

CANADIAN EQUITY FUND

# RBC QUBE LOW VOLATILITY CANADIAN EQUITY CLASS

March 31, 2021

Portfolio Manager RBC Global Asset Management Inc. ("RBC GAM")

The Board of Directors of RBC Corporate Class Inc. approved this annual management report of fund performance on June 10, 2021.

# A Note on Forward-looking Statements

This report may contain forward-looking statements about the Fund, its future performance, strategies or prospects, and possible future Fund action. The words "may," "could," "should," "suspect," "outlook," "believe," "plan," "anticipate," "estimate," "expect," "intend," "forecast," "objective" and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements.

Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance. Forward-looking statements involve inherent risks and uncertainties, both about the Fund and general economic factors, so it is possible that predictions, forecasts, projections and other forward-looking statements will not be achieved. We caution you not to place undue reliance on these statements as a number of important factors could cause actual events or results to differ materially from those expressed or implied in any forward-looking statement made in relation to the Fund. These factors include, but are not limited to, general economic, political and market factors in Canada, the United States and internationally, interest and foreign exchange rates, global equity and capital markets, business competition, technological changes, changes in laws and regulations, judicial or regulatory judgments, legal proceedings and catastrophic events.

The above list of important factors that may affect future results is not exhaustive. Before making any investment decisions, we encourage you to consider these and other factors carefully. All opinions contained in forward-looking statements are subject to change without notice and are provided in good faith but without legal responsibility.

This annual management report of fund performance ("MRFP") contains financial highlights but does not contain the complete annual financial statements of the Fund. You can get a copy of the financial statements at your request, and at no cost, by calling 1-800-463-FUND (3863), by writing to us at RBC Global Asset Management Inc., P.O. Box 7500, Station A, Toronto, Ontario M5W 1P9, or by visiting our website at www.rbcgam.com/en/ca or SEDAR at www.sedar.com. Security holders may also contact us using one of these methods to request a copy of the Fund's proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record, or quarterly portfolio disclosure.



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## MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION OF FUND PERFORMANCE

#### **Investment Objective and Strategies**

The Fund seeks to provide long-term capital growth by investing primarily in equity securities of Canadian companies. The Fund uses a quantitative investment approach and seeks to achieve a reduced level of volatility of returns compared with the broader Canadian equity market.

To achieve its investment objective, the Fund invests most of its assets in the RBC QUBE Low Volatility Canadian Equity Fund (the "underlying fund"). The underlying fund is managed using a quantitative investment model designed to select individual stocks while controlling portfolio-level risk. This involves building a portfolio that maximizes exposure to factors associated with outperformance, while controlling for exposure to risk factors. The portfolio manager of the underlying fund diversifies across industries within the Canadian market.

#### Risk

There were no significant changes to the investment objective and strategies that affected the Fund's overall level of risk during the reporting period. The risks of investing in the Fund and the suitability of the Fund for investors remain as discussed in the Simplified Prospectus.

#### **Results of Operations**

The Fund's net asset value fell to \$11 million as of March 31, 2021, from \$16 million as of March 31, 2020. The decrease was due to net redemptions, partially offset by investment returns.

Over the past year, the Fund's Series A shares gained 29.4%, underperforming the 44.2% rise in the benchmark. The Fund's return is after the deduction of fees and expenses, while the benchmark and broad-based index returns do not include any costs of investing. See the Financial Highlights section for the management expense ratios and the Past Performance section for the returns of any other series, which may vary because of differences in management fees and expenses.

The Fund's relative exposure to Bank of Montreal, Constellation Software Inc. and Bank of Nova Scotia had the most positive impact on the Fund's returns, while exposure to Shopify Inc., Canadian Natural Resources and Canadian Pacific Railway was negative for performance.

The sectors that had the most positive impact on the Fund's returns were Consumer Staples, Communication Services and Real Estate, while exposure to Information Technology, Energy and Materials had a negative impact.

The Fund had overweight positions in Hydro One Ltd, National Bank Canada and Magna International Inc. and underweight positions in Shopify Inc., Toronto-Dominion Bank and Enbridge Inc.

At the sector level, the Fund had overweight exposure to Consumer Staples, Utilities and Communication Services and underweight exposure to Energy, Materials and Information Technology.

# **Recent Developments**

Effective February 28, 2021, Ms. Catherine J. Kloepfer resigned as Vice Chair of the Independent Review Committee (the "IRC"). Effective March 22, 2021, Mr. Paul K. Bates was appointed as Vice Chair of the IRC. Effective April 1, 2021, Ms. Brenda Eaton was appointed as a member of the IRC.

Effective June 26, 2020, Advisor Series mutual fund shares were capped and were re-designated as Series A mutual fund shares effective August 4, 2020.

# **Related-Party Transactions**

# Manager and Portfolio Manager

RBC GAM is an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Royal Bank of Canada ("Royal Bank") and is the manager and portfolio manager of the Fund. RBC GAM is responsible for the Fund's day-to-day operations, provides investment advice and portfolio management services to the Fund and appoints distributors for the Fund. RBC GAM is paid a management fee by the Fund as compensation for its services. The Fund pays a fixed administration fee to RBC GAM, which, in turn, pays certain operating expenses of the Fund. Both the management fee and fixed administration fee are calculated and accrued daily as a percentage of the net asset value of each series of mutual fund shares of the Fund.

RBC GAM or its affiliates may earn fees and spreads in connection with various services provided to, or transactions with, the Fund, such as banking, brokerage, securities lending, foreign exchange and derivatives transactions. RBC GAM or its affiliates may earn a foreign exchange spread when shareholders switch between series of funds denominated in different currencies. The Fund also maintains bank accounts and overdraft provisions with Royal Bank for which Royal Bank may earn a fee. Affiliates of RBC GAM that provide services to the Fund in the course of their normal businesses are discussed below.

#### **Distributors**

RBC GAM, Royal Mutual Funds Inc., RBC Direct Investing Inc., RBC Dominion Securities Inc. and Phillips, Hager & North Investment Funds Ltd. are principal distributors of, or may distribute certain series of the mutual fund shares of, the Fund. Dealers receive an ongoing commission based on the total value of their clients' investment in certain series of mutual fund shares of the Fund.



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#### Registrars

RBC GAM, RBC Investor Services Trust ("RBC IS") or Royal Bank (or a combination thereof) are the registrars of the Fund and keep records of who owns mutual fund shares of the Fund. The registrars earn a fee, which is paid by the manager from the fixed administration fee paid by the Fund.

#### Custodian

RBC IS is the custodian and holds the assets of the Fund. RBC IS earns a fee as the custodian, which is paid by the manager from the fixed administration fee paid by the Fund.

# Other Related-Party Transactions

Pursuant to applicable securities legislation, the Fund relied on the standing instructions from the Independent Review Committee with respect to one or more of the following transactions:

# Related-Party Trading Activities

- (a) trades in securities of Royal Bank;
- (b) investments in the securities of issuers for which a related-party dealer acted as an underwriter during the distribution of such securities and the 60-day period following the conclusion of such distribution of the underwritten securities to the public;
- (c) purchases of equity and debt securities from or sales of equity or debt securities to a related-party dealer, where it acted as principal; and

#### Inter-Fund Trading

(d) purchases or sales of securities of an issuer from or to another investment fund or managed account managed by RBC GAM.

The applicable standing instructions require that Related-Party
Trading Activities and Inter-Fund Trading be conducted in
accordance with RBC GAM policy and that RBC GAM advise the
Independent Review Committee of a material breach of any standing
instruction. RBC GAM policy requires that an investment decision in
respect of Related-Party Trading Activities (i) is made free from any
influence of Royal Bank or its associates or affiliates and without
taking into account any consideration relevant to Royal Bank or its
affiliates or associates, (ii) represents the business judgment of the
portfolio manager, uninfluenced by considerations other than the best
interests of the Fund, (iii) is in compliance with RBC GAM policies
and procedures, and (iv) achieves a fair and reasonable result for
the Fund. RBC GAM policy requires that an investment decision in
respect of Inter-Fund Trading is in the best interests of each Fund.

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# **FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

The following tables show selected key financial information about the Fund and are intended to help you understand the Fund's financial performance for the past five years or for the periods since inception. This information is derived from the Fund's audited annual financial statements.

# Change in Net Assets Per Mutual Fund Share (\$)

							Annual Distributions <sup>2</sup>					
			Increase (De	crease) from	_		From					
		Total		Realized	Unrealized		Income		From			Net Assets
For the Year/	Net Assets	Revenue	Total	Gains	Gains		(Excluding	From	Capital	Return		End of
Period Ended	Beginning of Year/Period	(Loss)	Expenses	(Losses)	(Losses)	Total	Dividends)	Dividends	Gains	of Capital	Total	Year/Period
Series A												
Mar. 31, 2021	9.74	0.48	(0.19)	(0.10)	2.25	2.44	_	(0.50)	(0.92)	_	(1.42)	10.96
Mar. 31, 2020	11.62	0.38	(0.23)	0.46	(2.16)	(1.55)	-	(0.35)	(0.01)	-	(0.36)	9.74
Mar. 31, 2019	10.86	0.46	(0.21)	0.17	0.57	0.99	_	(0.24)	_	_	(0.24)	11.62
Mar. 31, 2018	11.26	0.32	(0.21)	0.39	(0.57)	(0.07)	_	(0.29)	_	_	(0.29)	10.86
Mar. 31, 2017	10.38	0.41	(0.21)	0.49	0.38	1.07	_	(0.17)	_	_	(0.17)	11.26
Series D												
Mar. 31, 2021	9.77	0.48	(0.10)	(0.10)	2.45	2.73	_	(0.60)	(0.93)	_	(1.53)	11.00
Mar. 31, 2020	11.67	0.39	(0.12)	0.46	(2.65)	(1.92)	-	(0.43)	(0.01)	_	(0.44)	9.77
Mar. 31, 2019	10.91	0.46	(0.11)	0.17	0.49	1.01	-	(0.34)	-	_	(0.34)	11.67
Mar. 31, 2018	11.31	0.32	(0.11)	0.40	(0.66)	(0.05)	_	(0.39)	_	_	(0.39)	10.91
Mar. 31, 2017	10.42	0.41	(0.11)	0.50	0.37	1.17	_	(0.27)	_	_	(0.27)	11.31
Series F												
Mar. 31, 2021	9.80	0.48	(0.08)	(0.10)	2.77	3.07	_	(0.63)	(0.93)	_	(1.56)	11.02
Mar. 31, 2020	11.70	0.39	(0.09)	0.46	(2.36)	(1.60)	_	(0.46)	(0.01)	_	(0.47)	9.80
Mar. 31, 2019	10.93	0.46	(0.09)	0.17	0.63	1.17	_	(0.37)	-	-	(0.37)	11.70
Mar. 31, 2018	11.34	0.32	(0.09)	0.40	(0.52)	0.11	_	(0.42)	_	_	(0.42)	10.93
Mar. 31, 2017	10.43	0.37	(0.09)	0.45	0.46	1.19	_	(0.28)	_	_	(0.28)	11.34
Series 0												
Mar. 31, 2021	9.80	0.38	-	(80.0)	0.87	1.17	-	(0.74)	(0.93)	-	(1.67)	11.01
Mar. 31, 2020	11.71	0.38	_	0.45	(0.74)	0.09	_	(0.53)	(0.01)	_	(0.54)	9.80
Mar. 31, 2019	10.95	0.45	-	0.17	0.75	1.37	-	(0.47)	-	-	(0.47)	11.71
Mar. 31, 2018	11.36	0.33	-	0.40	(0.61)	0.12	_	(0.51)	-	-	(0.51)	10.95
Mar. 31, 2017	10.45	0.41	_	0.50	0.40	1.31	_	(0.36)		-	(0.36)	11.36

<sup>1</sup> Net assets and distributions are based on the actual number of mutual fund shares outstanding at the relevant time. The increase/decrease from operations is based on the weighted average number of mutual fund shares outstanding over the financial period. This table is not intended to be a reconciliation of beginning to ending net assets per mutual fund share.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Distributions are reinvested in additional mutual fund shares of the Fund or paid in cash.



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# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS (cont.) Ratios and Supplemental Data

As at	Net Asset Value Per Mutual Fund Share (\$)	Net Asset Value (\$000s)	Number of Mutual Fund Shares Outstanding (000s)	Management Expense Ratio (%) <sup>1</sup>	MER Before Absorption (%) <sup>1</sup>	Portfolio Turnover Rate (%) <sup>2</sup>	Trading Expense Ratio (%) <sup>3</sup>
Series A							
Mar. 31, 2021	10.96	2 226	203	1.91	1.91	77.43	0.06
Mar. 31, 2020	9.74	1 938	199	1.90	1.91	36.36	0.04
Mar. 31, 2019	11.62	2 573	221	1.90	1.91	33.38	0.03
Mar. 31, 2018	10.86	3 120	287	1.88	1.89	18.57	0.05
Mar. 31, 2017	11.26	3 754	333	1.94	1.95	18.99	0.06
Series D							
Mar. 31, 2021	11.00	4 764	433	1.02	1.02	77.43	0.06
Mar. 31, 2020	9.77	3 879	397	1.02	1.03	36.36	0.04
Mar. 31, 2019	11.67	3 045	261	1.03	1.04	33.38	0.03
Mar. 31, 2018	10.91	3 052	280	1.02	1.03	18.57	0.05
Mar. 31, 2017	11.31	2 958	261	1.05	1.06	18.99	0.06
Series F							
Mar. 31, 2021	11.02	3 703	336	0.79	0.79	77.43	0.06
Mar. 31, 2020	9.80	6 623	676	0.80	0.81	36.36	0.04
Mar. 31, 2019	11.70	4 122	352	0.79	0.80	33.38	0.03
Mar. 31, 2018	10.93	3 963	363	0.78	0.79	18.57	0.05
Mar. 31, 2017	11.34	6 229	549	0.80	0.81	18.99	0.06
Series 0							
Mar. 31, 2021	11.01	517	47	0.06	0.06	77.43	0.06
Mar. 31, 2020	9.80	2 400	245	0.05	0.06	36.36	0.04
Mar. 31, 2019	11.71	14 007	1 197	0.05	0.06	33.38	0.03
Mar. 31, 2018	10.95	8 284	757	0.05	0.06	18.57	0.05
Mar. 31, 2017	11.36	11 925	1 049	0.06	0.07	18.99	0.06

<sup>1</sup> The management expense ratio ("MER") is based on the direct expenses charged to the Fund and the Fund's proportionate share of the expenses of underlying funds, if any, for the stated period, excluding commissions and other portfolio transaction costs, and is expressed as an annualized percentage of the daily average net asset value during the period. RBC GAM may, at its discretion and without notice to shareholders, waive or absorb certain operating expenses. MER includes the waiver or absorption by RBC GAM of certain operating expenses, while the MER before absorption shows the MER prior to operating expenses being waived or absorbed by RBC GAM.

Effective June 30, 2016, the management fees for Series A mutual fund shares were reduced to 1.60% from 1.75%; for Series D mutual fund shares were reduced to 0.85% from 1.00%; and for Series F mutual fund shares were reduced to 0.60% from 0.75%. If the changes to the management fees would have been in effect throughout the financial year ended March 31, 2017, the adjusted MER for each series of the Fund would be: Series A – 1.91%, Series D – 1.02% and Series F – 0.78%.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Fund's portfolio turnover rate gives an indication of the level of activity employed by the portfolio manager. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to the Fund buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the year. The higher the Fund's portfolio turnover rate in a year, the greater the trading costs payable by the Fund in the year, and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains in the year. There is not necessarily a relationship between a high turnover rate and the performance of the Fund.

<sup>3</sup> The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset value during the period. The trading expense ratio is not applicable to fixed-income transactions.

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#### **FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS (cont.)**

#### **Management Fees and Administration Fees**

Management fees and administration fees of each series of the Fund are payable to RBC GAM and calculated at the following annual percentages, before GST/HST, of the daily net asset value of each series of the Fund. The management fee, breakdown of services received in consideration of the management fee, as a percentage of the management fee, and the administration fee for each series are as follows:

	Management	Breakdown of	Administration	
	Fees	Distribution	Other*	Fees
Series A	1.60%	57%	43%	0.08%
Series D	0.85%	25%	75%	0.08%
Series F	0.60%	_	100%	0.08%
Series 0	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.02%

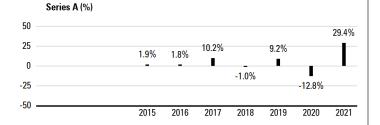
Series 0 – no management fees are paid by the Fund with respect to Series 0 mutual fund shares. Series 0 shareholders pay a negotiated fee directly to RBC GAM for investment-counselling services.

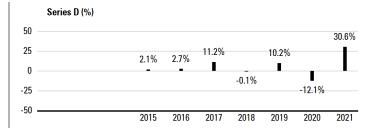
#### **PAST PERFORMANCE**

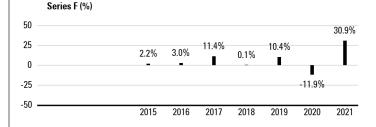
The performance information shown assumes that all distributions made by the Fund in the periods shown were reinvested in additional shares of the Fund and would be lower if distributions were not reinvested. The performance information does not take into account sales, redemption, distribution, optional charges or income taxes payable that would have reduced returns or performance. Past performance does not necessarily indicate how the Fund may perform in the future. A fund with more than 10 years of performance history is only permitted to disclose the past 10 years.

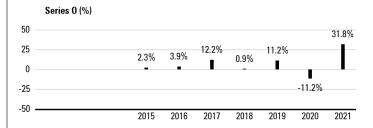
# Year-by-Year Returns (%)

The bar chart indicates the Fund's performance for each of the years shown, and illustrates how the Fund's performance has changed from year to year. The bar chart shows, in percentage terms, how much an investment made on the first day of each financial year would have grown or decreased by the end of the financial year.









<sup>\*</sup> Includes all costs related to management, investment advisory services, general administration and profit.

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#### **PAST PERFORMANCE** (cont.)

# **Annual Compound Returns (%)**

The table shows the annual compound returns for each series of the Fund and for each of the periods indicated ended on March 31, 2021, compared with the following benchmark:

#### S&P/TSX Capped Composite Total Return Index

	Past	Past	Past	Past	Since
	Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	Inception
Series A	29.4	7.2	6.1	-	5.5
Benchmark	44.2	10.2	10.1		7.1
Series D	30.6	8.1	7.0	_	6.5
Benchmark	44.2	10.2	10.1		7.1
Series F	30.9	8.4	7.3	_	6.7
Benchmark	44.2	10.2	10.1		7.1
Series 0	31.8	9.2	8.1	_	7.5
Benchmark	44.2	10.2	10.1		7.1

The returns of each series may vary because of differences in management fees and expenses. Benchmark and/or broad-based index returns do not include any costs of investing. See Management Discussion of Fund Performance for a discussion of performance relative to benchmark and/or broad-based indexes.

Series A, Series D, Series F and Series 0 mutual fund shares have been available for sale to shareholders since January 26, 2015.

Inception dates are not provided for series that have been in existence for more than 10 years.

Advisor Series mutual fund shares were capped effective June 26, 2020, and re-designated as Series A mutual fund shares effective August 4, 2020.

## INDEX DESCRIPTIONS

**S&P/TSX Capped Composite Total Return Index** This index is the amended capitalization-weighted index measuring the performance of selected securities listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange, with no individual stock exceeding 10% of the overall weight.

#### **SUMMARY OF INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO**

(after consideration of derivative products, if any) As at March 31, 2021

#### **Investment Mix**

	% of Net Asset Value
Financials	29.1
Industrials	16.0
Consumer Staples	14.1
Communication Services	11.7
Materials	8.7
Consumer Discretionary	5.4
Real Estate	4.9
Information Technology	4.9
Utilities	3.9
Energy	0.8
Health Care	0.1
Cash/Other	0.4

# Top 25 Holdings\*

	% of Net Asset Value
Bank of Nova Scotia	5.3
Bank of Montreal	5.3
Royal Bank of Canada	5.2
Toronto-Dominion Bank	5.0
Canadian National Railway Co.	4.2
Constellation Software Inc.	4.1
Waste Connections Inc.	4.1
BCE Inc.	4.0
TELUS Corp.	3.9
Metro Inc., Class A	3.8
Alimentation Couche-Tard Inc.	3.8
Dollarama Inc.	3.8
Intact Financial Corp.	2.9
George Weston Ltd.	2.8
TMX Group Ltd.	2.6
Franco-Nevada Corp.	2.6
Hydro One Ltd.	2.6
WSP Global Inc.	2.4
Stantec Inc.	1.9
RioCan Real Estate Investment Trust	1.8
iA Financial Corp Inc.	1.5
Wheaton Precious Metals Corp.	1.4
First Capital Real Estate Investment Trust	1.4
Toromont Industries Ltd.	1.2
Quebecor Inc., Class B	1.2
Top 25 Holdings	78.8

<sup>\*</sup> The Fund invests substantially all of its assets directly in the RBC QUBE Low Volatility Canadian Equity Fund. The above are the Top 25 holdings of the RBC QUBE Low Volatility Canadian Equity Fund.

The Summary of Investment Portfolio may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the Fund and a quarterly update is available at www.rbcgam.com/en/ca.

The Simplified Prospectus and other information about the underlying fund are available on SEDAR website at www.sedar.com.