



FIXED-INCOME ETF

## RBC TARGET 2021 CORPORATE BOND INDEX ETF

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September 30, 2020

**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 10, 2020.

### 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.

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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 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/en/ca](http://www.rbcgam.com/en/ca) 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 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 income for a limited period of time ending on its termination date by replicating, to the extent possible, the investment results that correspond generally to the performance, before fees and expenses, of the FTSE Canada 2021 Maturity Corporate Bond Index\*. The FTSE Canada 2021 Maturity Corporate Bond Index is designed to represent the performance of a held-to-maturity portfolio consisting of, primarily, Canadian dollar-denominated investment grade corporate bonds with effective maturities in 2021.

The ETF intends to invest at least 90% of its assets in and hold the securities that comprise the FTSE Canada 2021 Maturity Corporate Bond Index and/or securities that have economic characteristics that are substantially similar to those that comprise the index.

### 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's net asset value fell to \$93 million as of September 30, 2020, from \$293 million on December 31, 2019. The decrease was due to net redemptions, partially offset by investment returns. The NAV figures reflect a change in the ETF's financial year.

Over the past financial year, the ETF's units gained 2.2%, which underperformed the 2.4% rise in the benchmark. The broad-based index rose 8.0%. The ETF'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 the ETF.

Canadian bonds recorded significant gains, with yields falling to record-low levels in 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic prompted major central banks and politicians to unleash unprecedented fiscal and monetary stimulus. The Bank of Canada (the "BOC") cut its

\* "FTSE Canada 2021 Maturity Corporate Bond Index" is a trademark of FTSE Debt Capital Markets Inc. ("FTDCM"). "FTSE" is a trademark of the London Stock Exchange Group companies (the "Exchange") and is used by FTDCM under licence. The "FTSE Canada 2021 Maturity Corporate Bond Index" trademark has been licensed for use for certain purposes to RBC GAM. The RBC ETFs are not sponsored, endorsed, sold or promoted by FTDCM, FTSE International Limited or the Exchange (together, the "Licensor Parties"). The Licensor Parties make no warranty or representation whatsoever, expressly or impliedly, either as to the results to be obtained from the use of the index and/or the figure at which the said index stands at any particular time on any particular day or otherwise. The index is compiled and calculated by FTDCM and all copyright in the index values and constituent lists vests in FTDCM. The Licensor Parties shall not be liable (whether in negligence or otherwise) to any person for any error in the index and the Licensor Parties shall not be under any obligation to advise any person of any error therein.

benchmark interest rate by 1.5 percentage points to 0.25% in a bid to stabilize the financial system and shield the economy from the economic downturn. By the end of the period, Canadian yields had pushed back up but remained near the lows.

Corporate bonds maturing in 2021 performed exceptionally well, outperforming similar-term federal and provincial government bonds during the period. Longer-term bonds had higher returns than shorter-term ones. Corporate-bond returns peaked in late January due to retirement account-related inflows and bottomed in late March as investors sold corporate bonds and other "risk" assets in response to rising cases of COVID-19. Sectors hurt by the pandemic included Energy and Real Estate, while bonds in the Industrials sector and the telecommunications industry fared better.

### Recent Developments

The portfolio manager expects all major central banks to keep benchmark interest rates unchanged for at least the next 12 months unless the economic recovery proceeds at a much faster pace than the portfolio manager expects. As the pandemic subsides, it would be reasonable to expect yields to rise from current levels, in the view of the portfolio manager.

Valuations of non-government bonds are more attractive than at the end of 2019, and there is room for the gap between yields on government bonds and non-government bonds to narrow in what would be an optimistic sign for the economic outlook. Government bond purchases and investors' search for higher yields will also support the corporate-bond market, in the view of the portfolio manager. The BOC has said it would consider pushing interest rates below zero if the economic backdrop worsens significantly.

The financial year-end of the ETFs managed by RBC GAM (the "RBC ETFs") has been changed from December 31 to September 30. As a result, the 2020 financial year for the RBC ETFs is for the period from January 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020. The change in financial year does not change the RBC ETFs' tax year-end, which remains December 15 or December 31, as applicable.

### 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 variable fee based on the value of assets under custody and a fixed fee for other valuation and administrative services.

***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.

***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.

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.



September 30, 2020

## 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 (\$)

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>Sept. 30, 2020<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>19.76</b>	<b>0.47</b>	<b>(0.04)</b>	<b>(0.23)</b>	<b>0.19</b>	<b>0.39</b>	<b>(0.45)</b>	—	—	<b>(0.01)</b>	<b>(0.46)</b>	<b>19.73</b>
Dec. 31, 2019	19.58	0.61	(0.06)	(0.06)	0.14	0.63	(0.55)	—	—	—	(0.55)	19.76
Dec. 31, 2018	19.88	0.59	(0.05)	(0.21)	(0.11)	0.22	(0.54)	—	—	—	(0.54)	19.58
Dec. 31, 2017	20.24	0.60	(0.06)	(0.02)	(0.38)	0.14	(0.53)	—	—	—	(0.53)	19.88
Dec. 31, 2016	20.21	0.68	(0.06)	0.03	(0.14)	0.51	(0.61)	—	(0.02)	—	(0.63)	20.24

<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 either paid in cash, reinvested in additional units of the ETF, or both.

<sup>3</sup> The financial year-end of the ETF was changed from December 31 to September 30 in 2020 and therefore the information disclosed is for the nine-month period ended September 30, 2020.

### Ratios and Supplemental Data

As at	Net Asset Value (\$000s)	Number of Units Outstanding (000s)	Management Expense Ratio (%) <sup>1</sup>	MER Before Absorption (%) <sup>1</sup>	Trading Expense Ratio (%) <sup>2</sup>	Portfolio Turnover Rate (%) <sup>3</sup>	Net Asset Value Per Unit (\$)	Closing Market Price (\$)
<b>Sept. 30, 2020<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>92 712</b>	<b>4 700</b>	<b>0.27</b>	<b>0.27</b>	—	<b>13.90</b>	<b>19.73</b>	<b>19.72</b>
Dec. 31, 2019	293 380	14 850	0.28	0.28	—	30.30	19.76	19.75
Dec. 31, 2018	106 702	5 450	0.28	0.28	—	18.09	19.58	19.51
Dec. 31, 2017	122 285	6 150	0.28	0.28	—	14.62	19.88	19.93
Dec. 31, 2016	90 047	4 450	0.28	0.28	—	58.14	20.24	20.15

<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.

<sup>2</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>3</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>4</sup> The financial year-end of the ETF was changed from December 31 to September 30 in 2020 and therefore the information disclosed is for the nine-month period ended September 30, 2020.

### Management Fees

RBC GAM is the manager, trustee and portfolio manager of the ETF.  
The management fee of the ETF is calculated at the annual percentage, before GST/HST, of the daily net asset value of the ETF.

	Management Fees
Until December 31, 2020	0.25%
Effective January 1, 2021	0.20%

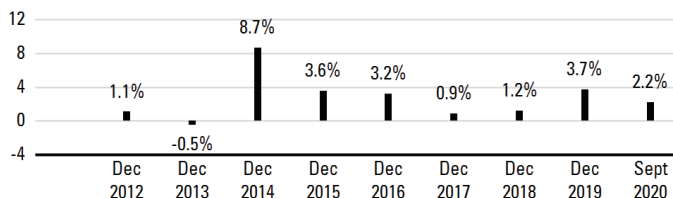


## PAST PERFORMANCE

The performance information shown assumes that all distributions made by the ETF in the periods shown were reinvested in additional units of the ETF 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 ETF 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 ETF's performance for each of the years shown, and illustrates how the ETF'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 of the ETF for each of the periods indicated ended on September 30, 2020, compared with the following benchmarks:

#### FTSE Canada 2021 Maturity Corporate Bond Index

The broad-based index is the FTSE Canada Universe Bond Index.

	Past 9 Months	Past Year	Past 3 Years	Past 5 Years	Past 10 Years	Since Inception
ETF	2.2	2.8	2.5	2.4	—	3.0
Benchmark	2.4	3.1	2.8	2.7	—	3.3
Broad-based index	8.0	7.1	6.1	4.3	—	4.0

The 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.

The ETF's units have been available for sale to unitholders since October 10, 2012.

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

For the 12-month periods ended December 31 and the nine-month period ended September 30, 2020.

## INDEX DESCRIPTIONS

**FTSE Canada 2021 Maturity Corporate Bond Index** This index is designed to measure the performance of a held-to-maturity portfolio consisting primarily of Canadian-dollar-denominated investment-grade corporate bonds maturing in 2021.

**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.

## SUMMARY OF INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO

(after consideration of derivative products, if any)

As at September 30, 2020

### Investment Mix

	% of Net Asset Value
Corporate Bonds	
Financials	74.0
Energy	11.8
Real Estate	6.1
Communication Services	4.6
Infrastructure	2.9
Other Net Assets	0.6

### Top 25 Holdings

	% of Net Asset Value
Royal Bank of Canada 1.583% Sep 13, 2021	7.2
National Bank of Canada 1.809% Jul 26, 2021	7.0
HSBC Bank Canada 2.908% Sep 29, 2021	6.6
Bank of Montreal 3.400% Apr 23, 2021	4.9
TransCanada PipeLines Ltd. 3.650% Nov 15, 2021	4.8
Daimler Canada Finance Inc. 1.910% Jul 08, 2021	4.7
Rogers Communications Inc. 5.340% Mar 22, 2021	4.5
Capital Desjardins Inc., FRN 4.954% Dec 15, 2026	4.5
Daimler Canada Finance Inc. 2.230% Dec 16, 2021	4.3
Honda Canada Finance Inc. 1.823% Jan 11, 2021	3.7
Enbridge Inc. 3.160% Mar 11, 2021	3.7
Toyota Credit Canada Inc. 2.200% Feb 25, 2021	3.7
Honda Canada Finance Inc. 2.155% Feb 18, 2021	3.7
Bruce Power LP 2.844% Jun 23, 2021	3.3
Sun Life Financial Inc., FRN 3.100% Feb 19, 2026	3.3
bcIMC Realty Corp. 2.100% Jun 03, 2021	3.3
Wells Fargo Canada Corp. 3.040% Jan 29, 2021	3.3
Bank of Nova Scotia 3.270% Jan 11, 2021	3.2
Royal Bank of Canada 2.860% Mar 04, 2021	3.1
Bank of Nova Scotia 2.873% Jun 04, 2021	3.1
Sun Life Financial Inc. 4.570% Aug 23, 2021	2.9
Toronto Hydro Corp. 3.540% Nov 18, 2021	2.9
OMERS Realty Corp. 2.971% Apr 05, 2021	2.9
John Deere Financial Inc. 3.070% Jul 23, 2021	2.8
HSBC Bank Canada 2.449% Jan 29, 2021	1.3
<b>Top 25 Holdings</b>	<b>98.7</b>

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/en/ca](http://www.rbcgam.com/en/ca).