



U.S. EQUITY FUND

**PHILLIPS, HAGER & NORTH
U.S. EQUITY 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 1-800-661-6141, by writing to us at RBC Global Asset Management Inc., Phillips, Hager & North Investment Management, Investment Funds Centre, 20th Floor, 200 Burrard Street, Vancouver, B.C., V6C 3N5, 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.

Phillips, Hager & North Investment Management is a division of RBC Global Asset Management Inc., the manager of the Fund and an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Royal Bank of Canada ("Royal Bank").



MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION OF FUND PERFORMANCE

Investment Objective and Strategies

The Fund seeks to provide investors with long-term capital growth by investing primarily in shares of large-capitalization, high-quality U.S. companies. To achieve the Fund's investment objective, the portfolio manager invests in quality businesses that have a sustainable competitive advantage, a history of profitability, a solid financial position, opportunities for growth, and a capable management team. The portfolio manager places particular emphasis on a company's long-term return on equity, as this measure is a key indicator of a company's ability to consistently generate profits for shareholders. Additional emphasis is placed on a stock's valuation, given the breadth of the U.S. 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 rose to \$596 million as of December 31, 2018, from \$580 million at the end of 2017. The increase was due to investment returns, partially offset by net redemptions.

Over the past year, the Fund's Series O units gained 4.3%, which outperformed the 3.8% rise in the benchmark. The Fund's return is after the deduction of 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.

U.S. stocks fell overall in 2018 due to a significant pullback in the fourth quarter of the year. From April to September, U.S. stocks enjoyed a stretch of strong returns driven primarily by earnings growth. However, volatility emerged in October amid concern that rising interest rates would generate headwinds for economic and earnings growth. The recent market pullback has arguably priced in most apparent challenges, in the view of the portfolio manager, as reduced stock-market valuations mean that future returns will not be entirely reliant on earnings growth.

Performance in 2018 was largely driven by the Health Care sector. The Fund's overweight position in the pharmaceutical company Eli Lilly was a boost to relative returns after the company reported positive results in a mid-stage clinical trial of its experimental diabetes drug. Overweight exposure to the health-care equipment company Abbott Laboratories was also positive for the Fund's relative performance.

The Consumer Discretionary sector was the Fund's worst-performing sector, hurt by an overweight position in Mohawk Industries. The manufacturer of flooring products, including carpets and ceramic tile, was exposed to a slower housing market and rising costs for the raw materials used to make its products.

Recent Developments

While the portfolio manager's base case is for stocks to rise modestly over the next year, there are several scenarios that could lead to different outcomes. A policy mistake by the U.S. Federal Reserve (the "Fed") – raising interest rates too fast, for example – or an escalation of protectionist moves by the Trump administration, which could increase the costs of goods, are the most likely causes of a downturn, given the potential for both to stamp out the expansion, in the view of the portfolio manager. In the upside scenario, the expansion would remain intact through 2021, perhaps because the Fed soon pauses its plan to hike rates or the Trump administration reaches a trade agreement with China.

Related-Party Transactions

Manager and Portfolio Manager

RBC GAM is an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Royal Bank and is the manager and principal 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 units 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 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.

Trustee and Custodian

RBC IS is the trustee and holds title to the Fund's property on behalf of unitholders. RBC IS is the custodian of the Fund and holds the assets of the Fund.

RBC IS earns a fee as the trustee and 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.

Brokers and Dealers

The Fund has established standard brokerage and dealing agreements at market rates with related parties. These related-party commissions were \$23,000 (2017 – \$42,000), or 9% (2017 – 9%) of the total transaction costs paid for this 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.

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, 2018	66.55	1.13	(1.32)	5.06	(3.12)	1.75	—	—	—	—	—	68.17
Dec. 31, 2017	58.44	0.91	(1.17)	6.47	1.94	8.15	—	—	—	—	—	66.55
Dec. 31, 2016	57.22	1.22	(1.06)	0.34	0.16	0.66	—	—	—	—	—	58.44
Dec. 31, 2015	51.52	0.99	(1.13)	13.91	(7.84)	5.93	—	—	—	—	—	57.22
Dec. 31, 2014	43.64	0.86	(0.97)	10.86	(2.88)	7.87	—	(0.19)	—	—	(0.19)	51.52
Advisor Series												
Dec. 31, 2018	66.56	1.13	(1.32)	5.06	(3.49)	1.38	—	—	—	—	—	68.17
Dec. 31, 2017	58.44	0.91	(1.17)	6.46	1.69	7.89	—	—	—	—	—	66.56
Dec. 31, 2016	57.22	1.22	(1.07)	0.34	(1.47)	(0.98)	—	—	—	—	—	58.44
Dec. 31, 2015	51.52	0.99	(1.13)	13.90	(7.83)	5.93	—	—	—	—	—	57.22
Dec. 31, 2014	43.64	0.86	(0.97)	10.86	(2.88)	7.87	—	(0.19)	—	—	(0.19)	51.52
Series D												
Dec. 31, 2018	66.69	1.13	(0.73)	5.09	(3.14)	2.35	(0.01)	(0.37)	—	—	(0.38)	68.51
Dec. 31, 2017	58.30	0.91	(0.64)	6.48	1.97	8.72	—	(0.28)	—	—	(0.28)	66.69
Dec. 31, 2016	57.08	1.22	(0.60)	0.34	0.29	1.25	—	(0.50)	—	—	(0.50)	58.30
Dec. 31, 2015	51.27	0.99	(0.65)	13.88	(7.82)	6.40	—	(0.37)	—	—	(0.37)	57.08
Dec. 31, 2014	43.42	0.85	(0.56)	10.76	(2.85)	8.20	—	(0.63)	—	—	(0.63)	51.27
Series F												
Dec. 31, 2018	66.97	1.14	(0.55)	5.12	(3.43)	2.28	(0.01)	(0.55)	—	—	(0.56)	68.80
Dec. 31, 2017	58.55	0.92	(0.48)	6.52	1.31	8.27	(0.01)	(0.45)	—	—	(0.46)	66.97
Dec. 31, 2016	57.33	1.23	(0.46)	0.34	1.16	2.27	—	(0.65)	—	—	(0.65)	58.55
Dec. 31, 2015	51.51	1.00	(0.52)	14.04	(7.91)	6.61	—	(0.51)	—	—	(0.51)	57.33
Dec. 31, 2014	43.62	0.85	(0.45)	10.79	(2.86)	8.33	—	(0.76)	—	—	(0.76)	51.51
Series O												
Dec. 31, 2018	67.69	1.16	(0.02)	5.18	(3.22)	3.10	(0.02)	(1.06)	—	—	(1.08)	69.53
Dec. 31, 2017	59.19	0.93	(0.01)	6.61	2.07	9.60	(0.01)	(0.98)	—	—	(0.99)	67.69
Dec. 31, 2016	57.93	1.24	(0.01)	0.34	0.28	1.85	—	(1.14)	—	—	(1.14)	59.19
Dec. 31, 2015	52.07	1.01	(0.01)	14.12	(7.95)	7.17	—	(1.07)	—	—	(1.07)	57.93
Dec. 31, 2014	44.10	0.83	(0.01)	10.48	(2.78)	8.52	—	(1.25)	—	—	(1.25)	52.07

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.



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS (cont.)

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, 2018	68.17	3 896	57	1.87	1.87	62.98	0.04
Dec. 31, 2017	66.55	3 973	60	1.87	1.87	81.57	0.08
Dec. 31, 2016	58.44	4 076	70	1.97	1.97	78.06	0.07
Dec. 31, 2015	57.22	4 615	81	2.05	2.05	106.27	0.08
Dec. 31, 2014	51.52	4 259	83	2.06	2.06	38.62	0.07
Advisor Series							
Dec. 31, 2018	68.17	1 131	17	1.87	1.87	62.98	0.04
Dec. 31, 2017	66.56	1 157	17	1.87	1.87	81.57	0.08
Dec. 31, 2016	58.44	1 284	22	1.97	1.97	78.06	0.07
Dec. 31, 2015	57.22	1 979	35	2.05	2.05	106.27	0.08
Dec. 31, 2014	51.52	1 815	35	2.06	2.06	38.62	0.07
Series D							
Dec. 31, 2018	68.51	137 623	2 009	1.02	1.02	62.98	0.04
Dec. 31, 2017	66.69	140 275	2 104	1.02	1.02	81.57	0.08
Dec. 31, 2016	58.30	135 852	2 330	1.10	1.10	78.06	0.07
Dec. 31, 2015	57.08	147 545	2 585	1.18	1.18	106.27	0.08
Dec. 31, 2014	51.27	139 838	2 727	1.18	1.18	38.62	0.07
Series F							
Dec. 31, 2018	68.80	5 654	82	0.76	0.76	62.98	0.04
Dec. 31, 2017	66.97	4 969	74	0.77	0.77	81.57	0.08
Dec. 31, 2016	58.55	3 777	65	0.84	0.84	78.06	0.07
Dec. 31, 2015	57.33	3 580	62	0.94	0.94	106.27	0.08
Dec. 31, 2014	51.51	2 293	45	0.94	0.94	38.62	0.07
Series O							
Dec. 31, 2018	69.53	448 049	6 444	0.02	0.02	62.98	0.04
Dec. 31, 2017	67.69	429 910	6 351	0.02	0.02	81.57	0.08
Dec. 31, 2016	59.19	437 136	7 386	0.02	0.02	78.06	0.07
Dec. 31, 2015	57.93	399 193	6 891	0.02	0.02	106.27	0.08
Dec. 31, 2014	52.07	438 672	8 425	0.02	0.02	38.62	0.07

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 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.

Effective June 30, 2016, the management fees were changed in respect of Series A, Advisor Series, Series D and Series F units of the Fund. If the changes to the management fees would have been in effect throughout 2016, the adjusted MER for each series of the Fund would be: Series A – 1.88%, Advisor Series – 1.88%, Series D – 1.02% and Series F – 0.77%.



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS (cont.)

Management Fees

RBC GAM is the manager 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	1.60%	63%	37%
Advisor Series	1.60%	63%	37%
Series D	0.85%	29%	71%
Series F	0.60%	—	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.

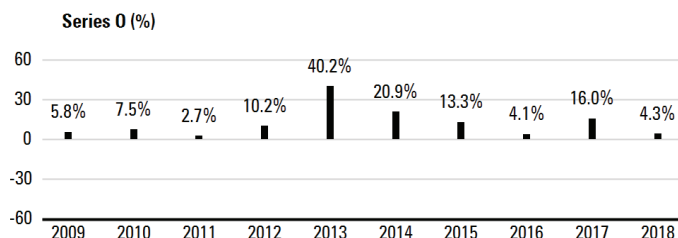
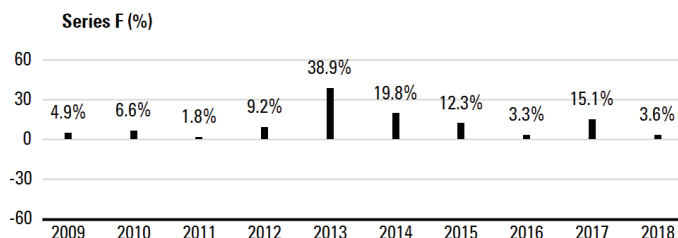
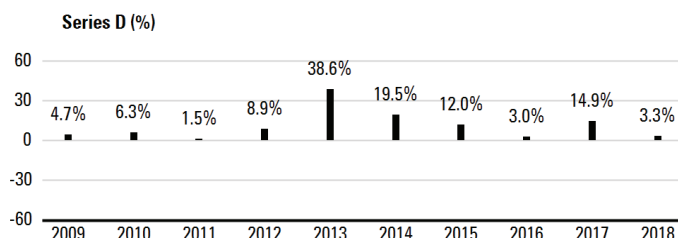
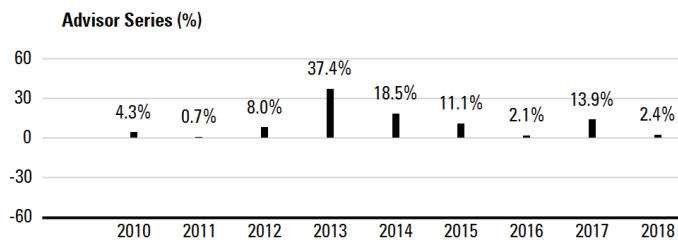
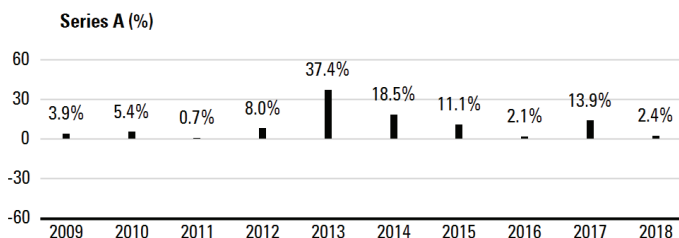
* Includes all costs related to management, investment advisory services, general administration and profit.

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.





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 December 31, 2018, compared with the following benchmark:

S&P 500 Total Return Index (CAD)

	Past Year	Past 3 Years	Past 5 Years	Past 10 Years	Since Inception
Series A	2.4	6.0	9.4	9.9	–
Benchmark	3.8	8.8	14.1	14.4	–
Advisor Series	2.4	6.0	9.4	–	11.6
Benchmark	3.8	8.8	14.1	–	16.0
Series D	3.3	6.9	10.4	10.8	–
Benchmark	3.8	8.8	14.1	14.4	–
Series F	3.6	7.2	10.6	11.1	–
Benchmark	3.8	8.8	14.1	14.4	–
Series O	4.3	8.0	11.5	12.0	–
Benchmark	3.8	8.8	14.1	14.4	–

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

Advisor Series units have been available for sale to unitholders since October 2010.

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

All outstanding Series C units were renamed Series A units effective June 30, 2016.

INDEX DESCRIPTION

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.

SUMMARY OF INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO

(after consideration of derivative products, if any)

As at December 31, 2018

Investment Mix

	% of Net Asset Value
Information Technology	20.7
Health Care	17.3
Financials	13.7
Communication Services	9.5
Consumer Discretionary	8.4
Consumer Staples	7.5
Industrials	6.9
Energy	5.2
Materials	2.7
Utilities	2.2
Real Estate	2.0
Cash/Other	3.9

Top 25 Holdings

	% of Net Asset Value
Microsoft Corp.	4.3
Cash & Cash Equivalents	3.8
Alphabet Inc., Class C	3.5
Apple Inc.	3.2
Amazon.com, Inc.	3.0
JPMorgan Chase & Co.	2.1
Johnson & Johnson	1.9
Exxon Mobil Corp.	1.9
Berkshire Hathaway Inc., Class B	1.9
Bank of America Corp.	1.9
UnitedHealth Group Incorporated	1.9
Facebook Inc., Class A	1.8
Merck & Co. Inc.	1.5
Visa Inc., Class A	1.5
Verizon Communications Inc.	1.4
Abbott Laboratories	1.4
Cisco Systems Inc.	1.4
Union Pacific Corp.	1.4
Eli Lilly & Co.	1.3
Wells Fargo & Company	1.3
Pfizer Inc.	1.3
Medtronic Plc.	1.2
The Procter & Gamble Co.	1.1
The Walt Disney Company	1.1
Anthem Inc.	1.1
Top 25 Holdings	48.2

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.