

# **Annual Management Report of Fund Performance**

for the financial year ended December 31, 2023

All figures are reported in Canadian dollars unless otherwise noted.

This annual management report of fund performance contains financial highlights but does not contain the complete annual financial statements of the investment fund. You can get a copy of the annual financial statements at your request, and at no cost, by calling toll-free at <u>1 888 888-3863</u>, by emailing us at <u>info@cibcassetmanagement.com</u>, by writing to us at CIBC Square, 81 Bay Street, 20th floor, Toronto, Ontario, M5J 0E7, or by visiting our website at www.cibc.com/etfs or SEDAR+ at www.sedarplus.ca.

Unitholders may also contact us using one of these methods to request a copy of the investment fund's interim financial report, proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record, or quarterly portfolio disclosure.

# **Management Discussion of Fund Performance**

# **Investment Objective and Strategies**

Investment Objective: CIBC Global Growth ETF (referred to as the CIBC ETF) seeks to generate long-term capital growth by investing in a diversified portfolio consisting primarily of equity securities of companies located anywhere in the world. Exposure to these types of securities will be obtained by investing primarily in Renaissance Global Growth Fund (or its successor fund), and/or by investing directly in the securities.

Investment Strategies: The CIBC ETF invests all or substantially all of its assets in units of the Renaissance Global Growth Fund (or its successor fund) (referred to as the *Underlying Fund*). The Underlying Fund is managed by the Manager, and sub-advised by Walter Scott & Partners Limited.

# Risk

The CIBC ETF is a global equity ETF that is suitable for long term investors who can tolerate medium investment risk.

For the period ended December 31, 2023, the CIBC ETF's overall level of risk remained as discussed in the prospectus.

# **Results of Operations**

The CIBC ETF's portfolio advisor is CIBC Asset Management Inc. (referred to as *CAMI* or the *Portfolio Advisor*). The Underlying Fund's portfolio sub-advisor is Walter Scott & Partners Limited (referred to as the *Sub-Advisor*). The commentary that follows provides a summary of the results of operations for the period ended December 31, 2023. All dollar figures are expressed in thousands, unless otherwise indicated.

The CIBC ETF's net asset value increased by 56% during the period, from \$50,857 as at December 31, 2022 to \$79,119 as at December 31, 2023. Net sales of \$18,397 and positive investment performance resulted in an overall increase in net asset value.

The CIBC ETF posted a return of 18.2% for the period. The CIBC ETF's benchmark, the MSCI World Index (referred to as the *benchmark*), returned 21.1% for the same period. The CIBC ETF's return is after the deduction of fees and expenses, unlike the benchmark's return.

Global equity markets rose over the period, despite ongoing concerns over the impact of inflation and monetary policy tightening on global growth.

In the U.S., consumer spending remained robust, buoyed by a strong labour market and pandemic-related savings. Excitement around artificial intelligence (referred to as AI) further extended the outperformance of the "Magnificent Seven" stocks in the information technology sector.

Eurozone stock exchanges made excellent progress in the face of tepid economic activity in the single-currency area and European Central Bank interest rate increases.

The more upbeat tone regarding the prospects for Japan's economy helped Japanese equities to perform strongly.

The Underlying Fund's exposures to the information technology and financials sectors detracted from the CIBC ETF's performance.

Individual detractors from the CIBC ETF's performance included the Underlying Fund's overweight holdings in AIA Group Ltd., Illumina Inc. and Prudential PLC. AIA Group had a strong 2023, but negative sentiment toward China continued to weigh on its stock. Prudential also enjoyed a strong year as the lifting of border restrictions between China and Hong Kong led to a rapid recovery in sales. However, negative sentiment toward China weighed on the stock. Illumina had been under close scrutiny since it acquired GRAIL Inc. 2022, which triggered a protracted legal process with antitrust regulators. Following an encouraging start, momentum with Illumina's new instrument upgrade cycle stalled and the expected ramp-up in sequencing consumables did not materialize. The company's management released a downcast outlook for 2024, which suggested more company-specific challenges.

The Underlying Fund's exposure to the consumer staples sector contributed to the CIBC ETF's performance. A slight overweight exposure to the information technology sector also contributed to performance.

Individual contributors to the CIBC ETF's performance included the Underlying Fund's overweight holdings in Novo Nordisk AS, Booking Holdings Inc. and Adobe Systems Inc. Novo Nordisk benefited from

positive trials looking at the impact of Wegovy on cardiovascular outcomes. The company also released excellent nine-month financials and increased its 2023 forecast. Booking Holdings benefited from strong fundamental performance through 2023, driven by extremely high post-pandemic demand for travel. Adobe enjoyed a strong fundamental performance and ended the year with good operational momentum. It delivered a quarterly record in new creative cloud subscriptions, aided by the launch of its generative Al Firefly platform.

Several new holdings were added to the Underlying Fund. The Sub-Advisor expects that market growth and increased outsourcing should support double-digit growth in the pharmaceutical industry, and expects Lonza Group AG to outgrow the wider market while increasing profitability and returns. The Sub-Advisor believes O'Reilly Automotive Inc. is well positioned to continue consolidating a highly fragmented market while returning significant cash to shareholders. ASML Holding NV was purchased based on the company's continued commitment to making smaller, cheaper, more powerful and energy-efficient semiconductors.

Some of the Underlying Fund's existing holdings were increased. The Sub-Advisor believes Costco Wholesale Corp. can deliver robust same-store sales growth, improving margins and accelerated store openings, and the holding was increased on share price weakness. The Sub-Advisor expects Old Dominion Freight Line Inc. to continue to outperform its peers with regard to volume growth, real pricing growth and profitability. Moody's Corp. was increased as its long-term growth should be driven by global corporate earnings, pricing initiatives and Moody's fast-growing analytics franchise.

The Underlying Fund's holding in Johnson & Johnson was eliminated as the Sub-Advisor believes the company faces risks from the litigation regarding its talcum powder-based products, an uncertain outlook for its pharmaceutical business and the demerger of its consumer health division. The Underlying Fund's holdings in Jardine Matheson Holdings Ltd. and SGS SA were sold in favour of companies with more attractive growth prospects, in the Sub-Advisor's opinion.

Following the strong appreciation of the share price of Novo Nordisk, the Sub-Advisor took some profit to invest in new opportunities.

#### **Recent Developments**

Effective April 27, 2023, Bryan Houston was appointed Chair of the Independent Review Committee.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war have disrupted the global economy and financial markets in unprecedented and unpredictable ways. This has resulted in significant volatility and uncertainty in financial markets. It is unclear what further actions may be taken by governments and the resulting impact on global economies, businesses and financial markets. Inflation has increased in many markets across the globe, leading central banks to raise interest rates in order to counter rapidly rising prices. These factors may adversely affect the performance of the CIBC ETF. The Manager continues to monitor ongoing developments and the impact to investment strategies.

### **Related Party Transactions**

Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (referred to as *CIBC*) and its affiliates have the following roles and responsibilities with respect to the

CIBC ETF, and receive the fees described below in connection with their roles and responsibilities.

Manager, Trustee, and Portfolio Advisor of the CIBC ETF CAMI, a wholly-owned subsidiary of CIBC, is the CIBC ETF's Manager, Trustee, and Portfolio Advisor. CAMI receives management fees with respect to the CIBC ETF's day-to-day business and operations, calculated based on the net asset value of units of the CIBC ETF as described in Management Fees. As Trustee, CAMI holds title to the CIBC ETF's property (cash and securities) on behalf of its unitholders. As Portfolio Advisor, CAMI provides, or arranges to provide for, investment advice and portfolio management services to the CIBC ETF. CAMI also compensates dealers in connection with their marketing activities regarding the CIBC ETF. From time to time, CAMI may invest in units of the CIBC ETF.

# Designated Broker and Dealer

CAMI has entered into an agreement with CIBC World Markets Inc. (referred to as *CIBC WM*), an affiliate of CAMI, to act as designated broker and dealer for distribution of the CIBC ETF, on terms and conditions that are comparable to arm's length agreements in the exchange traded funds industry.

# Brokerage Arrangements and Soft Dollars

The Portfolio Advisor makes decisions, including the selection of markets and dealers and the negotiation of commissions, with respect to the purchase and sale of portfolio securities, certain derivative products and the execution of portfolio transactions. Brokerage business may be allocated by the Portfolio Advisor to CIBC WM and CIBC World Markets Corp., each a subsidiary of CIBC. CIBC WM and CIBC World Markets Corp. may also earn spreads on the sale of fixed income and other securities, and certain derivative products to the CIBC ETF. A spread is the difference between the bid and ask prices for a security in the applicable marketplace, with respect to the execution of portfolio transactions. The spread will differ based upon various factors such as the nature and liquidity of the security.

Dealers, including CIBC WM and CIBC World Markets Corp., may furnish goods and services, other than order execution, to the Portfolio Advisor when they process trades through them (referred to in the industry as "soft-dollar" arrangements). These goods and services are paid for with a portion of the brokerage commissions and assist the Portfolio Advisor with investment decision-making services for the CIBC ETF or relate directly to the execution of portfolio transactions on behalf of the CIBC ETF. Any soft dollar arrangements shall be in compliance with applicable laws.

During the period, the CIBC ETF did not pay any brokerage commissions or other fees to CIBC WM or CIBC World Markets Corp. Spreads associated with fixed income and other securities are not ascertainable and, for that reason, cannot be included when determining these amounts.

# CIBC ETF Transactions

The CIBC ETF may enter into one or more of the following transactions (referred to as the *Related Party Transactions*) in reliance on the standing instructions issued by the Independent Review Committee (referred to as referred to as the *IRC*):

- to invest in or hold equity securities of CIBC or issuers related to the Portfolio Advisor;
- to invest in or hold non-exchange-traded debt securities of CIBC or an issuer related to CIBC in a primary offering and in the secondary market;
- to make an investment in the securities of an issuer for which CIBC WM, CIBC World Markets Corp., or any affiliate of CIBC (a "Related Dealer" or the "Related Dealers") acts as an underwriter during the offering of the securities or at any time during the 60-day period following the completion of the offering of such securities, including in respect of equity securities of a reporting issuer pursuant to a "private placement" offering (an offering under exemptions from the prospectus requirements) and for the 60-day period following the completion of the offering, in each case in accordance with certain conditions;
- to purchase equity and debt securities from, or sell them to, a Related Dealer, where it is acting as principal;
- undertake currency and currency derivative transactions where a Related Dealer is the counterparty;
- to purchase securities from, or sell securities to, another investment fund or a managed account managed by the Manager or an affiliate (referred to as inter-fund trades or "cross-trades"), subject to certain conditions; and
- to engage in in-specie transfers by receiving portfolio securities from, or delivering portfolio securities to, a managed account or another investment fund managed by the Manager or an affiliate in respect of a purchase or redemption of Units of the CIBC ETF, subject to certain conditions.

At least annually, the IRC reviews the Related Party Transactions for which they have issued standing instructions. The IRC is required to advise the Canadian securities regulatory authorities, after a matter has been referred or reported to the IRC by the Manager, if it determines that an investment decision was not made in accordance with a condition imposed by securities legislation or the IRC in any Related Party Transactions requiring its approval.

#### Custodian

CIBC Mellon Trust Company is the custodian of the CIBC ETF (referred to as the *Custodian*). The Custodian holds cash, securities, and other assets of the CIBC ETF and ensures that those assets are kept separate from any other cash, securities, or other assets that the custodian might be holding. The Custodian also provides other services to the CIBC ETF including record-keeping and processing of foreign exchange transactions. The fees and spreads for the services of the Custodian are paid by the Manager. CIBC owns a 50% interest in the Custodian.

### Service Provider

CIBC Mellon Global Securities Services Company Inc. (referred to as CIBC GSS) provides certain services to the CIBC ETF, including securities lending, fund accounting and reporting, and portfolio valuation. Such servicing fees are paid by the Manager. CIBC indirectly owns a 50% interest in CIBC GSS.

# **Financial Highlights**

The following tables show selected key financial information about the CIBC ETF and are intended to help you understand the CIBC ETF's financial performance for the period ended December 31.

Incention date: July 27, 2020

The CIBC	ETF's Net	Assets pe	r Unit <sup>1</sup> -	<b>Common Units</b>
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THE CIBC ETF'S NEL ASSELS PET OTHE -	UIIIIS			III	seption date. July 21, 2020
	2023	2022	2021	2020 <sup>a</sup>	
Net Assets, beginning of period	\$ 21.78	\$ 25.35	\$ 21.70	\$ 19.99 <sup>b</sup>	
Increase (decrease) from operations:					
Total revenue	\$ 0.30	\$ 0.23	\$ 0.21	\$ 0.39	
Total expenses	(0.21)	(0.19)	(0.22)	(0.09)	
Realized gains (losses) for the period	0.10	(0.11)	0.02		
Unrealized gains (losses) for the period	3.68	(3.29)	3.81	3.09	
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>2</sup>	\$ 3.87	\$ (3.36)	\$ 3.82	\$ 3.39	
Distributions:					
From income (excluding dividends)	\$ 80.0	\$ 0.05	\$ 0.02	\$ 0.17	
From dividends	0.02	0.02	0.01	-	
From capital gains	_	_	0.02	-	
Return of capital	_	_	_	-	
Total Distributions <sup>3</sup>	\$ 0.10	\$ 0.07	\$ 0.05	\$ 0.17	
Net Assets, end of period	\$ 25.65	\$ 21.78	\$ 25.35	\$ 21.70	

#### Ratios and Supplemental Data - Common Units

	2023	2022	2021	2020 <sup>a</sup>	
Total Net Asset Value (000s) <sup>4</sup>	\$ 79,119	\$ 50,857	\$ 53,106	\$ 24,521	
Number of Units Outstanding <sup>4</sup>	3,085,000	2,335,000	2,095,000	1,130,000	
Management Expense Ratio⁵	0.89%	0.89%	0.96%	0.97%*	
Management Expense Ratio before waivers or absorptions <sup>6</sup>	0.89%	0.89%	1.16%	1.39%*	
Trading Expense Ratio <sup>7</sup>	0.01%	0.01%	0.03%	0.03%*	
Portfolio Turnover Rate <sup>8</sup>	4.87%	12.98%	0.94%	0.24%	
Net Asset Value per Unit	\$ 25.65	\$ 21.78	\$ 25.35	\$ 21.70	
Closing Market Price	\$ 25.67	\$ 21.67	\$ 25.35	\$ 21.64	

- <sup>a</sup> Information presented is for the period from the inception date to December 31.
- b Initial offering price.
- \* Ratio has been annualized.
- <sup>1</sup> This information is derived from the CIBC ETF's audited annual financial statements.
- Net assets and distributions are based on the actual number of units outstanding at the relevant time. The total increase (decrease) from operations is based on the weighted average number of units outstanding during the period.
- <sup>3</sup> Distributions were paid in cash, reinvested in additional units of the CIBC ETF, or both.
- <sup>4</sup> This information is presented as at December 31 of the period(s) shown.
- Management expense ratio is based on the total expenses of the CIBC ETF (excluding commissions and other portfolio transaction costs), incurred by or allocated to a series of units for the period shown, expressed as an annualized percentage of the daily average net asset value of that series during the period.
- The decision to waive and/or absorb management fees and operating expenses is at the discretion of the Manager. The practice of waiving and/or absorbing management fees and operating expenses may continue indefinitely or may be terminated at any time without notice to unitholders.
- The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs before income taxes expressed as an annualized percentage of the daily average net asset value during the period. Spreads associated with fixed income securities trading are not ascertainable and, for that reason, are not included in the trading expense ratio calculation.
- The portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the portfolio advisor and/or portfolio sub-advisor manages the portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to the CIBC ETF buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the period. The higher a portfolio turnover rate in a period, the greater the trading costs payable by the CIBC ETF in the period, 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 CIBC ETF.

# **Management Fees**

The CIBC ETF pays CAMI an annual management fee to cover the costs of managing the CIBC ETF. Management fees are based on the CIBC ETF's net asset value and are calculated daily and paid monthly. Management fees are paid to CAMI in consideration for providing, or arranging for the provision of, management, distribution, and portfolio advisory services. Advertising and promotional expenses, and office overhead expenses related to the Manager's activities and the fees of the Portfolio Advisor are paid by CAMI out of the management fees received from the CIBC ETFs. The CIBC ETF is required to pay applicable taxes on the management fees paid to CAMI. Refer to the CIBC ETF's prospectus for the annual management fee rate.

For the period ended December 31, 2023, 100% of the management fees collected from the CIBC ETF was attributable to general administration and investment advice.

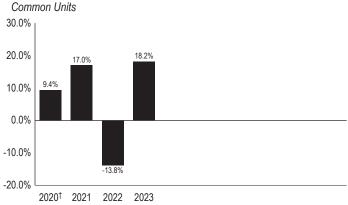
#### **Past Performance**

The performance data provided assumes reinvestment of distributions only and does not take into account sales, redemption, distribution, or other optional charges payable by any unitholder that would have reduced returns. Past performance does not necessarily indicate how a fund will perform in the future.

The CIBC ETF's returns are after the deduction of fees and expenses. See the Financial Highlights section for the management expense ratio.

#### Year-by-Year Returns

These bar charts show the annual performance of each series of units of the CIBC ETF for each of the periods shown, and illustrate how the performance has changed from period to period. These bar charts show, in percentage terms, how an investment made on January 1 would have increased or decreased by December 31, unless otherwise indicated.



# $^{\dagger}$ 2020 return is for the period from July 27, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

# **Annual Compound Returns**

This table shows the annual compound return of the CIBC ETF for each indicated period ended on December 31, 2023. The annual compound total return is also compared to the CIBC ETF's benchmark(s).

The CIBC ETF's benchmark is the MSCI World Index.

	1 Year (%)	3 Years (%)	5 Years (%)	10 Years* (%)	or Since Inception* (%)	Inception Date
Common Units MSCI World Index	18.2 21.1	6.0 9.0			8.0 11.6	July 27, 2020

<sup>\*</sup> If a class of units has been outstanding for less than 10 years, the annual compound return since inception is shown.

**MSCI World Index** is a free float-adjusted market capitalization index composed of companies representative of the market structure of developed market countries in North America, Europe and the Asia/Pacific region.

A discussion of the CIBC ETF's relative performance compared to its benchmark(s) can be found in Results of Operations.

# Summary of Investment Portfolio (as at December 31, 2023)

This CIBC ETF invests primarily in units of its Underlying Fund. You can find the simplified prospectus and additional information about the Underlying Fund by visiting <a href="https://www.sedarplus.ca">www.sedarplus.ca</a>.

The summary of investment portfolio may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the CIBC ETF. A quarterly update is available by visiting <a href="https://www.cibc.com/etfs">www.cibc.com/etfs</a>. The CIBC ETF invests all or substantially all of its assets in units of Renaissance Global Growth Fund. The information below shows the Portfolio Breakdown of the CIBC ETF and the Top Positions of the Renaissance Global Growth Fund. If Renaissance Global Growth Fund holds fewer than 25 positions in total, all positions are shown.

D. (( ), D. ( )	% of Net Asset
Portfolio Breakdown	Value
United States	53.2
Other Equities	7.4
United Kingdom	6.9
France	6.3
Japan	5.4
Canada	4.6
Denmark	4.1
Switzerland	4.0
Cash	3.5
Taiwan	2.6
Spain	2.3
Other Assets, less Liabilities	(0.3)

Top Positions	% of Net Asset Value
Novo Nordisk AS, Class 'B'	4.1
Microsoft Corp.	3.9
Mastercard Inc., Class 'A'	3.0
Linde PLC	2.9
Amphenol Corp., Class 'A'	2.9
Adobe Inc.	2.8
Alimentation Couche-Tard Inc.	2.7
Booking Holdings Inc.	2.7
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. Ltd., ADR	2.6
Cash	2.5
Costco Wholesale Corp.	2.5
LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton SE	2.5
Compass Group PLC	2.5
Automatic Data Processing Inc.	2.4
Intuitive Surgical Inc.	2.4
Fastenal Co.	2.3
Shin-Etsu Chemicals Co. Ltd.	2.3
Industria de Diseno Textil SA	2.3
Alphabet Inc., Class 'C'	2.3
TJX Cos. Inc. (The)	2.3
L'Oréal SA	2.2
Experian PLC	2.2
Keyence Corp.	2.1
Moody's Corp.	2.0
CSL Ltd.	2.0

# A note on forward-looking statements

The management report of fund performance may contain forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements include statements that are predictive in nature, that depend upon or refer to future events or conditions, or that include words such as "expects", "anticipates", "intends", "plans", "believes", "estimates", or other similar wording. In addition, any statements that may be made concerning future performance, strategies, or prospects and possible future actions taken by the CIBC ETF, are also forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance. These statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties, and other factors that may cause the actual results and achievements of the CIBC ETF to differ materially from those expressed or implied by such statements. Such factors include, but are not limited to: general economic, market, and business conditions; fluctuations in securities prices, interest rates, and foreign currency exchange rates; changes in government regulations; 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. CIBC Asset Management Inc. does not undertake, and specifically disclaims, any obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future developments, or otherwise prior to the release of the next management report of fund performance.



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