



CANADIAN EQUITY ETF

## RBC CANADIAN PREFERRED SHARE ETF

---

June 30, 2020

**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 11, 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.

---

*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 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.*



## 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 primarily Canadian preferred share securities that will provide regular income and that have the potential for long-term capital growth.

The ETF invests primarily in an actively managed portfolio of rate reset preferred shares issued by Canadian companies, selected on the basis of fundamental analysis, credit research and interest rate sensitivity analysis. The ETF may also hold preferred shares issued by Canadian companies that are not rate reset preferred shares, fixed-income securities issued by Canadian governments or companies, dividend-paying common stock from Canadian issuers or preferred shares from U.S. issuers, as well as other Canadian listed exchange-traded funds. Some of the Canadian listed preferred shares in which the ETF invests may be denominated in U.S. dollars. The portfolio manager considers environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors where material to the investment decision. The ETF may also hold money market instruments and cash.

The ETF may use derivative instruments for hedging purposes, for example, to hedge its U.S. dollar exposure back to the Canadian dollar.

### Results of Operations

The ETF's net asset value was \$594 million as of June 30, 2020.

Over the past six months, the ETF's units lost 13.8%. The ETF'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 the ETF.

The Canadian preferred-share market pulled back in the first half of 2020, underperforming both Canadian bonds and common equities and reaching all-time lows in March. Preferred shares carry credit risk, so demand fell as concerns arose about a global recession, compounded in Canada by falling oil prices. Furthermore, the dividend yield on rate-reset preferred shares adjusts every five years based on the direction of Government of Canada bond yields, so the first-quarter collapse in yields made it less likely that dividends would be adjusted upward.

The yield on the 5-year federal bond declined between January and March. In response to COVID-19, the Bank of Canada slashed its policy rate by 1.50% to a record low of 0.25% and introduced asset purchases for the first time in its history to ensure the smooth functioning of financial markets. It was in this environment that prices of preferred shares fell to compensate for economic risks and the possibility of lower dividends. Interest rates remained depressed

through the second quarter, although some demand returned given a decline in COVID-19 cases in Canada and the measured pace of business re-openings.

The ETF's relative returns were negatively affected by a lower weighting in preferred shares that offer a floor on dividend rates and which therefore fell less in the first quarter, as well as by an overweight position in higher-credit-quality financial preferred shares that do not have the "floor feature" for regulatory reasons. Preferred shares, which have characteristics of both equity and fixed income, are designed to diversify the income stream in a portfolio.

### Recent Developments

The short term is likely to remain volatile, in the view of the portfolio manager, as investors continue to grapple with COVID-19 developments and its impact on the economy. Furthermore, factors that were already depressing bond yields prior to the crisis will continue to limit any rise over the medium term. The preferred-share market could receive a boost if there is a sustained economic recovery and related gains in commodity prices.

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 will be for the period from January 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020 as they transition to the new year-end. The change in financial year does not change the RBC ETFs' tax year-end, which remains December 15 or December 31, as applicable.

Effective January 1, 2020, Ms. Ruth Corbin was appointed as a member of the Independent Review Committee.

### Strategic Alliance with BlackRock Canada

RBC GAM and BlackRock Asset Management Canada Limited ("BlackRock Canada") have entered into a strategic alliance with regard to their ETF businesses in Canada whereby the ETF families offered by RBC GAM and BlackRock Canada are brought together under one brand – RBC iShares (the "Strategic Alliance"). The Strategic Alliance is a long-term contractual strategic alliance without the establishment of a joint venture entity. Under the Strategic Alliance, each of RBC GAM and BlackRock Canada provides the other party with support and certain services in relation to administration, distribution support, marketing and management of the ETFs managed by each of RBC GAM and BlackRock Canada (collectively, the "Strategic Alliance ETFs"). In connection with the provision of these mutual services, each of RBC GAM and BlackRock Canada provides the other with certain limited information, review and consent rights in relation to the Strategic Alliance ETFs. In addition, as consideration for these mutual services provided as part of the Strategic Alliance, RBC GAM and BlackRock Canada agree to



share management fee revenue earned from the Strategic Alliance ETFs. Although RBC GAM and BlackRock Canada provide services to each other, the two firms continue to maintain separate fund management and portfolio advisory responsibilities for the Strategic Alliance ETFs for which they serve as investment fund manager or portfolio advisor. The Strategic Alliance Agreement contemplates that RBC GAM and BlackRock Canada will work together on new product development and ongoing review and rationalization of the product lineup.

### **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.

#### ***Brokers and Dealers***

The ETF has established standard brokerage and dealing agreements at market rates with related parties. These related-party commissions were \$23,000 (2019 – \$21,000) or 24% (2019 – 8%) 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.

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.



## 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 six months (noted by June 30, 2020), and for the past five years or for the periods since inception. This information is derived from the ETF's unaudited interim financial statements and 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>June 30, 2020</b>	<b>20.06</b>	<b>0.55</b>	<b>(0.05)</b>	<b>(0.95)</b>	<b>(2.02)</b>	<b>(2.47)</b>	–	<b>(0.53)</b>	–	–	<b>(0.53)</b>	<b>16.76</b>
Dec. 31, 2019	20.97	1.09	(0.12)	(1.73)	0.80	0.04	–	(1.01)	–	–	(1.01)	20.06
Dec. 31, 2018	24.27	1.12	(0.14)	(0.21)	(3.43)	(2.66)	–	(0.86)	–	(0.09)	(0.95)	20.97
Dec. 31, 2017	21.79	1.11	(0.15)	0.20	1.69	2.85	–	(0.75)	(0.16)	(0.05)	(0.96)	24.27
Dec. 31, 2016 <sup>3</sup>	20.00 <sup>†</sup>	0.45	(0.06)	0.08	2.85	3.32	–	(0.12)	(0.06)	(0.07)	(0.25)	21.79

<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> From September 14, 2016.

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

### 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>June 30, 2020</b>	<b>593 916</b>	<b>35 440</b>	<b>0.58</b>	<b>0.58</b>	<b>0.03</b>	<b>19.98</b>	<b>16.76</b>	<b>16.69</b>
Dec. 31, 2019	682 650	34 014	0.58	0.58	0.07	38.76	20.06	20.04
Dec. 31, 2018	846 236	40 351	0.59	0.59	0.01	15.80	20.97	21.03
Dec. 31, 2017	702 506	28 944	0.59	0.59	0.04	19.39	24.27	24.32
Dec. 31, 2016 <sup>4</sup>	147 358	6 764	0.62	0.62	0.09	23.38	21.79	21.80

<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> From September 14, 2016.

### 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	
RBC Canadian Preferred Share ETF	0.53%

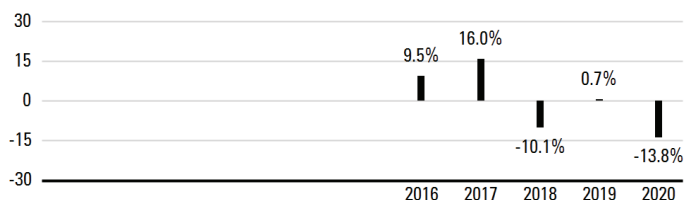


## PAST PERFORMANCE

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 or interim period.



The ETF's units have been available for sale to unitholders since September 20, 2016.

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 six-month period ended June 30, 2020.

## SUMMARY OF INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO

(after consideration of derivative products, if any)

As at June 30, 2020

### Investment Mix

	% of Net Asset Value
Canadian Equities	
Financials	58.5
Energy	21.4
Utilities	15.5
Real Estate	2.4
Communication Services	1.8
Other Net Assets	0.4

### Top 25 Holdings

	% of Net Asset Value
TC Energy Corp., Preferred Series 15, 4.900%	2.0
Toronto-Dominion Bank, Preferred Series 14, 4.850%	1.8
Royal Bank of Canada, Preferred Series BK, 5.500%	1.8
Royal Bank of Canada, Preferred Series BM, 5.500%	1.6
Royal Bank of Canada, Preferred Series BD, 3.600%	1.6
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Preferred Series 45, 4.400%	1.4
Toronto-Dominion Bank, Preferred Series 12, 5.500%	1.4
Enbridge Inc., Preferred Series 19, 4.900%	1.3
Bank of Montreal, Preferred Series 38, 4.850%	1.3
Enbridge Inc., Preferred Series 17, 5.150%	1.1
Toronto-Dominion Bank, Preferred Series 5, 3.750%	1.1
Bank of Nova Scotia, Preferred Series 36, 5.500%	1.1
Pembina Pipeline Corp., Preferred Series 21, 4.900%	1.1
Bank of Nova Scotia, Preferred Series 38, 4.850%	1.1
Bank of Montreal, Preferred Series 44, 4.850%	1.0
TC Energy Corp., Preferred Series 13, 5.500%	1.0
Bank of Montreal, Preferred Series 40, 4.500%	1.0
Emera Inc., Preferred Series H, 4.900%	1.0
Manulife Financial Corporation, Preferred Series 21, 5.600%	0.9
Canadian Utilities Ltd., Preferred Series FF, 4.500%	0.9
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Preferred Series 47, 4.500%	0.9
Enbridge Inc., Preferred Series 11, 4.400%	0.9
National Bank of Canada, Preferred Series 34, 5.600%	0.9
National Bank of Canada, Preferred Series 36, 5.400%	0.9
Manulife Financial Corporation, Preferred Series 23, 4.850%	0.9
<b>Top 25 Holdings</b>	<b>30.0</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).