



FIXED-INCOME FUND

**RBC \$U.S. STRATEGIC
INCOME BOND FUND**

December 31, 2018

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

The Board of Directors of RBC Global Asset Management Inc. approved this annual management report of fund performance on March 11, 2019.

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," "would," "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/reports 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.



MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION OF FUND PERFORMANCE (in USD)

Investment Objective and Strategies

The Fund seeks to provide regular monthly income with a potential for modest capital appreciation by investing primarily in units of other mutual funds managed by RBC GAM or an affiliate of RBC GAM (called the “underlying funds”), emphasizing mutual funds that invest in higher-yielding fixed-income securities.

To achieve its objective, the Fund selects underlying funds from the RBC Funds family or the PH&N Funds family that primarily invest in investment-grade and high-yield corporate and emerging-market sovereign and corporate fixed-income securities for inclusion in the Fund.

The portfolio manager allocates and rebalances the Fund’s assets among underlying funds based on the underlying funds’ ability to help the Fund meet its investment objectives.

Risk

The Fund has multiple risks, which are similar to the risks of investing in the underlying fund. The Fund is suitable for investors who plan to hold their investments for the medium-to-long term and can tolerate low-to-medium investment 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 was launched on January 29, 2018, and its net asset value was \$29 million as of December 31, 2018. Investment performance is not provided for a fund that has been available for less than one year.

Recent Developments

Lower economic growth suggests that the U.S. Federal Reserve (the “Fed”) will slow its pace of rate increases in 2019, relative to earlier expectations. The European Central Bank has ended its bond-buying program and may begin raising rates this year. Against this backdrop, the portfolio manager expects bond yields to rise marginally over the next 12 months. Short-term yields might continue rising faster than those on longer-term bonds, as long as central banks seem committed to higher benchmark rates. However, in the view of the portfolio manager, the bulk of the Fed rate increases is likely behind us, and trade tensions and slowing economic growth could keep bond yields within the recent range.

Related-Party Transactions

Manager, Trustee and Portfolio Manager

RBC GAM is an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Royal Bank of Canada (“Royal Bank”) and is the manager, trustee and portfolio manager of the Fund. RBC GAM is responsible for the Fund’s day-to-day operations, holds title to the Fund’s property on behalf of its unitholders, 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 units of the Fund. RBC GAM, as trustee, earns a fee, which is paid by the manager from the fixed administration fee paid by 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 unitholders 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 units of, the Fund. Dealers may receive an ongoing commission based on the total value of their clients’ investment in certain series of units of the Fund.

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 units 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.



Securities Lending Agent

To the extent the Fund may engage in securities lending transactions, RBC IS may act as the Fund's securities lending agent. Any revenue earned on such securities lending is split between the Fund and the securities lending agent.

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.



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS (in USD)

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 Unit

For the Year/ Period Ended	Net Assets Beginning of Year/Period	Increase (Decrease) from Operations ¹					Annual Distributions ²				Net Assets End of Year/Period	
		Total Revenue (Loss)	Total Expenses	Realized Gains (Losses)	Unrealized Gains (Losses)	Total	From Income (Excluding Dividends)	From Dividends	From Capital Gains	Return of Capital		
Series A												
Dec. 31, 2018³	10.00[†]	0.42	(0.15)	0.13	(0.65)	(0.25)	(0.37)	–	(0.14)	–	(0.51)	9.10
Advisor Series												
Dec. 31, 2018³	10.00[†]	0.45	(0.16)	0.14	(0.74)	(0.31)	(0.37)	–	(0.14)	–	(0.51)	9.09
Series D												
Dec. 31, 2018³	10.00[†]	0.71	(0.11)	0.23	(1.09)	(0.26)	(0.38)	–	(0.14)	–	(0.52)	9.14
Series F												
Dec. 31, 2018³	10.00[†]	0.56	(0.08)	0.18	(0.90)	(0.24)	(0.38)	–	(0.14)	–	(0.52)	9.16
Series O												
Dec. 31, 2018³	10.00[†]	0.44	–	0.14	(0.71)	(0.13)	(0.39)	–	(0.14)	–	(0.53)	9.23

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

² Distributions are reinvested in additional units of the Fund or paid in cash.

³ From January 17, 2018.

[†] Initial offering net asset value per unit.

Ratios and Supplemental Data

As at	Net Asset Value Per Unit (\$)	Net Asset Value (\$000s)	Number of Units Outstanding (000s)	Management Expense Ratio (%) ¹	MER Before Absorption (%) ¹	Portfolio Turnover Rate (%) ²	Trading Expense Ratio (%) ³
Series A							
Dec. 31, 2018⁴	9.10	140	15	1.77	1.78	27.42	–
Advisor Series							
Dec. 31, 2018⁴	9.09	1 645	181	1.87	1.88	27.42	–
Series D							
Dec. 31, 2018⁴	9.14	85	9	1.27	1.28	27.42	–
Series F							
Dec. 31, 2018⁴	9.16	393	43	0.96	0.97	27.42	–
Series O							
Dec. 31, 2018⁴	9.23	26 583	2 880	0.11	0.12	27.42	–

¹ The management expense ratio ("MER") is based on expenses 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 unitholders, 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.

² 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. The portfolio turnover rate is not applicable to money market funds.

³ 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.

⁴ From January 17, 2018.



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS (in USD) (cont.)

Management Fees

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

	Management Fees	Breakdown of Services	
		Distribution	Other*
Series A	1.50%	50%	50%
Advisor Series	1.50%	50%	50%
Series D	1.00%	25%	75%
Series F	0.75%	–	100%

Series O – no management fees are paid by the Fund with respect to Series O units. Series O unitholders pay a negotiated fee directly to RBC GAM for investment-counselling services.

* Includes all costs related to management, trustee, investment advisory services, general administration and profit.

PAST PERFORMANCE (in USD)

Investment performance in respect of a fund that has been available for less than one year is not provided. Series A, Advisor Series, Series D, Series F and Series O units of this Fund were launched on January 29, 2018.

SUMMARY OF INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO (in USD)

(after consideration of derivative products, if any)

As at December 31, 2018

Investment Mix

	% of Net Asset Value
Income Funds	99.3
Cash/Other	0.7

Top 25 Holdings*

	% of Net Asset Value
RBC \$U.S. Investment Grade Corporate Bond Fund	27.1
RBC Emerging Markets Bond Fund	25.0
RBC \$U.S. High Yield Bond Fund	16.0
BlueBay Emerging Markets Corporate Bond Fund	11.0
RBC Emerging Markets Foreign Exchange Fund	10.0
BlueBay \$U.S. Global Convertible Bond Fund (Canada)	10.0
Cash & Cash Equivalents	0.9
Total	100.0

* The Fund holds fewer than 25 holdings.

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/funds.

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