



FIXED-INCOME FUND

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

December 31, 2021

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 10, 2022.

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/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.



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 funds managed by RBC GAM or an affiliate of RBC GAM (called the “underlying funds”), emphasizing 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 or provide exposure to emerging market currencies.

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

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 rose to \$98 million as of December 31, 2021, from \$89 million at the end of 2020. The increase was due to net inflows, partially offset by investment losses.

Over the past year, the Fund’s Series A units lost 1.8%, which underperformed the 1.5% decline in the benchmark. The Fund’s return is after the deduction of fees and expenses, while 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.

In 2021, the Fund made monthly distributions of 3.40 cents per Series A unit. For the year, the Fund made total distributions of approximately 42 cents per Series A unit, consisting of 38 cents of interest income and 4 cents of capital gains.

The coronavirus was less disruptive to the global economy in 2021 than in 2020, with vaccinations at the beginning of the year leading to widespread economic reopenings in the U.S. and Europe by June. Canada, which lagged other developing countries in delivering vaccines, was bolstered by rising oil prices until its economy reopened later in the summer. By the end of 2021, emerging markets had made progress with inoculations, but the late-year rise of a much

more transmissible COVID-19 variant had businesses returning to at least partial lockdowns and left investors again wondering when the economy would return to normal.

Government bonds in most major markets had losses in 2021 after fixed-income yields surged from the record-low levels of 2020. The decline in the Canadian bond benchmark was the first since 2013 and was caused mainly by an overall rise in long-term yields due to expectations that inflation would climb in response to faster economic growth and supply-chain bottlenecks. In the second half of 2021, inflation in many regions surged to the fastest pace in decades, prompting the U.S. Federal Reserve (the “Fed”) to abandon its narrative that inflation would be “transitory” and leading other major central banks to consider raising short-term interest rates. The Fed started scaling back asset purchases in November, and in December, doubled the pace of the reductions as a prelude to interest-rate hikes. The Bank of Canada stopped its own bond purchases in November given strength in labour and housing markets.

The Fund’s returns were negatively affected by the RBC Emerging Markets Bond Fund, the RBC \$U.S. Investment Grade Corporate Bond Fund and the RBC Emerging Markets Foreign Exchange Fund. Returns were aided by exposure to the RBC \$U.S. High Yield Bond Fund.

Recent Developments

Against the current backdrop of strong economic growth and high inflation, the portfolio manager expects that several major central banks will raise interest rates over the next year. The portfolio manager’s base-case scenario sees bond yields rising gradually throughout 2022, resulting in low or potentially negative returns, and for sovereign bonds in particular. That said, with yields off their lows, government bonds offer a bit more protection to diversified portfolios should the economic outlook deteriorate.

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.

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, 2021 | 9.81 | 0.38 | (0.16) | 0.15 | (0.54) | (0.17) | (0.38) | – | (0.04) | – | (0.42) | 9.21 |
| Dec. 31, 2020 | 9.62 | 0.37 | (0.16) | 0.03 | 0.35 | 0.59 | (0.35) | – | (0.18) | – | (0.53) | 9.81 |
| Dec. 31, 2019 | 9.10 | 0.37 | (0.17) | 0.10 | 0.34 | 0.64 | (0.40) | – | (0.06) | – | (0.46) | 9.62 |
| Dec. 31, 2018 ³ | 10.00 [†] | 0.42 | (0.15) | 0.13 | (0.65) | (0.25) | (0.37) | – | (0.14) | – | (0.51) | 9.10 |
| Series D | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dec. 31, 2021 | 9.95 | 0.38 | (0.11) | 0.15 | (0.61) | (0.19) | (0.38) | – | (0.05) | – | (0.43) | 9.40 |
| Dec. 31, 2020 | 9.71 | 0.38 | (0.11) | 0.03 | (0.45) | (0.15) | (0.35) | – | (0.18) | – | (0.53) | 9.95 |
| Dec. 31, 2019 | 9.14 | 0.43 | (0.11) | 0.12 | 0.52 | 0.96 | (0.41) | – | (0.06) | – | (0.47) | 9.71 |
| Dec. 31, 2018 ³ | 10.00 [†] | 0.71 | (0.11) | 0.23 | (1.09) | (0.26) | (0.38) | – | (0.14) | – | (0.52) | 9.14 |
| Series F | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dec. 31, 2021 | 10.05 | 0.39 | (0.09) | 0.15 | (0.53) | (0.08) | (0.38) | – | (0.05) | – | (0.43) | 9.53 |
| Dec. 31, 2020 | 9.77 | 0.38 | (0.08) | 0.03 | 0.33 | 0.66 | (0.35) | – | (0.18) | – | (0.53) | 10.05 |
| Dec. 31, 2019 | 9.16 | 0.38 | (0.08) | 0.11 | 0.36 | 0.77 | (0.41) | – | (0.06) | – | (0.47) | 9.77 |
| Dec. 31, 2018 ³ | 10.00 [†] | 0.56 | (0.08) | 0.18 | (0.90) | (0.24) | (0.38) | – | (0.14) | – | (0.52) | 9.16 |
| Series O | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dec. 31, 2021 | 10.29 | 0.40 | – | 0.16 | (0.56) | – | (0.38) | – | (0.05) | – | (0.43) | 9.84 |
| Dec. 31, 2020 | 9.93 | 0.39 | – | 0.03 | 0.44 | 0.86 | (0.36) | – | (0.18) | – | (0.54) | 10.29 |
| Dec. 31, 2019 | 9.23 | 0.44 | – | 0.13 | 0.51 | 1.08 | (0.41) | – | (0.07) | – | (0.48) | 9.93 |
| Dec. 31, 2018 ³ | 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, 2021 | 9.21 | 6 086 | 661 | 1.73 | 1.73 | 30.31 | 0.01 |
| Dec. 31, 2020 | 9.81 | 8 824 | 900 | 1.70 | 1.70 | 28.42 | 0.01 |
| Dec. 31, 2019 | 9.62 | 5 078 | 528 | 1.80 | 1.80 | 16.93 | – |
| Dec. 31, 2018 ⁴ | 9.10 | 140 | 15 | 1.77 | 1.78 | 27.42 | – |
| Series D | | | | | | | |
| Dec. 31, 2021 | 9.40 | 329 | 35 | 1.20 | 1.20 | 30.31 | 0.01 |
| Dec. 31, 2020 | 9.95 | 316 | 32 | 1.24 | 1.24 | 28.42 | 0.01 |
| Dec. 31, 2019 | 9.71 | 385 | 40 | 1.26 | 1.26 | 16.93 | – |
| Dec. 31, 2018 ⁴ | 9.14 | 85 | 9 | 1.27 | 1.28 | 27.42 | – |



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS (in USD) (cont.)

Ratios and Supplemental Data (cont.)

| 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 F | | | | | | | |
| Dec. 31, 2021 | 9.53 | 6 230 | 654 | 0.93 | 0.93 | 30.31 | 0.01 |
| Dec. 31, 2020 | 10.05 | 4 454 | 443 | 0.91 | 0.91 | 28.42 | 0.01 |
| Dec. 31, 2019 | 9.77 | 4 314 | 441 | 0.94 | 0.94 | 16.93 | — |
| Dec. 31, 2018 ⁴ | 9.16 | 393 | 43 | 0.96 | 0.97 | 27.42 | — |
| Series O | | | | | | | |
| Dec. 31, 2021 | 9.84 | 85 763 | 8 712 | 0.07 | 0.07 | 30.31 | 0.01 |
| Dec. 31, 2020 | 10.29 | 75 857 | 7 371 | 0.07 | 0.07 | 28.42 | 0.01 |
| Dec. 31, 2019 | 9.93 | 54 534 | 5 494 | 0.09 | 0.09 | 16.93 | — |
| Dec. 31, 2018 ⁴ | 9.23 | 26 583 | 2 880 | 0.11 | 0.12 | 27.42 | — |

¹ 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 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 of the Fund and the Fund's proportionate share of such costs of underlying funds 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.

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 Fees | Breakdown of Services | | Administration Fees |
|----------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------|------------------------|
| | | Distribution | Other* | |
| Series A | 1.50% | 50% | 50% | 0.05% |
| Series D | 1.00% | 25% | 75% | 0.05% |
| Series F | 0.75% | — | 100% | 0.05% |
| Series O | n/a | n/a | n/a | 0.02% |

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.

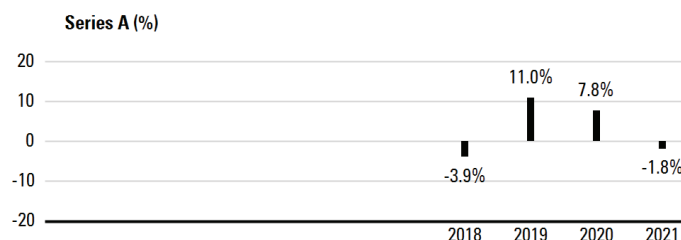
* Includes all costs related to management, trustee, investment advisory services, general administration and profit.

PAST PERFORMANCE (in USD)

The performance information shown assumes that all distributions made by the Fund in the periods shown were reinvested in additional units 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.

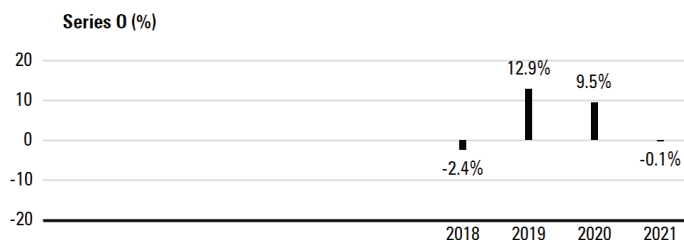
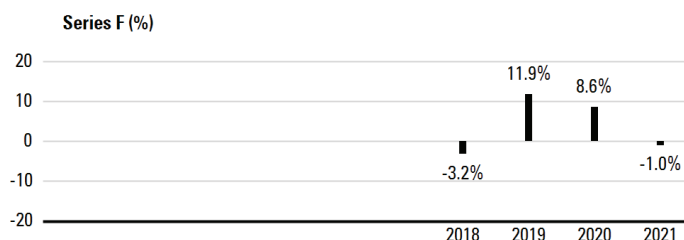
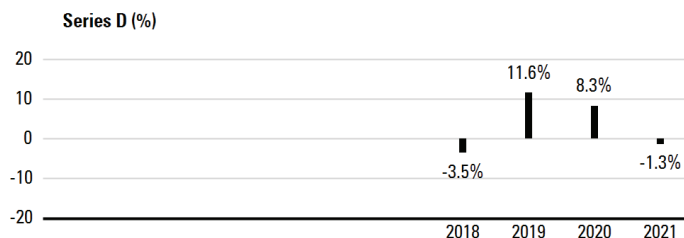
Year-by-Year Returns (%)

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.





PAST PERFORMANCE (in USD) (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 December 31, 2021, compared with the following benchmark:

Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index (USD)

| | Past Year | Past 3 Years | Past 5 Years | Past 10 Years | Since Inception |
|-----------|-----------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Series A | -1.8 | 5.5 | — | — | 3.1 |
| Benchmark | -1.5 | 4.8 | — | — | 3.9 |
| Series D | -1.3 | 6.0 | — | — | 3.6 |
| Benchmark | -1.5 | 4.8 | — | — | 3.9 |
| Series F | -1.0 | 6.4 | — | — | 4.0 |
| Benchmark | -1.5 | 4.8 | — | — | 3.9 |
| Series O | -0.1 | 7.3 | — | — | 4.9 |
| Benchmark | -1.5 | 4.8 | — | — | 3.9 |

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 O units have been available for sale to unitholders since January 29, 2018.

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

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

INDEX DESCRIPTIONS

Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index (USD) This index is a broad measure of investment-grade, U.S. dollar-denominated debt issued by the U.S. Treasury, as well as by governments, corporations and agencies.

SUMMARY OF INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO (in USD)

(after consideration of derivative products, if any)

As at December 31, 2021

Investment Mix

| | % of Net Asset Value |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Underlying Funds | 99.1 |
| Cash/Other | 0.9 |

Top 25 Holdings*

| | % of Net Asset Value |
|--|----------------------|
| RBC Emerging Markets Bond Fund - Series O | 25.5 |
| RBC \$U.S. Investment Grade Corporate Bond Fund - Series O | 22.5 |
| RBC \$U.S. High Yield Bond Fund - Series O | 20.0 |
| BlueBay Emerging Markets Corporate Bond Fund - Series O | 11.0 |
| BlueBay \$U.S. Global High Yield Bond Fund (Canada) - Series O | 10.0 |
| RBC Emerging Markets Foreign Exchange Fund - Series O | 10.0 |
| Cash & Cash Equivalents | 1.0 |
| 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/en/ca.

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