

FIXED INCOME

# RBC CANADIAN CORPORATE BOND FUND

June 30, 2024

Portfolio Manager RBC Global Asset Management Inc. ("RBC GAM")

The Board of Directors of RBC Global Asset Management Inc. approved this interim management report of fund performance on August 8, 2024.

## 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 interim management report of fund performance ("MRFP") contains financial highlights but does not contain either the complete interim financial statements or 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 long-term returns consisting primarily of interest income and moderate capital growth. The Fund invests in investment-grade fixed-income securities issued by Canadian corporations and may hold similar securities of U.S. corporations.

The Fund uses a disciplined approach to assess opportunities based on the overall direction of interest rates, expected changes in interest rate spreads, changes in individual credit ratings or quality perceptions, foreign currency risk and corporate bond risk premium and rate change. The Fund may invest up to 30% of its assets in foreign securities. No more than 20% of the Fund's market value may be invested in securities rated below BBB(-) by DBRS Ltd. or its equivalent.

## **Results of Operations**

The Fund's net asset value was \$1.2 billion as of June 30, 2024.

Over the past six months, the Fund's Series F units gained 1.4%. The Fund's return is after the deduction of fees and expenses. 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.

Canadian corporate bonds recorded strong gains during the first half of 2024, with most of the returns coming toward the end of the second quarter. Expectations that the Bank of Canada (the "BOC") would be among the first major central banks to cut interest rates sparked a rally in Canadian fixed income. The BOC reduced its policy rate in early June after it became comfortable that inflation was trending down and that the economy was losing strength.

Returns during the year benefited largely from exposure to riskier debt, including BBB rated bonds, which outperformed. The Fund's performance was also enhanced by allocations to preferred shares and U.S. investment-grade debt, while exposure to Government of Canada bonds with a higher sensitivity to changes in interest rates hurt the portfolio's overall performance.

The Fund's overall sensitivity to changes in interest rates was kept to a minimum for most of the period. This position had little impact on overall returns.

## **Recent Developments**

The extra premium earned on corporate bonds above the yield on government bonds is at its lowest level in two years, suggesting there's less protection against the impact of a deep economic downturn on profits or a re-acceleration of inflation that forces the BOC to resume raising interest rates.

That said, bond yields look attractive relative to historical levels given the outlook for earnings and balance sheets, and low default rates indicate that a significant downturn is unlikely in the near term. In the event that any economic downturn is deeper than expected, the portfolio manager will reduce the Fund's exposure to riskier assets. Interest-rate risk will be kept to a minimum.

#### **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.

#### **Brokers and Dealers**

The Fund has established standard brokerage and dealing agreements at market rates with related parties. For the periods ended June 30, 2024 and 2023, the related-party commissions were 0 (2023 - 1,000) or 0 (2023 - 13%) 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, 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 six months (noted by June 30, 2024), and for the past five years or for the periods since inception. This information is derived from the Fund's unaudited interim financial statements and audited annual financial statements.

# Change in Net Assets Per Unit (\$)

							Annual Distributions <sup>2</sup>					
			Increase (De	ecrease) from	Operations1		From					
		Total		Realized	Unrealized		Income		From			Net Assets
For the Year/	Net Assets	Revenue	Total	Gains	Gains		(Excluding	From	Capital	Return		End of
Period Ended	Beginning of Year/Period	(Loss)	Expenses	(Losses)	(Losses)	Total	Dividends)	Dividends	Gains	of Capital	Total	Year/Period
Series A												
June 30, 2024	10.31	0.22	(0.05)	(0.06)	0.10	0.21	(0.17)	_	_	_	(0.17)	10.25
Dec. 31, 2023	9.87	0.41	(0.11)	(0.10)	0.80	1.00	(0.29)	_	_	_	(0.29)	10.31
Dec. 31, 2022 <sup>3</sup>	10.00 <sup>†</sup>	0.38	(0.11)	(0.23)	(0.02)	0.02	(0.13)	_	_	_	(0.13)	9.87
Series D												
June 30, 2024	10.31	0.18	(0.03)	(0.05)	0.17	0.27	(0.19)	_	_	_	(0.19)	10.25
Dec. 31, 2023	9.87	-	(0.06)	_	1.04	0.98	(0.33)	_	-	-	(0.33)	10.31
Dec. 31, 2022 <sup>3</sup>	10.00 <sup>†</sup>	0.38	(0.06)	(0.23)	(0.05)	0.04	(0.15)		-	-	(0.15)	9.87
Series F												
June 30, 2024	10.30	0.21	(0.02)	(0.06)	(0.04)	0.09	(0.20)	_	_	_	(0.20)	10.25
Dec. 31, 2023	9.86	0.40	(0.05)	(0.10)	0.48	0.73	(0.34)	_	_	_	(0.34)	10.30
Dec. 31, 2022	11.39	0.37	(0.05)	(0.22)	(1.40)	(1.30)	(0.32)	_	-	-	(0.32)	9.86
Dec. 31, 2021	11.92	0.37	(0.06)	0.07	(0.61)	(0.23)	(0.32)	_	_	_	(0.32)	11.39
Dec. 31, 2020	11.32	0.39	(0.06)	0.05	0.54	0.92	(0.33)	_	_	_	(0.33)	11.92
Dec. 31, 2019	10.85	0.40	(0.05)	_	0.50	0.85	(0.33)	(0.01)	_	_	(0.34)	11.32
Series 0												
June 30, 2024	10.26	0.21	_	(0.06)	0.02	0.17	(0.22)	_	_	_	(0.22)	10.20
Dec. 31, 2023	9.82	0.40	_	(0.10)	0.52	0.82	(0.39)	_	_	_	(0.39)	10.26
Dec. 31, 2022	11.34	0.37	_	(0.22)	(1.31)	(1.16)	(0.37)	_	_	_	(0.37)	9.82
Dec. 31, 2021	11.88	0.37	_	0.07	(0.61)	(0.17)	(0.37)	_	_	_	(0.37)	11.34
Dec. 31, 2020	11.28	0.38	-	0.05	0.50	0.93	(0.38)		-	-	(0.38)	11.88
Dec. 31, 2019	10.81	0.40	_	_	0.45	0.85	(0.39)	(0.01)	_	_	(0.40)	11.28

<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>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> From July 18, 2022.

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

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS (cont.)

## **Ratios and Supplemental Data**

Anat	Net Asset Value	Net Asset Value	Number of Units	Management	MER Before	Portfolio Turnover Rate (%) <sup>2</sup>	Trading
As at	Per Unit (\$)	(\$000s)	Outstanding (000s)	Expense Ratio (%) <sup>1</sup>	Absorption (%) <sup>1</sup>	Turnover hate (%)2	Expense Ratio (%) <sup>3</sup>
Series A							
June 30, 2024	10.25	7,428	724	1.05	1.05	14.72	0.01
Dec. 31, 2023	10.31	2,032	197	1.07	1.07	26.16	_
Dec. 31, 2022 <sup>4</sup>	9.87	83	8	1.08	1.08	23.56	
Series D							
June 30, 2024	10.25	153	15	0.67	0.67	14.72	0.01
Dec. 31, 2023	10.31	44	4	0.63	0.63	26.16	-
Dec. 31, 2022 <sup>4</sup>	9.87	1	_	0.68	0.68	23.56	_
Series F							
June 30, 2024	10.25	11,006	1,074	0.49	0.49	14.72	0.01
Dec. 31, 2023	10.30	12,280	1,191	0.48	0.48	26.16	_
Dec. 31, 2022	9.86	18,144	1,839	0.49	0.49	23.56	_
Dec. 31, 2021	11.39	27,369	2,404	0.49	0.49	32.72	_
Dec. 31, 2020	11.92	30,561	2,563	0.49	0.49	33.01	_
Dec. 31, 2019	11.32	30,166	2,664	0.49	0.49	28.02	_
Series 0							
June 30, 2024	10.20	1,144,680	112,184	0.02	0.02	14.72	0.01
Dec. 31, 2023	10.26	1,052,320	102,535	0.02	0.02	26.16	_
Dec. 31, 2022	9.82	835,687	85,075	0.03	0.03	23.56	_
Dec. 31, 2021	11.34	1,029,059	90,758	0.03	0.03	32.72	_
Dec. 31, 2020	11.88	1,104,392	92,996	0.04	0.04	33.01	-
Dec. 31, 2019	11.28	1,020,306	90,476	0.03	0.03	28.02	_

<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 June 29, 2022, the administration fees for Series 0 units were reduced to 0.02% from 0.03%. If the changes to the administration 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 0 – 0.02%.

# **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:

	Management	Breakdown of	Administration		
	Fees	Distribution	Other*	Fees	
Series A	0.90%	56%	44%	0.05%	
Series D	0.55%	27%	73%	0.05%	
Series F	0.40%	_	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.

<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>lt;sup>4</sup> From July 18, 2022.

<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, or 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 (%)

2015

2016

2014

2017

2018

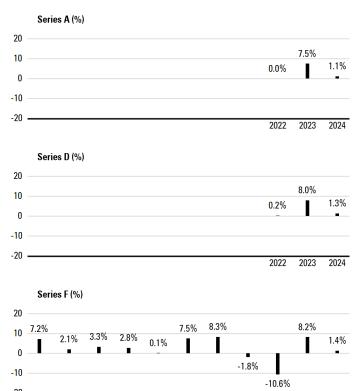
2019

2020

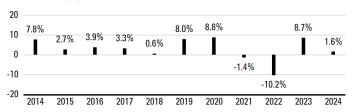
2021

2022

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 or interim period.







Series A and Series D units have been available for sale to unitholders since July 18, 2022. Inception dates are not provided for series that have been in existence for more than 10 years. For the 12-month periods ended December 31 and the six-month period ended June 30, 2024.

#### **SUMMARY OF INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO**

(after consideration of derivative products, if any)
As at June 30, 2024

#### **Investment Mix**

	% of Net Asset Value
Corporate Bonds	92.8
Preferred Equities	2.7
Federal Bonds	1.4
Cash/Other	3.1

# Top 25 Holdings

	% of Net Asset Value
Cash & Cash Equivalents	1.6
Toronto-Dominion Bank - Preferred Shares	1.2
Toronto-Dominion Bank 1.888% Mar 08, 2028	1.1
Canadian Government Bond 2.750% Jun 01, 2033	0.9
Bank of Nova Scotia 2.950% Mar 08, 2027	0.8
Enbridge Inc. 3.100% Sep 21, 2033	0.7
CU Inc. 4.085% Sep 02, 2044	0.7
Rogers Communications Inc. 6.110% Aug 25, 2040	0.7
Hydro One Inc. 6.030% Mar 03, 2039	0.7
AltaLink LP 3.717% Dec 03, 2046	0.6
Bell Telephone Co. of Canada or Bell Canada 3.000% Mar 17, 2	2031 0.6
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce 4.200% Apr 07, 2032	0.6
Bank of Montreal 4.709% Dec 07, 2027	0.6
407 International Inc. 3.830% May 11, 2046	0.6
Enbridge Inc. 4.570% Mar 11, 2044	0.5
SmartCentres Real Estate Investment Trust 1.740% Dec 16, 202	25 0.5
Rogers Communications Inc. 6.750% Nov 09, 2039	0.5
HomeEquity Bank 7.108% Dec 11, 2026	0.5
Toronto-Dominion Bank 3.060% Jan 26, 2032	0.5
Bank of Montreal 3.650% Apr 01, 2027	0.5
Brookfield Renewable Partners ULC 3.380% Jan 15, 2030	0.5
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce 5.500% Jan 14, 2028	0.5
Hyundai Capital Canada Inc. 5.565% Mar 08, 2028	0.5
Enbridge Gas Inc. 4.880% Jun 21, 2041	0.5
Toronto-Dominion Bank 1.896% Sep 11, 2028	0.5
Top 25 Holdings	16.9

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.