available quarterly on the RBC GAM website at [www.rbcgam.com](http://www.rbcgam.com).

### *Voting rights and fund-of-fund investments*

The funds may invest in other mutual funds (called the *underlying funds*), including, in some cases, another RBC Fund, RBC Private Pool, PH&N Fund or RBC ETF. If a unitholder meeting is called for an underlying fund that is managed by us or an affiliate, you will have the voting rights that come with the units of the underlying fund and we will not vote the units of the underlying fund. If a unitholder meeting is called for an underlying fund that is not managed by us or an affiliate, we will exercise our discretion with respect to those voting rights in a manner that is consistent with the Proxy Voting Policy.

### *Short-term trading*

RBC GAM has established policies and procedures to discourage investors from buying, redeeming or switching units frequently. Depending on the fund and the particular circumstances, RBC GAM will employ a combination of preventative and detective measures to discourage and identify excessive short-term trading in the RBC Funds, including:

- › fair value pricing of securities held by a fund;
- › imposition of short-term trading fees; and
- › monitoring of trading activity and refusal of trades.

See *Short-term trading* in the simplified prospectus of the funds for more information on short-term trading fees, including circumstances where they may not apply.

### **Income tax considerations**

This section describes the principal Canadian federal income tax considerations applicable to the funds and to investors in a fund who are individuals and who, for tax purposes, are residents of Canada, deal with the fund at arm's length and hold units of the fund as capital property.

The summary takes into account the current provisions of the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) and the regulations thereunder, as well as all publicly announced proposed amendments to the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) and regulations thereto. It also takes into account the published administrative policies and assessing practices of the Canada Revenue Agency (the *CRA*).

The summary is not intended to be exhaustive. It does not address provincial, territorial or foreign tax considerations. This summary does not constitute legal or tax advice to any particular purchaser or to any particular holder of units of a fund. Investors should consult their own tax advisors for advice with respect to the tax consequences of an investment in their particular circumstances.

### *Taxation of the funds*

The funds intend to be mutual fund trusts under Part I of the *Income Tax Act* (Canada).

Each of the funds is subject to income tax under the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) on its income (including its net taxable capital gains) for each year less the portion thereof that is paid or payable to the unitholders of the fund in the year. It is intended that each fund will distribute to its unitholders in each year its income (including its net taxable capital gains) to such an extent that it will not be liable in any year for ordinary income tax under Part I of the *Income Tax Act* (Canada).

If a fund does not qualify as a mutual fund trust and more than 50% (calculated on a fair market value basis) of the units of a fund are held by one or more unitholders that are considered to be "financial institutions" for the purposes of certain special mark-to-market rules in the *Income Tax Act* (Canada), then the fund itself will be treated as a financial institution under those special rules. Under those rules, the fund will be required to recognize at least annually on income account any gains and losses accruing on certain types of debt obligations and equity securities that it holds and also will be subject to special rules with respect to income inclusion on these securities. Any income arising from such treatment will be included in amounts to be distributed to unitholders. If more than 50% of the units of the fund cease to be held by financial institutions, the taxation year of the fund will be deemed to end immediately before that time and any gains or losses on certain types of debt obligations and equity securities that it holds accrued before that time will be deemed to be realized by the fund at that time and will be distributed to unitholders. A new taxation year for the fund will then begin as described above.

Initially, following the creation of a fund, a subsidiary of Royal Bank will hold all the outstanding units of the fund. As a result, the funds will, at least during an initial period, be subject to the special mark-to-market rules described above. If more than 50% of the units of a fund subsequently cease to be held by a subsidiary of Royal Bank and/or other financial institutions, the taxation year of the fund will be considered to have ended immediately before that time and any gains or losses on certain types of debt obligations and equity securities that it holds accrued to that time will be considered to be realized by the fund as described above and will be reflected in amounts considered to be distributed in that shortened taxation year to unitholders of the fund. A new taxation year for the fund will then begin as described above.

If a fund is not a mutual fund trust under the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) throughout a taxation year, the fund (i) may become liable for alternative minimum tax under the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) in such year, (ii) may be subject to a special tax under Part XII.2 of the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) in such year and (iii) may be subject to rules applicable to financial institutions discussed above. A fund that is a "registered investment" under the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) and is not a mutual fund trust may, in some circumstances, be subject to tax under Part X.2 of the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) if the fund makes an investment in property that is not a qualified investment for registered plans. Any fund that is a "registered investment" does not intend to make any investment which would result in the fund becoming subject to tax under Part X.2 of the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) for any period during which the fund is a registered investment.

A fund will include in computing its income for a taxation year any interest (or amount that is considered to be interest for the purposes of the *Income Tax Act* (Canada)) that accrues or is deemed to accrue to the fund to the end of the year, or becomes receivable or is received by the fund before the end of the year, to the extent that such interest (or amount considered to be interest) was not included in computing the fund's income for a preceding taxation year.

All of each fund's deductible expenses, including expenses common to all series of units of the fund and management fees and other expenses specific to a particular series of units of the fund, will be taken into account in determining the income or loss of the fund as a whole for tax purposes.

If appropriate designations are made by an underlying fund in which a fund invests, the nature of distributions from the underlying fund that are derived from dividends (including eligible dividends) from Canadian companies, foreign income and capital gains will be preserved in the hands of the fund that receives the distributions for the purpose of computing its income and making designations with respect to its own distributions to its unitholders. A fund may also receive distributions of ordinary income from an underlying fund. The nature of such amounts received by a fund may be reflected in distributions from that fund to its unitholders.

If the funds invest in securities which are not denominated in Canadian dollars, the cost and proceeds of disposition of such securities, dividend or interest payments in respect thereof, and all other amounts, will be determined for the purposes of the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) in Canadian dollars at the exchange rate prevailing at the time of the transaction. Accordingly, the funds may realize income, gains or losses by virtue of the fluctuation in the value of foreign currencies relative to Canadian dollars, and any such foreign exchange gains or losses will be taken into account in computing the funds' income for tax purposes. If a fund's distributions to unitholders throughout a year do not completely offset its income for tax purposes as calculated in Canadian dollars, the fund may make an additional distribution to unitholders before the end of the year in an effort to ensure that the fund does not become liable for income tax.

A fund that invests in derivatives as a substitute for direct investment will include gains and deduct losses in connection with such derivative activities on income account rather than as capital gains and capital losses.

Losses incurred by a fund cannot be allocated to unitholders but may be carried forward and deducted by the fund in future years. The funds may be affected by the suspended loss rules contained in the *Income Tax Act* (Canada). A loss realized on a disposition of capital property is considered to be a suspended loss when a fund acquires a property (a *substituted property*) that is the same or identical to the property sold, within 30 days before and 30 days after the disposition and the fund owns the substituted property 30 days after the original disposition. If a loss is suspended, the applicable fund cannot deduct the loss from the fund's capital gains until the substituted property is sold and is not reacquired within 30 days before and after the sale.

If a fund experiences a “loss restriction event” (i) the fund will be deemed to have a taxation year-end for tax purposes, and (ii) the fund will become subject to the loss restriction rules generally applicable to corporations that experience an acquisition of control, including a deemed realization of any unrealized capital losses and restrictions on its ability to carry forward losses. Generally, a fund will be subject to a loss restriction event when a person becomes a “majority-interest beneficiary” of the fund, or a group of persons becomes a “majority-interest group of beneficiaries” of the fund, as those terms are defined in the affiliated persons rules contained in the *Income Tax Act* (Canada), with appropriate modifications. Generally, a majority-interest beneficiary of a fund will be a beneficiary who, together with persons and partnerships with whom the beneficiary is affiliated, owns interests in the fund with a fair market value that is greater than 50% of the fair market value of all the interests in the income or capital, respectively, in the fund. The *Income Tax Act* (Canada) will generally provide relief from the potential application of the loss restriction event rules to a fund that is an “investment fund” as defined therein.

Where the amount of distributions paid by an underlying fund to a fund in a year exceeds the underlying fund’s income and capital gains, such excess amount will not be included in the fund’s income (unless the underlying fund elects to treat the excess amount as income) but will reduce the adjusted cost base of its units of the underlying fund for the purpose of calculating a capital gain or loss on a future disposition of the units of the underlying fund. Similar tax treatment applies with respect to excess distributions on units of an income trust held by a fund or an underlying fund. In either case, if the adjusted cost base of a unit would otherwise be a negative amount, the negative amount will be deemed to be a capital gain realized by the holder and the holder’s adjusted cost base of the unit will then be nil.

#### *Taxation of unitholders*

Unitholders of a fund (other than registered plans or TFSAs) are required to include in their income for tax purposes for a year, the Canadian dollar amount of income (including net taxable capital gains) paid or payable to them by the fund in the year and deducted by the fund in computing its income for tax purposes, whether or not these amounts are reinvested in additional units of the fund. Any amount reinvested in additional units of the fund will be added to the unitholder’s adjusted cost base of their units.

If a unitholder’s distributions from a fund in a year exceed the unitholder’s share of the fund’s net income and net capital gains for the year, the excess will generally not be taxable but will reduce the adjusted cost base of the unitholder’s units in the fund, unless the fund elects and is entitled to treat such excess amounts as income distributions. However, where such excess distributions are reinvested in new units, the overall adjusted cost base of the unitholder’s units will not be reduced. If reductions to the adjusted cost base of a unitholder’s units for the year would result in such adjusted cost base becoming a negative amount, that amount will be treated as a capital gain realized by the unitholder in that year and the unitholder’s adjusted cost base of the units will become zero.

Each fund will designate, to the extent permitted by the *Income Tax Act* (Canada), the portion, if any, of the net income distributed to unitholders as may reasonably be considered to consist of, respectively, (i) taxable dividends considered to be received by the fund on shares of taxable Canadian corporations and (ii) net taxable capital gains considered to be realized by the fund. Any such designated amount will be deemed for tax purposes to be received or realized by unitholders in the year as a taxable dividend and as a taxable capital gain, respectively. The dividend gross-up and tax credit treatment normally applicable to taxable dividends paid by a taxable Canadian corporation will apply to amounts designated as taxable dividends. An enhanced dividend gross-up and tax credit applies to certain eligible dividends and each fund will notify unitholders regarding dividends that may be treated as eligible dividends. Amounts designated as taxable capital gains will be subject to the general rules relating to the taxation of capital gains, which are described below. In addition, the fund may make designations in respect of income considered to be earned from foreign sources so that, for the purpose of computing any foreign tax credit to a unitholder, the unitholder may be deemed to have paid as tax to the government of a foreign country that portion of the taxes considered to be paid by the fund to that country that is equal to the unitholder’s share of the fund’s income from sources in that country. Unitholders will be advised each year of the composition of amounts, including non-taxable amounts, distributed to them.

When a unitholder acquires units in a fund, the net asset value of the units and therefore a portion of the price paid may reflect income and realized capital gains of the fund that have not been distributed, and accrued capital gains that have not been realized by the fund. This may particularly be the case near year-end before the final year-end distributions have been made. When and if such income and realized capital gains are distributed by the fund, and when and if such accrued capital gains are realized and distributed, such income and gains must be taken into account in computing the unitholder's income for tax purposes, even though such amounts were reflected in the price paid by the unitholder. If the amounts of such distributions are reinvested in additional units of the fund, the amounts will be added to the unitholder's adjusted cost base of its units. The funds intend to distribute net income and net capital gains annually, generally in December. A distribution reduces the net asset value per unit of a fund.

A unitholder's adjusted cost base per unit of a series will reflect the average cost to the unitholder of all units of that series held by the unitholder, including units purchased on the reinvestment of distributions.

Upon the actual or deemed disposition of a unit of a fund, including the redemption of a unit by a fund to pay fees, a redemption upon the termination of a fund (including where the unitholder receives units of another fund) and a switch of the units of a fund into units of another fund, a capital gain (or a capital loss) will generally be realized to the extent that the proceeds of disposition of the units of the first fund exceed (or are exceeded by) the aggregate of the adjusted cost base to the holder of such units and the costs of disposition. One half of a capital gain realized on the disposition of such units will be included in income as a taxable capital gain. One half of any capital loss realized will be deducted against any taxable capital gains, subject to and in accordance with the detailed rules of the *Income Tax Act* (Canada).

The reclassification of units of a series into units of another series of the same fund will not be considered to be a disposition for tax purposes and accordingly, the unitholder will realize neither a gain nor a loss as a result of a reclassification. The unitholder's total adjusted cost base of the units received upon the reclassification will equal the total adjusted cost base of the reclassified units immediately before reclassification.

Individuals may be subject to an alternative minimum tax which may apply in respect of amounts treated as eligible dividends and capital gains.

Holders of Series F or Series O units should consult with their tax advisors regarding whether fees payable by them may be deductible or may be added to the cost of their units for tax purposes.

See *Income tax considerations for investors – For fund units held in a non-registered account – Calculating your capital gains or losses* in the simplified prospectus of the funds.

### *Tax forms*

Unitholders will receive an annual tax form relating to distributions of net income, net capital gains and non-taxable amounts (including a return of capital) distributed by the funds in which they hold units to enable them to complete their income tax returns. Unitholders should keep records of the cost of units acquired so that they can calculate any capital gain or loss on the redemption or other disposition of their units.

### *Registered plans and TFSAs*

In general, the amount of a distribution paid or payable to a registered plan (such as a Registered Retirement Savings Plan (*RRSP*), Registered Education Savings Plan (*RESP*), Group Registered Retirement Savings Plan, Registered Retirement Income Fund (*RRIF*), Registered Disability Savings Plan (*RDSP*) or Deferred Profit Sharing Plan) or to a TFSA from a fund and gains realized by a registered plan or a TFSA on a disposition of units of a fund will not be taxable under the *Income Tax Act* (Canada). However, amounts withdrawn from a registered plan may be subject to tax (other than a return of contributions from an RESP or certain withdrawals from an RDSP, and withdrawals from a TFSA).



### *Eligibility for registered plans and TFSAs*

Provided that a fund qualifies or continues to qualify as a mutual fund trust under the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) or is a “registered investment” under the *Income Tax Act* (Canada), the units of the fund will be qualified investments under the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) for trusts governed by registered plans and TFSAs. Units of the funds will at all relevant times be qualified investments for trusts governed by registered plans and TFSAs and may be purchased within all registered plans and TFSAs.

In the case of a TFSA, RRSP, RESP, RDSP and RRIF, provided that the holder, subscriber or annuitant does not hold a significant interest in a fund, and provided that such holder, subscriber or annuitant deals at arm’s length with the fund for purposes of the *Income Tax Act* (Canada), the units of the fund will not be a prohibited investment for such TFSA, RRSP, RESP, RDSP or RRIF (the *Prohibited Investment Rules*). Generally, a holder, subscriber or annuitant will not be considered to have a significant interest in a fund unless the holder, subscriber or annuitant owns 10% or more of the value of the fund’s outstanding units, either alone or together with persons and partnerships with which the holder, subscriber or annuitant does not deal at arm’s length. Under a safe harbour rule for newly established mutual funds, the units of each of the funds are not expected to be a prohibited investment for any TFSA, RRSP, RESP, RDSP and RRIF at any time during the first 24 months of the fund’s existence. Unitholders should consult with their tax advisors regarding whether an investment in a fund may be a prohibited investment for a TFSA, RRSP, RESP, RDSP and RRIF in their particular circumstances.

### *About RESPs*

Units of the funds will at all relevant times be qualified investments under the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) for RESPs.

Contributions to an RESP are not tax deductible. Contributions are limited for each beneficiary up to a lifetime limit of \$50,000. You will have to pay a penalty tax of 1% a month for any contributions above this limit.

Contributions to an RESP may qualify for Canada Education Savings Grants (*CESGs*). These grants are payable directly to the RESP, within certain limits. They may have to be repaid in some circumstances, for example, when contributions are withdrawn in certain circumstances. In addition, beneficiaries may also be eligible for the Canada Learning Bond.

As long as an RESP is registered under the *Income Tax Act* (Canada), no tax is payable under the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) by the subscriber, the beneficiary or the RESP in respect of net income and net capital gains distributed by a fund on units held in the RESP, or on capital gains realized on the disposition of units as long as such amounts remain in the plan.

The beneficiary of an RESP will be required to include in income educational assistance payments as and when received.

Subject to the terms of the RESP, the subscriber may receive a refund of contributions made to the subscriber’s RESP. A refund of contributions is not included in the subscriber’s income but may result in repayments of CESGs and restrictions on future payments of these grants.

Under certain circumstances, including if the beneficiary of an RESP does not pursue a higher education by age 21 and the RESP has been established for at least 10 years, a contributor can transfer up to \$50,000 of the RESP’s accumulated income and capital gains to the contributor’s RRSP or spousal RRSP without having to include the transferred amount in the contributor’s personal income. This assumes the contributor has enough unused RRSP contribution room. The contributor can also receive payments of all or part of the RESP’s accumulated income and capital gains as personal income. A 20% penalty tax applies to these payments in addition to any income tax payable.

## International information reporting

Pursuant to the Intergovernmental Agreement for the Enhanced Exchange of Tax Information under the Canada-U.S. Tax Convention entered into between Canada and the United States (the *IGA*), and related Canadian legislation, the funds and their intermediaries are required to report certain information, including certain financial information (e.g. account balances), with respect to unitholders, or controlling persons of a unitholder, who are U.S. residents and U.S. citizens (including U.S. citizens who are residents or citizens of Canada), and certain other "U.S. Persons" as defined under the IGA (excluding registered plans such as RRSPs and TFSAs), to the CRA. Intermediaries and/or entities that hold units directly or indirectly, may have different disclosure requirements under the IGA. The CRA will then exchange the information with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service pursuant to the provisions and safeguards of the Canada-U.S. Tax Convention.

In addition, pursuant to rules in the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) implementing the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Common Reporting Standard (the *CRS Rules*) a fund and its intermediaries are required under Canadian legislation to identify and report to the CRA certain information, including financial information (e.g. account balances) and other personal identifying details, relating to unitholders (and, if applicable, controlling persons of a unitholder) of the funds (other than registered plans and TFSAs) who are resident in a country outside Canada (other than the United States). Intermediaries and/or entities that hold units directly or indirectly may have different disclosure requirements under the CRS Rules. Such information would then be available for sharing by the CRA with the countries where such unitholders are resident under the provisions and safeguards of the Multilateral Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters or the relevant bilateral tax treaty.

## Remuneration of directors, officers and trustee

The funds do not have directors or officers. RBC GAM, in its capacity as the trustee of the funds, is not entitled to any remuneration. RBC GAM, in its capacity as manager of the funds, is entitled to receive a management fee set out in the simplified prospectus of the funds.

These fees and expenses will be allocated among the funds and the other RBC Funds managed by RBC GAM in a manner that is fair and reasonable.

## Material contracts

The material contracts of each fund are listed below:

- (a) the Master Declaration of Trust and the regulation of each fund;
- (b) the distribution agreement for Series A units of the funds; and
- (c) the Master Custodian Agreement.

Each of the foregoing is described under the heading *Responsibility for operations of the funds* on page 17.

Copies of the material contracts listed above may be examined by prospective or existing unitholders at the principal office of the funds during ordinary business hours.

## Certificate of the Funds, the Manager, the Promoter and the Principal Distributor of the Funds (other than Series A)

This annual information form, together with the simplified prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference into the simplified prospectus, constitute full, true and plain disclosure of all material facts relating to the securities offered by the simplified prospectus, as required by the securities legislation of each of the provinces and territories of Canada and do not contain any misrepresentations.

Dated: January 24, 2019

By: "Damon G. Williams"

Damon G. Williams  
Chief Executive Officer  
RBC Global Asset Management Inc., as trustee,  
manager, promoter and principal distributor of the  
funds (other than Series A)

By: "Heidi Johnston"

Heidi Johnston  
Chief Financial Officer, RBC GAM Funds  
RBC Global Asset Management Inc., as trustee,  
manager, promoter and principal distributor of the  
funds (other than Series A)

On behalf of the Board of Directors  
of RBC Global Asset Management Inc., as  
trustee, manager, promoter and principal distributor of the funds (other than Series A)

By: "Douglas Coulter"

Douglas Coulter  
Director

By: "Daniel E. Chornous"

Daniel E. Chornous  
Director

## Certificate of the Principal Distributor of the Funds (Series A)

To the best of our knowledge, information and belief, this annual information form, together with the simplified prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference into the simplified prospectus, constitute full, true and plain disclosure of all material facts relating to the securities offered by the simplified prospectus, as required by the securities legislation of each of the provinces and territories of Canada and do not contain any misrepresentations.

Dated: January 24, 2019

### **ROYAL MUTUAL FUNDS INC.**

By: “Kirk Dudtschak”

Kirk Dudtschak  
President and Chief Executive Officer

## RBC Funds

Additional information about the funds is available in the funds' fund facts, management reports of fund performance and financial statements.

For a copy of these documents, at no cost, please call us toll-free at 1-800-463-FUND (3863) (English) or 1-800-668-FOND (3663) (French), email us at [funds.investments@rbc.com](mailto:funds.investments@rbc.com) (English) or [fonds.investissements@rbc.com](mailto:fonds.investissements@rbc.com) (French) or ask your dealer.

You can also get copies of this annual information form, the fund facts, the simplified prospectus, management reports of fund performance and the financial statements from the RBC Funds website at [www.rbcgam.com](http://www.rbcgam.com).

These documents and other information about the funds, such as information circulars and material contracts, are also available online at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).

### RBC GLOBAL ASSET MANAGEMENT INC.

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Customer Service: 1-800-463-FUND (3863) (English) or 1-800-668-FOND (3663) (French).

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