



PORTFOLIO SOLUTION

**RBC TARGET 2035 EDUCATION FUND**

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December 31, 2017

**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 8, 2018.

**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.

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*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](http://www.rbcgam.com/reports) or SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://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

### Investment Objective and Strategies

The Fund is an asset allocation fund specifically designed to meet the changing needs of investors who are saving money for the purpose of funding their child's post-secondary education that commences around 2035. The Fund gradually shifts its asset mix from an emphasis on equity funds in its early years, to an emphasis on money market funds as its "target" year of 2035 approaches. The Fund invests its assets primarily in units of other funds managed by RBC GAM or an affiliate.

Over the life of the Fund, its portfolio will shift from a focus on funds with growth potential to a focus on funds that preserve capital.

### Risk

The Fund has multiple risks associated with investing in various asset classes. These risks are similar to the risks of investing in the underlying funds. The Fund's goal is to decrease portfolio risk each year to reduce the risk of capital erosion as the target year nears. By 2035, any investments in stock and fixed-income funds will be shifted to money-market funds. 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 August 28, 2017, and its net asset value was \$12 million as of December 31, 2017. Performance data is not available for funds that are less than one year old.

### Recent Developments

The portfolio manager expects bond yields to move higher at a gradual pace, supported by the improving economy and monetary tightening. Meanwhile, earnings have been coming through and analysts are optimistic that the trend can persist. U.S. corporate-tax cuts could provide an additional boost to profits. Against this backdrop, equities continue to offer modest total-return potential.

Effective January 1, 2025, the specified percentage will decline to 1.55% for Series A units and 1.05% for Series D units.

Effective January 1, 2030, the specified percentage will decline to 1.45% for Series A units and 0.95% for Series D units.

Effective January 1, 2033, the specified percentage will decline to 0.90% for Series A units and 0.80% for Series D units.

### 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. and RBC Dominion Securities Inc. are principal distributors of, or distribute certain series of the units of, the Fund. Dealers receive an ongoing commission based on the total value of their clients' Series A and Series D units.

#### *Custodian*

RBC Investor Services Trust ("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.

#### *Registrars*

Royal Bank and RBC IS are the registrars of the Fund and keep records of who owns the units of the Fund. The registrars earn a fee, 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.



## 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. For financial years beginning on or after January 1, 2014, financial highlight information is derived from financial statements prepared in compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS"). For financial years prior to January 1, 2014, financial highlight information is derived from financial statements prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP"). "Net Assets," for the periods prior to 2014, are calculated in accordance with GAAP, and "Net Asset Value" is derived from the valuation method disclosed in the RBC Funds Annual Information Form and is used for transactional purposes (see Ratios and Supplemental Data). All other calculations for the purposes of this MRFP are made using Net Asset Value. There is no significant difference between "Net Assets" and "Net Asset Value" under IFRS.

### Change in Net Assets Per Unit (\$)

For the Year/ Period Ended	Net Assets Beginning of Year/Period	Increase (Decrease) from Operations <sup>1</sup>					Annual Distributions <sup>2</sup>				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		
<b>Series A</b>												
<b>Dec. 31, 2017<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>10.00<sup>†</sup></b>	<b>0.30</b>	<b>(0.08)</b>	<b>0.59</b>	<b>(0.34)</b>	<b>0.47</b>	<b>(0.01)</b>	<b>(0.11)</b>	<b>(0.29)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>(0.41)</b>	<b>10.22</b>
<b>Series D</b>												
<b>Dec. 31, 2017<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>10.00<sup>†</sup></b>	<b>0.41</b>	<b>(0.05)</b>	<b>0.81</b>	<b>(0.65)</b>	<b>0.52</b>	<b>(0.01)</b>	<b>(0.21)</b>	<b>(0.30)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>(0.52)</b>	<b>10.14</b>
<b>Series F</b>												
<b>Dec. 31, 2017<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>10.00<sup>†</sup></b>	<b>0.56</b>	<b>(0.04)</b>	<b>1.10</b>	<b>(1.02)</b>	<b>0.60</b>	<b>(0.01)</b>	<b>(0.24)</b>	<b>(0.30)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>(0.55)</b>	<b>10.12</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Distributions are reinvested in additional units of the Fund or paid in cash.

<sup>3</sup> From August 28, 2017.

<sup>†</sup> 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 (%) <sup>1</sup>	MER Before Absorption (%) <sup>1</sup>	Portfolio Turnover Rate (%) <sup>2</sup>	Trading Expense Ratio (%) <sup>3</sup>
<b>Series A</b>							
<b>Dec. 31, 2017<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>10.22</b>	<b>11 570</b>	<b>1 132</b>	<b>2.19</b>	<b>2.22</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>0.07</b>
<b>Series D</b>							
<b>Dec. 31, 2017<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>10.14</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1.37</b>	<b>1.40</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>0.07</b>
<b>Series F</b>							
<b>Dec. 31, 2017<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>10.12</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1.06</b>	<b>1.09</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>0.07</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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.

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

<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.

<sup>4</sup> From August 28, 2017.



**FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS (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	1.85%	54%	46%
Series D	1.10%	23%	77%
Series F	0.85%	—	100%

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

**PAST PERFORMANCE**

Investment performance in respect of a fund that has been available for less than one year is not provided. Series A, Series D and Series F units of this Fund were launched on August 28, 2017.

**SUMMARY OF INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO**

(after consideration of derivative products, if any)

As at December 31, 2017

**Investment Mix**

	% of Net Asset Value
Canadian Equity Funds	25.9
United States Equity Funds	25.8
Income Funds	24.2
International Equity Funds	20.8
Cash/Other	3.3

**Top 25 Holdings\***

	% of Net Asset Value
RBC High Yield Bond Fund	14.5
RBC Canadian Equity Fund	12.4
RBC European Equity Fund	10.4
RBC Bond Fund	9.7
RBC Private U.S. Large-Cap Core Equity Pool	5.7
RBC U.S. Equity Fund	5.7
RBC Canadian Dividend Fund	5.2
RBC U.S. Mid-Cap Growth Equity Fund	5.2
Phillips, Hager & North Canadian Growth Fund	5.2
RBC O'Shaughnessy U.S. Value Fund	5.2
RBC Emerging Markets Equity Fund	4.2
Phillips, Hager & North U.S. Multi-Style All-Cap Equity Fund	4.0
RBC Asia Pacific ex-Japan Equity Fund	3.7
Cash & Cash Equivalents	3.3
RBC QUBE Low Volatility Canadian Equity Fund	3.1
RBC Japanese Equity Fund	2.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* 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](http://www.rbcgam.com/funds).

The Simplified Prospectus and other information about the underlying funds are available on SEDAR website at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).