

CANADIAN EQUITY ETF

# RBC CANADIAN DIVIDEND COVERED CALL ETF

September 30, 2023

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 December 7, 2023.

#### A Note on Forward-looking Statements

This report may contain forward-looking statements about the ETF, its future performance, strategies or prospects, and possible future ETF 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 ETF 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 ETF. 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 ETF. You can get a copy of the financial statements at your request, and at no cost, by calling 1-855-RBC-ETFS (722-3837), 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 ETF's proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record, or quarterly portfolio disclosure.



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#### MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION OF FUND PERFORMANCE

#### **Investment Objective and Strategies**

The ETF seeks to provide unitholders with exposure to the performance of a diversified portfolio of high-quality Canadian equity securities that are expected to provide regular income from dividends and have the potential for long term capital growth, while mitigating some downside risk through the use of covered call options. The ETF invests primarily in an actively managed portfolio of Canadian companies with above-average dividend yield or with good prospects of paying or growing their dividends. Depending on market volatility and other factors, the ETF will write covered call options on some of these securities.

#### Risk

There were no significant changes to the ETF that materially affected the ETF's overall level of risk during the reporting period. The risks of investing in the ETF and the suitability of the ETF for investors remain as discussed in the Prospectus.

#### **Results of Operations**

The ETF was launched on January 17, 2023, and its net asset value was \$16 million as of September 30, 2023. Investment performance is not provided for a fund that has been available for less than one year.

#### **Recent Developments**

Effective February 1, 2023, Joanne Vézina was appointed as a member of the Independent Review Committee ("the IRC"). Effective March 1, 2023, Enrique Cuyegkeng 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 ETF. RBC GAM is responsible for the ETF's day-to-day operations, holds title to the ETF's property on behalf of its unitholders, and provides investment advice and portfolio management services to the ETF. RBC GAM is paid a management fee by the ETF as compensation for its services. The management fee is calculated and accrued on a daily basis and is based on a percentage of the net asset value of the ETF.

RBC GAM or its affiliates may earn fees and spreads in connection with various services provided to, or transactions with, the ETF, such as banking, brokerage, securities lending, foreign exchange and derivatives transactions. RBC GAM or its affiliates may earn a foreign exchange spread when unitholders buy and sell ETF units denominated in different currencies. The ETF may also maintain 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 ETF in the course of their normal businesses are discussed below.

#### **Custodian and Valuation Agent**

RBC Investor Services Trust ("RBC IS") is the custodian and valuation agent and holds the assets of the ETF and provides administrative services to the ETF. RBC IS earns a fee for these services, which is paid by the manager from the management fee paid by the ETF.

#### **Designated Broker**

RBC GAM has entered into an agreement with RBC Dominion Securities Inc., an affiliate of RBC GAM, to act as designated broker and/or authorized dealer for the distribution of units of the ETF, on terms and conditions that are comparable to arm's length agreements in the ETF industry. The material terms and conditions of the agreement have been disclosed in the ETF's Prospectus.

#### Securities Lending Agent

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

#### **Brokers and Dealers**

The ETF has established standard brokerage and dealing agreements at market rates with related parties. For the periods ended September 30, 2023 and 2022, the related-party commissions were 14,000 (2022 - 0) or 25% (2022 - 0) of the total transaction costs paid for this ETF.

## Other Related-Party Transactions

Pursuant to applicable securities legislation, the ETF 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 debt securities from or sales of debt securities to a related-party dealer, where it acted as principal.



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The applicable standing instructions require that Related-Party
Trading Activities 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
ETF, (iii) is in compliance with RBC GAM policies and procedures, and
(iv) achieves a fair and reasonable result for the ETF.

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#### FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The following tables show selected key financial information about the ETF and are intended to help you understand the ETF's financial performance for the past five financial years or for the periods since inception. This information is derived from the ETF's audited annual financial statements.

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

Sept. 30, 2022 <sup>3</sup>	20.00 <sup>†</sup>	-	(0.10)	(0.01,	(0.07)	(0.72)	_	(0.02)	_	_	(0.02)	20.00
Sept. 30, 2023	20.00	0.54	(0.15)	(0.54)	(0.57)	(0.72)	_	(0.92)	_	_	(0.92)	18.38
Period Ended	Beginning of Year/Period	(Loss)	Expenses	(Losses)	(Losses)	Total	Dividends)	Dividends	Gains	of Capital	Total	Year/Period
For the Year/	Net Assets	Revenue	Total	Gains	Gains		(Excluding	From	Capital	Return		End of
		Total		Realized	Unrealized		Income		From			Net Assets
			Increase (De	ecrease) from	Operations <sup>1</sup>		From					
								Annual Distributions <sup>2</sup>				

<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.

#### **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>	Closing Market Price (\$)
Sept. 30, 2023	18.38	15 627	850	0.71	0.71	133.89	0.37	18.41
Sept. 30, 2022 <sup>4</sup>	_	_	_	_	0.72	_	_	_

<sup>1</sup> The management expense ratio ("MER") is based on the direct expenses charged to the ETF and the ETF'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.

## **Management Fees**

RBC GAM is the manager, trustee and portfolio manager of the ETF. RBC GAM is paid a management fee per annum of the net asset value by the ETF as compensation for its services. The management fee of the ETF is calculated at 0.64% annually, before GST/HST, of the daily net asset value of the ETF.

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> From August 23, 2022.

<sup>†</sup> Initial offering net asset value per unit.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The ETF'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 ETF buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the year. The higher the ETF's portfolio turnover rate in a year, the greater the trading costs payable by the ETF 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 ETF.

<sup>3</sup> The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs of the ETF and the ETF'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>lt;sup>4</sup> From August 23, 2022.



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## **PAST PERFORMANCE**

Investment performance in respect of an ETF that has been available for less than one year is not provided. The ETF was launched January 17, 2023.

## **SUMMARY OF INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO**

(after consideration of derivative products, if any) As at September 30, 2023

## **Investment Mix**

	% of Net Asset Value
Financials	40.3
Energy	17.8
Industrials	14.1
Consumer Staples	6.7
Utilities	6.3
Materials	3.8
Communication Services	3.1
Consumer Discretionary	3.1
Real Estate	2.8
Underlying Funds	1.3
Call Options	(0.3)
Cash/Other	1.0

# Top 25 Holdings - Long Positions

	% of Net Asset Value
Royal Bank of Canada	7.4
Toronto-Dominion Bank	6.0
Canadian Pacific Kansas City Ltd.	4.7
Enbridge Inc.	4.2
Bank of Nova Scotia	4.1
Canadian Natural Resources Ltd.	4.0
Brookfield Corp.	4.0
Bank of Montreal	3.9
Canadian National Railway Co.	3.9
Power Corp. of Canada	3.4
Thomson Reuters Corp.	3.1
Manulife Financial Corp.	2.9
TC Energy Corp.	2.6
Alimentation Couche-Tard Inc.	2.5
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce	2.5
Nutrien Ltd.	2.5
Suncor Energy Inc.	2.1
George Weston Ltd.	2.0
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2.0
Restaurant Brands International Inc.	1.8
Imperial Oil Ltd.	1.7
TELUS Corp.	1.6
National Bank of Canada	1.6
Onex Corp.	1.5
Magna International Inc.	1.3
Top 25 Holdings – Long Positions	77.3

# Top 25 Holdings - Short Positions

9	6 of Net Asset Value
Bank of Montreal Call@120 October 20, 2023	_
Bank of Montreal Call@120 October 20, 2023	_
Bank of Montreal Call@120 October 20, 2023	_
Brookfield Corp. Call@48 November 17, 2023	_
Brookfield Corp. Call@48 November 17, 2023	_
Brookfield Infrastructure Partners LP Call@46 October 20, 2023	-
Brookfield Infrastructure Partners LP Call@46 October 20, 2023	-
Brookfield Infrastructure Partners LP Call@45 November 17, 20	)23 –
Canadian National Railway Co. Call@155 October 20, 2023	_
Canadian Pacific Kansas City Ltd. Call@110 October 20, 2023	_
Enbridge Inc. Call@48 October 20, 2023	_
Enbridge Inc. Call@48 October 20, 2023	_
Finning International Inc. Call@44 November 17, 2023	_
Fortis Inc. Call@56 November 17, 2023	_
George Weston Ltd. Call@155 November 17, 2023	_
Hydro One Ltd. Call@37 November 17, 2023	_
Keyera Corp. Call@33 November 17, 2023	_
Magna International Inc. Call@80 November 17, 2023	_
Manulife Financial Corp. Call@26 October 20, 2023	_
Manulife Financial Corp. Call@26 October 20, 2023	_
Manulife Financial Corp. Call@26 November 17, 2023	_
Maple Leaf Foods Inc. Call@30 November 17, 2023	_
National Bank of Canada Call@100 October 20, 2023	_
National Bank of Canada Call@96 November 17, 2023	_
Pembina Pipeline Corp. Call@43 November 17, 2023	_
Top 25 Holdings – Short Positions	
Top Holdings	77.3

The Summary of Investment Portfolio may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the ETF and a quarterly update is available at www.rbcgam.com/regulatorydocuments.