



RBC Target 2035 Education Fund

Commentary as at June 30, 2025

Trade negotiations dominated the direction of financial markets during the first six months of 2025 as early optimism that the Trump administration would focus on deregulating the economy gave way to concern that he would instead implement across-the-board tariffs on U.S. trade partners. The U.S. Federal Reserve left its benchmark interest rate unchanged in a range between 4.25% and 4.50% as concern that the tariff war would spark inflation outweighed worries that the economy was slowing.

Government fixed income delivered overall gains in the first half of 2025, as coupon income from bonds issued in the U.S. and China and rising bond prices in emerging markets offset the negative impact of rising interest rates and falling bond prices in Europe and Japan. Canadian bonds delivered minimal returns through the first six months of 2025, as concerns regarding higher-than-expected inflation from U.S. tariffs led investors to demand higher yields on most fixed-income securities. Riskier emerging-market bonds delivered strong gains, outperforming investment-grade issuers such as China, Malaysia and Indonesia.

U.S. stocks retreated from all-time highs established early in the year after Trump announced his tariffs but then rebounded to finish the period near their highs. The Information Technology sector continued to support U.S. equities, while the Consumer Discretionary sector lagged. One of the most notable emerging-market developments in 2025 was the release of an artificial-intelligence ("AI") model introduced by China's DeepSeek. The release of this AI service, which might be competitive with U.S. AI leaders such as ChatGPT, boosted investor impressions of Chinese technology companies and emerging-market technology stocks in general.

Tariffs will exert a substantial drag on economic growth over the second half of 2025, but probably not to the extent of causing a global recession. The portfolio manager looks for mid-single-digit returns from sovereign bonds over the year ahead, with only modest valuation risk. Stocks offer slightly better return potential, particularly outside of U.S. large caps. In the equity portion of the Fund, the portfolio manager has tilted away from expensive U.S. large-cap stocks in favour of non-U.S. stocks, particularly in Europe, where valuations are more appealing.

On or about November 21, 2025, RBC Target 2025 Education Fund will have reached its maturity date and RBC GAM will terminate it accordingly. All outstanding units of RBC Target 2025 Education Fund will be cancelled on the maturity date and unitholders will receive units of the RBC Canadian Money Market Fund in exchange.

This has been provided by RBC Global Asset Management Inc. (RBC GAM) and is for informational purposes, as of the date noted only. Discussion of any securities in this report is not a recommendation to buy or sell any specific security, and is subject to change. It is not intended to provide legal, accounting, tax, investment, financial or other advice and such information should not be relied upon for providing such advice. RBC GAM takes reasonable steps to provide up-to-date, accurate and reliable information, and believes the information to be so when provided. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Interest rates, market conditions, tax rulings and other investment factors are subject to rapid change which may materially impact analysis that is included in this document. You should consult with your advisor before taking any action based upon the information contained in this document. All opinions constitute our judgment as of the dates indicated, are subject to change without notice and are provided in good faith without legal responsibility. Information obtained from third parties is believed to be reliable but RBC GAM and its affiliates assume no responsibility for any errors or omissions or for any loss or damage suffered. RBC GAM reserves the right at any time and without notice to change, amend or cease publication of the information.

Please consult your advisor and read the prospectus or Fund Facts document before investing. There may be commissions, trailing commissions, management fees and expenses associated with mutual fund investments. Mutual funds are not guaranteed or covered by the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation or by any other government deposit insurer. Mutual fund unit values change frequently. For money market funds, there can be no assurances that the fund will be able to maintain its net asset value per security at a constant amount or that the full amount of your investment in the fund will be returned to you. Past performance may not be repeated. RBC Funds, RBC Private Pools, RBC Alternative Funds and PH&N Funds are offered by RBC Global Asset Management Inc. (RBC GAM) and distributed through authorized dealers in Canada.

This document may contain forward-looking statements about a fund or general economic factors which are not guarantees of future performance. Forward-looking statements involve inherent risk and uncertainties, 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. All opinions in forward-looking statements are subject to change without notice and are provided in good faith but without legal responsibility.