

PORTFOLIO SOLUTION

# **RBC MANAGED PAYOUT SOLUTION**

December 31, 2024

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, 2025.

#### 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/regulatorydocuments or SEDAR+ at www.sedarplus.ca. 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 seeks to provide relatively high, regular monthly distributions that are comparatively tax efficient 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").

The decision to invest in an underlying fund is based on the portfolio manager's assessment of the market outlook and the underlying fund's ability to help the Fund meet its stated investment objectives. Distributions should come primarily from interest income but will also consist of dividends, capital gains and return of capital.

The Fund's target weightings for each asset class are 70% for fixed income and 30% for equities. The actual allocation to each asset class will not be more than 15% above or below its target weighting.

#### 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 \$2.7 billion as of December 31, 2024, from \$2.5 billion at the end of 2023. The increase was due to investment returns.

Over the past year, the Fund's Series F units gained 10.3%, which underperformed the 11.2% rise in the benchmark. The broad-based index 1 rose 4.2% and the broad-based index 2 rose 21.7%. 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 2024, the Fund made monthly distributions of 3.80 cents per Series F unit. For the year, the Fund made total distributions of approximately 46 cents per Series F unit, consisting of 12 cents per unit of interest income, 7 cents of dividends, 17 cents of capital gains and 10 cents of return of capital. In 2025, the monthly distribution was increased to 4.00 cents per Series F unit.

Global financial markets managed to shake off increasing macroeconomic instability during 2024 as a relatively strong U.S. economy, falling inflation and interest-rate cuts by major central banks helped maintain steady, if not spectacular, growth in the global economy. China's anemic expansion limited economic activity and

forced the country's government to implement substantial measures to support sustained growth. Donald Trump's victory in the U.S. presidential election in November set the stage for policies perceived as more shareholder-friendly and new approaches to geopolitical uncertainty.

The Fund's neutral position in equities and neutral position in fixed income had a positive impact on performance. Government fixed income rose for a second straight year as coupon income was high enough to offset an overall decline in prices amid surging supply. Treasury yields rose on robust U.S. economic growth, the federal government's rising debt load and a scaling-back of bond buys by the U.S. Federal Reserve. Inflation in the U.S. was higher than in Europe, where economic growth lagged, and German bonds outperformed as a result. Corporate, high-yield and emerging-market debt performed strongly, with decent growth leading to rising prices for non-government bonds. Canadian bonds outperformed U.S. fixed income as the Bank of Canada (the "BOC") steadily cut interest rates in response to significant weakness in the domestic economy. The BOC lowered its benchmark rate by 1.75 percentage points between June and December to 3.25%, making it the most aggressive among major central banks in its easing cycle. Returns in the fixed-income segment of the portfolio were boosted by the RBC Canadian Short-Term Income Fund and the RBC Bond Fund.

Global equities delivered impressive gains in the past year, with the strongest returns generated by U.S. mega-cap technology stocks, but gains began to broaden in the summer as other areas posted strong returns. International markets underperformed, particularly after the U.S. election, given that Trump's policy proposals favour domestic growth at the expense of international and emerging-market economies. Emerging-market equities posted attractive returns in 2024, with stock indexes in Taiwan and South Korea benefiting from exposure to advances in artificial intelligence, and Chinese markets rallied to their best performance since 2020 after the government announced aggressive stimulus plans to bolster lackluster economic growth. Returns were bolstered by the RBC QUBE U.S. Equity Fund and the Phillips, Hager & North U.S. Multi-Style All-Cap Equity Fund.

# **Recent Developments**

The economy has stabilized as concern about inflation moderates and headwinds created by higher borrowing costs fade amid interest-rate cuts, and the portfolio manager expects the U.S. economy to continue expanding modestly. Bonds appear to be reasonably priced and yields are likely to trade in a range over the year ahead, providing fixed-income investors with low- to mid-single-digit returns with modest valuation risk. Stocks offer better return potential than bonds, although the portfolio manager is concerned that a handful of mega-cap stocks have accounted for the bulk of the returns in U.S. equities. The portfolio manager added one percentage point to



the fixed-income position in the fourth quarter of 2024 as bond yields jumped above 4%, bringing the bond holding to neutral. As a result, the Fund has a neutral setting across asset classes, allowing the portfolio manager to take advantage of any market volatility that arises.

Effective July 1, 2024, the management fees for Series A units were reduced to 1.35% from 1.39%.

### **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, debt securities or mortgages from or sales of equity, debt securities or mortgages 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.

# Change in Net Assets Per Unit (\$)

	_		Increase (Dec	rease) from (	Operations <sup>1</sup>		Annual Distributions <sup>2</sup>					
For the Year/ Period Ended	Net Assets Beginning 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	Total	Net Assets End of Year/Period
Series A												
Dec. 31, 2024	7.93	0.42	(0.13)	0.12	0.31	0.72	(0.10)	(0.06)	(0.15)	(0.08)	(0.39)	8.26
Dec. 31, 2023	7.71	0.34	(0.12)	0.05	0.32	0.59	(0.08)	(0.06)	(0.10)	(0.14)	(0.38)	7.93
Dec. 31, 2022	8.99	0.31	(0.13)	0.14	(1.18)	(0.86)	(0.07)	(0.07)	(0.20)	(0.12)	(0.46)	7.71
Dec. 31, 2021	8.83	0.24	(0.14)	0.38	0.13	0.61	(0.03)	(0.07)	(0.26)	(80.0)	(0.44)	8.99
Dec. 31, 2020	8.75	0.25	(0.14)	0.17	0.21	0.49	(0.05)	(80.0)	(0.02)	(0.29)	(0.44)	8.83
Series F												
Dec. 31, 2024	9.14	0.42	(0.07)	0.12	0.46	0.93	(0.12)	(0.07)	(0.17)	(0.10)	(0.46)	9.60
Dec. 31, 2023	8.80	0.39	(0.06)	0.06	0.36	0.75	(0.09)	(0.07)	(0.11)	(0.16)	(0.43)	9.14
Dec. 31, 2022	10.17	0.36	(0.07)	0.15	(1.31)	(0.87)	(0.07)	(80.0)	(0.23)	(0.13)	(0.51)	8.80
Dec. 31, 2021	9.89	0.27	(0.07)	0.43	0.15	0.78	(0.03)	(80.0)	(0.29)	(0.09)	(0.49)	10.17
Dec. 31, 2020	9.71	0.28	(0.07)	0.19	0.24	0.64	(0.06)	(0.09)	(0.02)	(0.32)	(0.49)	9.89
Series 0												
Dec. 31, 2024	9.82	0.42	_	0.12	0.54	1.08	(0.13)	(0.07)	(0.19)	(0.10)	(0.49)	10.39
Dec. 31, 2023	9.39	0.43	-	0.06	0.29	0.78	(0.10)	(80.0)	(0.12)	(0.17)	(0.47)	9.82
Dec. 31, 2022	10.78	0.38	_	0.16	(1.49)	(0.95)	(80.0)	(80.0)	(0.24)	(0.14)	(0.54)	9.39
Dec. 31, 2021	10.41	0.28	_	0.45	0.19	0.92	(0.03)	(80.0)	(0.31)	(0.10)	(0.52)	10.78
Dec. 31, 2020	10.15	0.29		0.20	0.20	0.69	(0.06)	(0.10)	(0.02)	(0.33)	(0.51)	10.41

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



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

#### **Ratios and Supplemental Data**

	Net Asset Value	Net Asset Value	Number of Units	Management	MER Before	Portfolio	Trading
As at	Per Unit (\$)	(\$000s)	Outstanding (000s)	Expense Ratio (%) <sup>1</sup>	Absorption (%) <sup>1</sup>	Turnover Rate (%) <sup>2</sup>	Expense Ratio (%) <sup>3</sup>
Series A							
Dec. 31, 2024	8.26	1,740,872	210,766	1.60	1.60	6.92	0.01
Dec. 31, 2023	7.93	1,724,832	217,505	1.62	1.62	2.72	0.01
Dec. 31, 2022	7.71	1,892,918	245,450	1.63	1.63	6.98	0.01
Dec. 31, 2021	8.99	2,455,331	273,061	1.63	1.63	4.84	0.01
Dec. 31, 2020	8.83	2,427,985	275,013	1.63	1.63	10.49	0.03
Series F							
Dec. 31, 2024	9.60	980,071	102,088	0.74	0.74	6.92	0.01
Dec. 31, 2023	9.14	792,225	86,717	0.74	0.74	2.72	0.01
Dec. 31, 2022	8.80	858,343	97,490	0.74	0.74	6.98	0.01
Dec. 31, 2021	10.17	996,048	97,909	0.74	0.74	4.84	0.01
Dec. 31, 2020	9.89	832,833	84,194	0.74	0.74	10.49	0.03
Series 0							
Dec. 31, 2024	10.39	4,374	421	0.05	0.05	6.92	0.01
Dec. 31, 2023	9.82	4,112	419	0.05	0.05	2.72	0.01
Dec. 31, 2022	9.39	5,963	635	0.05	0.05	6.98	0.01
Dec. 31, 2021	10.78	7,180	666	0.05	0.05	4.84	0.01
Dec. 31, 2020	10.41	5,285	508	0.06	0.06	10.49	0.03

<sup>&</sup>lt;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 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.

Effective July 1, 2024, the management fees for Series A units were reduced to 1.35% from 1.39%. If the changes to the management fees would have been in effect throughout the financial year ended December 31, 2024, the adjusted MER for each series of the Fund would be: Series A – 1.58%.

Effective January 1, 2023, the management fees for Series A units were fixed at 1.39%. If the changes to the management fees would have been in effect throughout the financial year ended December 31, 2022, the adjusted MER for each series of the Fund would be: Series A – 1.62%.

### **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:

		Breakdown of Services				
	Management Fees*	Distribution	Other <sup>†</sup>	Administration Fees		
Series A	1.35%	56%	44%	0.05%		
Series F	0.60%	-	100%	0.05%		
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 units. Series 0 unitholders pay a negotiated fee directly to RBC GAM for investment-counselling services.

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>\*</sup> Effective January 1, 2023, the management fees for Series A units were fixed at 1.39%. Effective July 1, 2024, the management fees for Series A units were reduced to 1.35% from 1.39%.

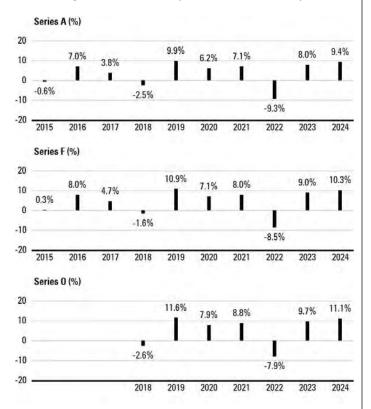
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>†</sup> Includes all costs related to management, trustee, investment advisory services, general administration and profit.

#### PAST PERFORMANCE

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.



#### **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, 2024, compared with the following benchmarks:

The benchmark is composed of:

43% FTSE Canada Universe Bond Index

20% S&P/TSX Capped Composite Total Return Index

16.5% FTSE Canada Short Term Overall Bond Index

10% S&P 500 Total Return Index (CAD)

4.1% ICE BofA U.S. High Yield BB-B Index (hedged to CAD)

4.1% JPMorgan EMBI Global Diversified (hedged to CAD)

2.3% FTSE Canada 30 Day TBill Index

The broad-based indexes are as follows:

Broad-based index 1 – FTSE Canada Universe Bond Index
Broad-based index 2 – S&P/TSX Capped Composite Total
Return Index

	Past	Past	Past	Past	Since
	Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	Inception
Series A	9.4	2.3	4.0	3.7	_
Benchmark	11.2	3.4	4.9	4.9	-
Broad-based index 1	4.2	-0.6	0.8	2.0	-
Broad-based index 2	21.7	8.6	11.1	8.7	_
Series F	10.3	3.2	4.9	4.6	-
Benchmark	11.2	3.4	4.9	4.9	_
Broad-based index 1	4.2	-0.6	0.8	2.0	-
Broad-based index 2	21.7	8.6	11.1	8.7	_
Series 0	11.1	3.9	5.7	-	5.8
Benchmark	11.2	3.4	4.9	_	5.3
Broad-based index 1	4.2	-0.6	0.8	-	1.8
Broad-based index 2	21.7	8.6	11.1	_	10.1

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 O units have been available for sale to unitholders since August 20, 2018.

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

#### INDEX DESCRIPTIONS

FTSE Canada Universe Bond Index This index is designed as a broad measure of the Canadian investment-grade fixed-income market and includes bonds with maturities of at least one year.

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

**FTSE Canada Short Term Overall Bond Index** This index is a measure of the performance of Canadian bonds with terms to maturity of one to five years and is a good proxy for a short-term fixed-income investment.

**S&P 500 Total Return Index (CAD)** This index is a capitalization-weighted index measuring the Canadian-dollar performance of 500 widely held common stocks representing all major industries in the United States. The index gives investors a broad measure of the overall performance of the U.S. stock market.



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

ICE BofA U.S. High Yield BB-B Index (hedged to CAD) This index tracks the performance of the majority of U.S. dollar-denominated corporate debt that is below investment grade and issued in the U.S. market. Qualifying securities must have at least one year remaining to maturity and a minimum amount outstanding of \$100 million. The index is hedged to Canadian dollars. JPMorgan EMBI Global Diversified (hedged to CAD) This index is a broad measure of the performance of U.S. dollar-denominated emerging-market debt in the Americas, Europe, Asia, the Middle East and Africa. The index limits the weights of countries with larger amounts of debt by including only a specific portion of their debt outstanding. The index is hedged to Canadian dollars.

 $\textbf{FTSE Canada 30 Day TBill Index} \ \ \text{This index is a measure of the performance of Canadian short-term cash investments}.$ 

# **SUMMARY OF INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO**

(after consideration of derivative products, if any) As at December 31, 2024

### **Investment Mix**

	% of Net Asset Value
Fixed Income Funds	57.8
Balanced Funds and Portfolio Solutions	15.3
Canadian Equity Funds	12.9
United States Equity Funds	10.0
Alternative Investment Funds	3.1
Cash/Other	0.9

# Top 25 Holdings\*

	% of Net Asset Value
RBC Bond Fund - Series 0	19.1
RBC Global Corporate Bond Fund - Series O	17.9
RBC Canadian Short-Term Income Fund - Series O	16.1
RBC Monthly Income Fund - Series 0	15.3
Phillips, Hager & North Canadian Income Fund - Series 0	6.6
RBC Canadian Dividend Fund - Series O	6.3
Phillips, Hager & North U.S. Multi-Style All-Cap Equity Fund -	
Series 0	5.0
RBC QUBE U.S. Equity Fund - Series 0	5.0
RBC Global High Yield Bond Fund - Series O	4.3
RBC Canadian Core Real Estate Fund - Series N	2.1
Cash & Cash Equivalents	0.9
RBC Global Infrastructure Fund LP - Series N	0.9
RBC Canadian Money Market Fund - Series O	0.5
Total	100.0

<sup>\*</sup> 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/regulatorydocuments.

The Simplified Prospectus and other information about the underlying funds are available on the investment fund's designated website and on SEDAR+ at www.sedarplus.ca.