

CANADIAN EQUITY FUND

# **RBC CANADIAN EQUITY CLASS**

September 30, 2021

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

The Board of Directors of RBC Corporate Class Inc. approved this interim management report of fund performance on November 10, 2021.

## 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/en/ca 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.



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#### MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION OF FUND PERFORMANCE

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

The Fund seeks to provide long-term capital growth by investing primarily in equity securities of major Canadian companies.

To achieve its investment objective, the Fund invests most of its assets in the RBC Private Canadian Equity Pool and/or RBC Canadian Equity Fund (the "underlying funds"). The underlying funds typically invest in large-cap Canadian equities and may take advantage of opportunities in mid- and small-cap companies. The underlying funds diversify across S&P/TSX industry sectors, with minimum and maximum exposures.

### **Results of Operations**

The Fund's net asset value was \$13 million as of September 30, 2021.

Over the past six months, the Fund's Series A shares gained 8.7%. 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.

The Canadian stock market extended gains over the six-month period, with the S&P/TSX Composite Index reaching an all-time high in early September. The equity gains were driven largely by continued optimism about the progress of COVID-19 vaccinations in much of the developed world, fuelling economic growth and corporate earnings, and boosting commodity prices. Canada's stock market benefited from the higher commodity prices as commodity-linked businesses account for almost one-quarter of the S&P/TSX's market capitalization. Information Technology was Canada's best-performing sector, supported by expectations that growing demand for technology will remain strong beyond the pandemic. Energy ranked second in performance among S&P/TSX sectors.

The Fund's relative performance was aided by an overweight allocation and security selection in the Energy sector. Overweight positions in Tourmaline Oil and Arc Resources contributed to returns as the oil and gas producers benefited from rising oil prices. An overweight position in Tricon Residential also had a positive impact on returns as the rental-housing company benefited from accelerating demand for single-family rental homes.

Security selection in the Information Technology sector had a negative impact on the Fund's relative performance. An overweight position in NFI Group limited performance as the bus manufacturer was negatively affected by supply-chain disruptions that resulted in shortages of critical components and parts. Returns were also limited by an overweight position in Magna International as the automobile-parts manufacturer was hurt by a global chip shortage that reduced production.

#### **Recent Developments**

The portfolio manager expects economic momentum to continue into 2022, albeit at a slower pace than originally expected due to the coronavirus's Delta variant, and robust growth should support the outlook for corporate profits. As the recovery progresses, the portfolio manager believes that earnings growth will be driven by economically sensitive sectors including Industrials, Energy and Consumer Discretionary.

There are, however, a number of risks to this outlook, including inflation. Persistent or accelerating inflation could prompt the Bank of Canada to remove monetary stimulus sooner than anticipated, and such action could, in the view of the portfolio manager, call into question the recovery in corporate profits and limit equity returns.

Effective April 1, 2021, Ms. Brenda Eaton was appointed as a member of the Independent Review Committee.

# Related-Party Transactions Manager and Portfolio Manager

RBC GAM is an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Royal Bank of Canada ("Royal Bank") and is the manager and 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 mutual fund shares 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 shareholders 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 the mutual fund shares of, the Fund. Dealers receive an ongoing commission based on the total value of their clients' investment in certain series of mutual fund shares of the Fund.



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#### 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 mutual fund shares 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.

### 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.

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# **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 September 30, 2021), 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 Mutual Fund Share (\$)

							Annual Distributions <sup>2</sup>					
			Increase (De	crease) from	Operations <sup>1</sup>		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												
Sept. 30, 2021	13.08	0.19	(0.13)	0.09	1.02	1.17	-	-	_	-	_	14.22
Mar. 31, 2021	10.56	0.42	(0.22)	0.04	3.18	3.42	-	(0.37)	(0.75)	-	(1.12)	13.08
Mar. 31, 2020	13.76	0.44	(0.26)	0.50	(2.87)	(2.19)	_	(0.43)	(0.04)	_	(0.47)	10.56
Mar. 31, 2019	13.10	0.43	(0.25)	0.41	0.26	0.85	_	(0.19)	_	_	(0.19)	13.76
Mar. 31, 2018	13.34	0.35	(0.25)	0.49	(0.56)	0.03	_	(0.24)	_	_	(0.24)	13.10
Mar. 31, 2017	11.70	0.35	(0.24)	0.21	1.55	1.87	_	(0.20)	_	_	(0.20)	13.34
Series D												
Sept. 30, 2021	13.41	0.19	(0.07)	0.09	0.99	1.20	-	-	-	-	-	14.65
Mar. 31, 2021	10.81	0.43	(0.12)	0.04	3.52	3.87	_	(0.48)	(0.77)	_	(1.25)	13.41
Mar. 31, 2020	14.08	0.46	(0.14)	0.52	(3.19)	(2.35)	-	(0.53)	(0.04)	-	(0.57)	10.81
Mar. 31, 2019	13.40	0.44	(0.13)	0.42	0.33	1.06	-	(0.33)	-	-	(0.33)	14.08
Mar. 31, 2018	13.66	0.36	(0.13)	0.51	(0.61)	0.13	-	(0.37)	-	-	(0.37)	13.40
Mar. 31, 2017	11.98	0.36	(0.13)	0.22	1.52	1.97	_	(0.32)	_	_	(0.32)	13.66
Series F												
Sept. 30, 2021	13.66	0.19	(0.05)	0.09	1.07	1.30	_	_	_	_	_	14.94
Mar. 31, 2021	11.04	0.44	(0.09)	0.05	3.55	3.95	-	(0.55)	(0.79)	-	(1.34)	13.66
Mar. 31, 2020	14.38	0.46	(0.10)	0.53	(2.19)	(1.30)	_	(0.56)	(0.05)	_	(0.61)	11.04
Mar. 31, 2019	13.68	0.45	(0.10)	0.43	0.14	0.92	-	(0.37)	-	-	(0.37)	14.38
Mar. 31, 2018	13.94	0.36	(0.10)	0.52	(0.58)	0.20	_	(0.41)	_	_	(0.41)	13.68
Mar. 31, 2017	12.23	0.37	(0.10)	0.22	1.54	2.03	_	(0.37)	_	_	(0.37)	13.94
Series 0												
Sept. 30, 2021	13.91	0.20	-	0.09	1.02	1.31	-	-	-	-	-	15.26
Mar. 31, 2021	11.23	0.45	-	0.05	3.72	4.22	-	(0.65)	(0.81)	-	(1.46)	13.91
Mar. 31, 2020	14.64	0.47	(0.01)	0.54	(3.31)	(2.31)	_	(0.64)	(0.05)	_	(0.69)	11.23
Mar. 31, 2019	13.93	0.46	(0.01)	0.43	0.23	1.11	-	(0.48)	-	-	(0.48)	14.64
Mar. 31, 2018	14.20	0.37	(0.01)	0.53	(0.68)	0.21	-	(0.53)	-	-	(0.53)	13.93
Mar. 31, 2017	12.46	0.38	(0.01)	0.23	1.64	2.24	_	(0.48)	_	_	(0.48)	14.20

<sup>1</sup> Net assets and distributions are based on the actual number of mutual fund shares outstanding at the relevant time. The increase/decrease from operations is based on the weighted average number of mutual fund shares outstanding over the financial period. This table is not intended to be a reconciliation of beginning to ending net assets per mutual fund share.

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



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# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS (cont.) Ratios and Supplemental Data

			Number of				
	Net Asset Value	Net Asset Value	Mutual Fund Shares	Management	MER Before	Portfolio	Trading
As at	Per Mutual Fund Share (\$)	(\$000s)	Outstanding (000s)	Expense Ratio (%) <sup>1</sup>	Absorption (%) <sup>1</sup>	Turnover Rate (%) <sup>2</sup>	Expense Ratio (%) <sup>3</sup>
Series A							
Sept. 30, 2021	14.22	1 420	100	1.90	1.90	17.90	0.03
Mar. 31, 2021	13.08	1 395	107	1.91	1.91	12.24	0.07
Mar. 31, 2020	10.56	747	71	1.95	1.96	4.17	0.04
Mar. 31, 2019	13.76	1 281	93	1.95	1.96	17.02	0.05
Mar. 31, 2018	13.10	1 391	106	1.92	1.94	21.43	0.06
Mar. 31, 2017	13.34	1 920	144	1.98	2.00	9.47	0.09
Series D							
Sept. 30, 2021	14.65	4 085	279	1.02	1.02	17.90	0.03
Mar. 31, 2021	13.41	3 596	268	1.02	1.02	12.24	0.07
Mar. 31, 2020	10.81	3 450	319	1.02	1.03	4.17	0.04
Mar. 31, 2019	14.08	3 995	284	1.03	1.04	17.02	0.05
Mar. 31, 2018	13.40	4 518	337	1.02	1.04	21.43	0.06
Mar. 31, 2017	13.66	4 720	346	1.06	1.08	9.47	0.09
Series F							
Sept. 30, 2021	14.94	3 110	208	0.78	0.78	17.90	0.03
Mar. 31, 2021	13.66	2 996	219	0.77	0.77	12.24	0.07
Mar. 31, 2020	11.04	2 516	228	0.77	0.78	4.17	0.04
Mar. 31, 2019	14.38	5 334	371	0.78	0.79	17.02	0.05
Mar. 31, 2018	13.68	3 541	259	0.77	0.79	21.43	0.06
Mar. 31, 2017	13.94	3 563	256	0.79	0.81	9.47	0.09
Series 0							
Sept. 30, 2021	15.26	4 003	262	0.10	0.10	17.90	0.03
Mar. 31, 2021	13.91	2 909	209	0.10	0.10	12.24	0.07
Mar. 31, 2020	11.23	3 696	329	0.10	0.11	4.17	0.04
Mar. 31, 2019	14.64	6 357	434	0.10	0.11	17.02	0.05
Mar. 31, 2018	13.93	4 228	303	0.09	0.11	21.43	0.06
Mar. 31, 2017	14.20	4 500	317	0.10	0.12	9.47	0.09

<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 shareholders, 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 March 1, 2020, the administration fees for Series A mutual fund shares were reduced to 0.04% from 0.06%. If the changes to the administration fees would have been in effect throughout the financial year ended March 31, 2020, the adjusted MER for each series of the Fund would be: Series A – 1.93%.

Effective June 30, 2016, the management fees for Series A mutual fund shares were reduced to 1.60% from 1.75%; for Series D mutual fund shares were reduced to 0.85% from 1.00%; and for Series F mutual fund shares were reduced to 0.60% from 0.75%. If the changes to the management fees would have been in effect throughout the financial year ended March 31, 2017, the adjusted MER for each series of the Fund would be: Series A -1.94%, Series D -1.03% and Series F -0.78%.

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



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

#### **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	1.60%	66%	34%	0.04%	
Series D	0.85%	25%	75%	0.04%	
Series F	0.60%	_	100%	0.04%	
Series 0	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.02%	

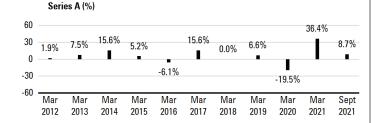
Series 0 – no management fees are paid by the Fund with respect to Series 0 mutual fund shares. Series 0 shareholders pay a negotiated fee directly to RBC GAM for investment-counselling services.

#### **PAST PERFORMANCE**

The performance information shown assumes that all distributions made by the Fund in the periods shown were reinvested in additional shares 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.

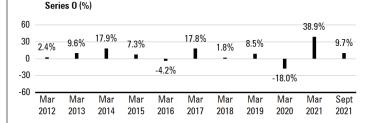
#### Year-by-Year Returns (%)

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 or interim period.



#### Series D (%) 60 37.6% 16.7% 16.7% 30 9.2% 6.2% 7.5% 0.9% 0 -5.2% -30 -18.8% Mar Sept 2013 2012 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2021





Series A, Series D, Series F and Series 0 mutual fund shares have been available for sale to shareholders since January 1, 2012.

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

Advisor Series mutual fund shares were capped effective June 26, 2020, and re-designated as Series A mutual fund shares effective August 4, 2020. All outstanding Series I mutual fund shares were re-designated as Series F mutual fund shares effective June 30, 2016.

For the 12-month periods ended March 31 and the six-month period ended September 30, 2021.

<sup>\*</sup> Includes all costs related to management, investment advisory services, general administration and profit.



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# **SUMMARY OF INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO**

(after consideration of derivative products, if any) As at September 30, 2021

# **Investment Mix**

	% of Net Asset Value
Financials	29.9
Energy	15.0
Industrials	10.0
Materials	9.6
Information Technology	9.6
Utilities	4.6
Communication Services	4.4
Consumer Staples	4.2
Consumer Discretionary	4.0
Real Estate	3.5
Underlying Funds	2.2
Health Care	0.8
Cash/Other	2.2

# Top 25 Holdings\*

•	
	% of Net Asset Value
Royal Bank of Canada	6.4
Shopify Inc., Class A	5.3
Toronto-Dominion Bank	4.5
Brookfield Asset Management Inc., Class A	3.7
Enbridge Inc.	3.5
Bank of Nova Scotia	3.1
Bank of Montreal	2.5
Canadian National Railway Co.	2.5
Canadian Natural Resources Ltd.	2.5
TC Energy Corp.	2.4
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce	2.3
RBC Canadian Small & Mid-Cap Resources Fund - Series 0	2.2
Canadian Pacific Railway Ltd.	2.0
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2.0
Suncor Energy Inc.	2.0
Nutrien Ltd.	1.7
Cash & Cash Equivalents	1.5
Manulife Financial Corporation	1.4
National Bank of Canada	1.4
TELUS Corp.	1.3
BCE Inc.	1.2
Magna International Inc., Class A	1.2
Rogers Communications Inc., Class B	1.2
Restaurant Brands International Inc.	1.2
Alimentation Couche-Tard Inc.	1.2
Top 25 Holdings	60.2

<sup>\*</sup> The Fund invests substantially all of its assets directly in the RBC Private Canadian Equity Pool.

The above are the Top 25 holdings of the RBC Private Canadian Equity Pool.

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/en/ca.

The Simplified Prospectus and other information about the underlying fund are available on SEDAR website at www.sedar.com.